

# G.R.E.A.T. Wheels for Teaching

Steering youth away from choosing a life of crime and drugs...That's the driving force behind Durham Police Department's (DPD) newest police car - a colorful addition to the department's fleet. It's a Cadillac Escalade that was confiscated as a result of a long-term international investigation into a Vietnamese drug trafficking organization. Federal Task Force Officers, including Durham police officers cross-sworn as federal agents, seized the Cadillac in 2007 along with six other vehicles, drugs valued in excess of \$1,500,000, bank accounts, land in a neighboring county and a local residence.

The Escalade's pearl white exterior now prominently displays an alert: *'This Vehicle was Involuntarily Donated by a Local Drug Dealer.'* It also promotes DPD's Gang Resistance Education and Awareness Training program (GREAT), the Durham CrimeStoppers phone number and the department's web address.

GREAT officers will use the Escalade as a vehicle to dialogue with elementary and middle school students about the pitfalls, consequences and dangers of gang activities and delinquent behavior.



**Above.** GREAT Unit Sgt. Jermaine Jackson says the vehicle will also be used for various community events and recruiting.

**Left.** The 2003 Cadillac Escalade seized by authorities is outfitted with six televisions, a DVD player, a PlayStation, two VCRs and a TV satellite antenna.

