



## Unity day kickstarts children's confidence



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BATON ROUGE, LA (NBC33) — Kids kicked and punched their way into an education in north baton rouge Saturday.

"We match needs and resources to the community once we have their attention through the karate demonstration," John G. Daniel, event organizer, explained.

It's all part of an event called unity day youth and family zone.



The event blends karate fun with an important message: "Empower the People! Baton Rouge School Safety and the Value of Pro-Social Activities in Deterring Crime."

The idea is to get kids more aware of what's going on around them.

"Honestly the karate does the trick," Daniel said.

East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's deputies joined Daniel's karate students to learn some new moves.

Daniel teaches kids and their families about victim potential.

"The word victim means you are injured by the actions of someone else, your own personal ignorance, or some impersonal agency. Potential means possible but not actual. What we do is show them how not to be a victim," Daniel explained.

He partners with other community groups and local agencies to help show kids ways to stay out of trouble.

Daniel described the importance of his mission, "We really need to get their attention by any means necessary. We've got to make it relevant to them. We have to build their confidence in it. Finally they'll be satisfied. It be like you and I going back to our favorite restaurant we always will go back. "

Unity day also featured a panel discussion on school safety, and the importance of extracurricular activities.

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