

Supervisor Lesko and Town Council Members Honor Graduates of the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program

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Mark Lesko talks with children from the Town's Youth Bureau ReGeneration Camp at Diamond in the Pines Park who graduated from the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program.

Farmingville, NY - On August 3, Supervisor Mark Lesko, Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, Councilwoman Jane Bonner, and Councilwoman Connie Kepert attended the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program Graduation at Diamond in the Pines Park in Coram. Over 200 youngsters, from kindergarten to sixth grade, participated in the five-day program, which was held at the Town's Youth Bureau ReGeneration Camp programs throughout the Town.

The G.R.E.A.T. program teaches youngsters how to play a positive role in their community by achieving realistic goals and by smart decision-making. They also learn effective communication skills, conflict resolution, anger management and the power of saying no to crime and violence.

"The G.R.E.A.T. program is so important for our children," said Supervisor Lesko. "We need to teach them at an early age that positive actions can make the community a better place to live. I thank the Suffolk County Sheriff's office and our Youth Bureau for bringing this program to Brookhaven."

"Our ReGeneration Camps offer so much to our youth during the summer months and the G.R.E.A.T. program is just one example the important role we play in teaching children to be better citizens," said Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Walsh, "I am very proud of all the children who graduated and they should also be proud of themselves."

Councilwoman Bonner said, "Congratulations to all the kids who graduated from the G.R.E.A.T. program. They are the future and this program is so important because it teaches them to take a stand against crime and violence so they can help other kids to be role models for their peers." "It was wonderful to see so many excited kids learning how to avoid gangs and bullying. The Sheriff's Office, counselors, and the Youth Bureau have put together a truly great program," stated Councilwoman Connie Kepert.

