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November
2013



A Note from Josefina Alvarado-Mena, Safe Passages CEO

With the start of a new school year, Safe Passages continues its mission to provide opportunities for our most vulnerable populations. It is with great excitement that we introduce three new innovative initiatives to our cradle to college continuum of services. Today, we serve over 3,000 children and their families annually in some of the most distressed neighborhoods of Alameda County. In this issue, we are proud to introduce the Get Active Urban Arts Program, the Face Forward: Law and Social Justice Career Pathways Initiative, and an expanded new AmeriCorps class of 2014. We are grateful to our funders for supporting these efforts: the City of Oakland, Fund for Children and Youth, AmeriCorps/CA Volunteers, the US Department of Labor, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Jonas Foundation, and the Longs Foundation.



We ask that during these holidays, you consider making a pledge to support a shared vision of a better Oakland for our most vulnerable children and youth. Just click on the "Make a Donation Tab" to join our efforts.

- A donation of just \$100 would help a family to participate in the Baby Learning Program.
- A donation of \$500 provides one middle school student with mentoring and additional academic tutoring.

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The mission of Safe Passages is to advocate for children, youth, and families with special emphasis

- A donation of \$1000 could provide a student with a stipend for an internship with a law firm.
- \$500 could provide families with training opportunities in financial literacy, legal education, and in college entrance requirements for their children.

Your contribution is highly valuable and greatly appreciated!

On behalf of the Safe Passages family to yours - Happy Holidays!

Josefina Alvarado Mena
CEO, Safe Passages

Havenscourt Youth "Get Active" in Promoting Peace and Social Justice in Their Community

In July 2012, 15 year old Hadari Askari an aspiring Fire Fighter, was shot and killed in the Havenscourt community in East Oakland, where he lived. No child or young person deserves a trajectory that ends at age 15. All children and youth deserve an opportunity to reach their full potential and live a full life.

To address the violence plaguing this community and to place youth at the center of the solution, Safe Passages has forged an exciting new partnership to implement an arts based program aimed at communicating the value and potential of youth living in this neighborhood.

The program name **Get Active** is a co-option and turning of a phrase youth in Oakland use that connotes fighting as in the need "to get active" to resolve conflict. The program is designed to promote social justice and cultural awareness with a strong emphasis on leadership development and community engagement. Youth in the program also receive experiential training in aerosol arts, graphic design, illustration, airbrushing, and mural production.



on vulnerable populations.

We envision a community where all young people have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

Our work is based on the premises that access to educational opportunity, health services, and family support should not be dictated by race or socio-economic status, and that healthy and supported young people are better prepared to learn and succeed.

Safe Passages' strategies span the age continuum of birth through young adulthood and include: Early Childhood, School Linked Services, Juvenile Justice and Career Pathways.

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Jonathan Brumfield, the Urban Arts Program Manager for Safe Passages explains, "While working in the neighborhood schools, we realized that many of our youth have a deep interest in the arts but were disengaged from regular school learning. We decided to couple urban arts with the fields of ethnic studies, history and social movements in the United States."

Get Active is developing a cadre of 74 youth leaders in the Havenscourt community ages 14-19, to design and youth led community safety strategies utilizing Urban Arts and social justice as a framework. The program includes the following components:

1. Urban Arts
2. Community Outreach
3. Conflict Resolution & Restorative Justice
4. Case Management



"We keep hearing that Oakland is violent and poor. I want people to know the positive of Oakland. I want to do that through my art and paint themes of peace and hope for youth in our city," says a young artist in the program.

Get Active is an exciting new public-private partnership amongst the following entities: Safe Passages, Oakland schools, Reaching Expanding Adolescent Lives Choices (R.E.A.L. Choices), Oakland Housing Authority (OHA).

Safe Passages welcomes the leadership and talents of our Urban Arts Program Manager, Jonathan Brumfield.

Jonathan has over a decade of experience in addressing the needs of high need youth, with an emphasis on young males of color. Jonathan has been a veteran Safe Passages Youth Development Coordinator. He has also worked as an Artist in Residence at the African American Complex in San Francisco. Jonathan has a B.A. in Criminal Justice from San Francisco State University. We are excited to welcome Jonathan to the Safe Passages Program Management team and confident that he will guide our youth towards an empowering experience.



Developing Pathways for Oakland Youth in Law and Social Justice Careers

Safe Passages is excited to announce the award of a U.S. Department of Labor grant to launch the Elev8 Law and Social

Justice Career Pathway Project. This youth career development and wrap around support program aims to improve employment opportunities for youth ages 16 to 19 who reside in the most crime impacted and economically disenfranchised areas of Oakland. Based on the available American Community Survey data, the average poverty rate of the target communities is 30.7%.

Mayor Quan explains the importance of this effort, "The project targets communities located within the 15 highest stressor beats in Oakland. These 15 beats accounted for 50% of all youth arrests and 63% of all shootings and homicides in Oakland. We need to intervene early with youth and families who are caught up in dangerous life styles to break the cycle of poverty and violence and to provide them with hope and healthy, long term alternatives."

The Elev8 Law and Social Justice Career Pathway Project will provide diversion and/or expungement, case management, mentoring, education, training leading to industry-recognized credentials for in-demand industries and occupations in the state or local area, service learning, workforce activities, and post-program support and follow-up services.

"I am pleased that Safe Passages was selected for this highly competitive funding to provide comprehensive re-entry services to young adults," said Congresswoman Barbara Lee. "It is a testament to the strength of the public-private partnership Safe Passages has created to provide vulnerable youth the tools to build productive and prosperous lives."

Safe Passages has brought together the following partners for this endeavor: Inner City Advisors, East Bay Community Law Center, Merritt Community College, Oakland Police Department, Workforce Investment Board, Oakland Unified School District Department of Alternative Education, Alameda County District Attorney, Juvenile Division and Alameda County Public Defenders Juvenile Division and non-profit partners and the law and social justice employment sector to serve this high need population.

AmeriCorps Elev8 Youth Program Expands to Serve 15 schools

"If AmeriCorps wasn't there, I would have a much lower GPA; my focus in the classroom, it wouldn't be like it is now." -Elev8 student.

Since 2010, Safe Passages has hosted over 145 AmeriCorps Members - all working to build a better future for youth in Elev8 Oakland Middle Schools. By the end of this school year, the Safe Passages AmeriCorps Program will provide local schools with over 145 years of service to our highest need communities in Oakland and San Lorenzo.

The AmeriCorps Elev8 Youth Program works to decrease the learning gap that exists among low income students, students of color and English language learners. Consider these alarming statistics:

- Nationally, the jobless rate for Hispanic high school dropouts is calculated to be 47% and for African Americans is 69%.
- 3% of 16-24 year old African-American male high school dropouts in the U.S. were incarcerated in 2006-2007.
- The incidence of institutionalization among high school dropouts is 63 times higher than among college graduates.

In addition, data shows that nearly half of dropouts in local schools were 9th graders. Clearly, school intervention programs are highly needed as early as middle schools - before students become disconnected from learning and drop out of school.

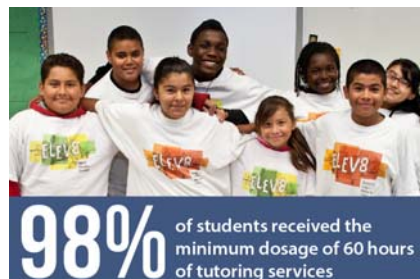


The goals of the program are to increase school connectedness, functioning grade level and reduced absenteeism and suspensions for violence.



AmeriCorps Elev8 Youth Program Class of 2014

The Safe Passages Elev8 Youth Program has demonstrated significant community impact through an evidence based approach. In the first three program years, the ELEV8 Youth Program served a total of 776 high needs beneficiaries. In the 2011-2012 program year:





The Elev8 Youth Program is also a valuable career pathway and skill building tool for young professionals. During the 2011-12 program year:

- The program had 100% Member enrollment with an 88.2% retention rate in the 2011-12 program year.
- The Members were provided with a total of 6,736 hours of training, including 48 hours of orientation training and 152 hours of ongoing training per Member.
- Training topics included: Strategic Tutoring, data collection, cultural competency, mandated reporting, youth development, CPR, community outreach, and service learning.
- By the end of Period 3 of the 2010-11 program year, 100% of Members reported that they had a firm understanding of the youth development, Strategic Tutoring, and how to write a lesson plan.

The Safe Passages AmeriCorps program is designed to support middle school students, their communities and young professionals alike. If you know a young person interested in giving back to the community while gaining invaluable professional and life skills, please share this amazing opportunity.



Through a renewed grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service and California Volunteers, Safe Passages is excited to announce that it will expand the AmeriCorps Middle School Program to six new schools in 2013-14. In the next three years (2013-2016), a total of 135 AmeriCorps Members will serve over 1350 students at 15 middle schools in Oakland and San Lorenzo.

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Baby Learning Programs to Expand to West Oakland in 2014



The Baby Learning Collaborative was created in 2010 by Safe Passages to implement an education and support service program for parents with young children growing up in poverty and areas of high crime in Oakland.

To date, the program has served over 500 families and children in the Sobrante Park and Havenscourt neighborhoods of East Oakland, through community playgroups, parent Saturday workshops, social services and community supports. Safe Passages is excited to announce that this year, the program will expand to serve the West Oakland community thanks to a new grant.

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