

# *2013-2014 Annual Report*

*Caring connections  
from cradle to adulthood*



*bringing together what works for kids*

*"Safe Passages saved my son's life. I had nowhere to turn. They found my son counselors, tutors and mentors who helped him get back on track and be proud of who he is."*



# Introduction

## *Caring connections from cradle to adulthood*

### Dear Friend,



As the CEO of Safe Passages, and a long-time resident of Oakland, I am proud to share our work with you. Our mission while simple in its concept, is very complex in its delivery.

Safe Passages disrupts the cycle of poverty by engaging youth and families to build and drive a continuum of services that supports student success and community development. We envision a community where all young people have the opportunity to realize their full potential. Safe Passages 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.

We work with the most disadvantaged communities where high percentage of children live in poverty, in neighborhoods with the highest levels of health disparities including the highest rates of hospitalization for asthma, teen birth rates, and hospitalization for assaults among youth; where students have high rates of school suspensions, drop-outs and truancy.

Children and families are at the center of our work. We recognize the uniqueness of every child and focus greatly on key milestones in their lives to ensure that they are supported throughout their development. We have, therefore, developed a continuum of strategies that begin with Early Childhood, transition to School Linked Services, and to Career and College Pathways for our youth.

Furthermore, Safe Passages recognizes that children are part of family units, which are at the heart of our communities. We have developed strong and meaningful partnerships with families and have jointly developed and implemented a network of family support systems in the communities we serve.

To deliver on our mission, Safe Passages partners with school districts, cities, counties, community providers in afterschool, mental health counseling and legal services. We also partner with institutions of higher learning in the development, delivery and evaluation of our programs.

We invite you to learn more about our accomplishments and current efforts and to join us in our mission to create a better future for Oakland's children and youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josefina Alvarado Mena".

Josefina Alvarado Mena

### Safe Passages Board of Directors

**Lewis Cohen, Chair**

*Director of Communications, National Center for Youth Law; Former Deputy Mayor, Oakland*

**Sherry Young, Board Treasurer**

*Vice President Private Banker, Wells Fargo Bank*

**Jose Corona**

*CEO, Inner City Advisors*

**Aimee Eng**

*Program Officer, Thomas J. Long Foundation*

**Colin Lacon**

*Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Mayor, San Francisco; Professional Faculty, Haas Business School, University of California at Berkeley*

**Dr. Tomás Magaña**

*Principal Investigator, Public Health Institute; Assistant Professor, Samuel Merritt University; Attending Physician, La Clínica de La Raza, Inc.; Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, University of California San Francisco*

**Josefina Alvarado Mena, Esq.**

*CEO, Safe Passages*

**Jerry Ostrander**

*Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments*

**Lendri S. Purcell**

*Senior Program Director, Barbara & Donald Jonas Family Fund*

**Hon. Jean Quan**

*Mayor, City of Oakland*

**Anne Campbell Washington**

*Oakland Unified School District Board Member; Assistant City Manager for the City of Emeryville*

Safe Passages disrupts the cycle of poverty by engaging youth and families to build and drive a continuum of services that supports student success and community development.

[www.safepassages.org](http://www.safepassages.org)



*"She was a much happier baby and we finally had a chance to rest.  
I stopped feeling guilty and now know that I am a good mother."*



# Baby Learning Programs

## *Investing in families*

**J**UST A FEW DAYS OLD, baby Danette began experiencing difficulty sleeping and eating. Her mother, Jackeling explains, “We worried all the time because we did not know what was wrong with her. I felt like a bad mother.”

Mentally and physically exhausted, Jackeling enrolled in the Safe Passages Baby Learning Playgroups. Through the program, Jackeling received assistance finding a medical specialist for her daughter. The family learned that Danette had an undiagnosed breathing disorder that was not allowing her to nurse or sleep properly. The case manager helped Jackeling with enrolling for health benefits so that the baby could get the surgery she needed.

Jackeling claims that the program was a lifesaver. She explains, “The program connected me to a specialist and even helped me with the insurance papers. I spoke little English so this was very helpful. After the surgery, Danette ate and slept as never before. She is now a much happier baby. I stopped feeling guilty and now know that I am a good mother.”

During the Baby Learning Playgroup, Jackeling also learned of the services provided by Early Head Start. “I enrolled Danette in daycare because I learned how important it is for babies to learn to play with other children. It also gave me an opportunity to go back to school to gain more skills and improve my English.”

*Jackeling graduated from a Dental Assistant program and is completing her internship hours at Children’s Hospital and Research Center in Oakland. Danette, now one year old, is expressive, happy and healthy.*



**The Baby Learning Communities Collaborative Program (BLCCP)** provides community playgroups, parent education, and case management to families with young children ages 0-5 living in high need communities in Oakland. The program focuses on families exposed to community and domestic violence. Parents and caregivers participate in parent workshops that cover topics such as child development, stress management, positive communication, and appropriate discipline.

**97%**

*Thanks to this program, 97% of parents said that they have learned new things about activities and play to help their child grow and develop.*



*"I was not doing well in school when I got to middle school.  
I had D's and some C's. I studied more and did better."*



# Elev8 Oakland

## Full service community schools

**L**IKE MANY YOUTH growing up in East Oakland, Ronell knew well the violence in his neighborhood and the gang culture. He recalls, “I grew up in a rough neighborhood. We had to lie on the ground when people were shooting.”

Ronell also describes his deep exposure to gang culture, “I never wanted to be in a gang but I had many friends who were in a gang. One of them just got killed in a double homicide last week.”

In order to intervene early in young men’s lives growing up amidst violence and few opportunities, Safe Passages creates school based intervention programs that seek to increase young peoples’ access to positive mentors, role models, and professionals who can help them stay on the right course.

“I was not doing well in school. I had D’s. This is when a Safe Passages teacher told me about the History of Gangs class. Two of my friends and I joined and really like it. We got to learn from urban artists and go on fieldtrips but I needed a 2.0 to be in the program. I studied more and did better.”

The History of Gangs Class is one of the many programs supported by Safe Passages in collaboration with schools and community based providers. The class seeks to teach students core academic skills including research, writing, presentation, and mathematical concepts. In addition, students receive individualized support through social service programs that include counseling, mentoring, health services, and intensive academic tutoring.

Preliminary evaluation findings of the programs are encouraging. During the first two years of implementation, 75% of the students finished the school year with a passing GPA. In year two alone, that rate jumped to 85% and a third of them became honor roll students.

*Ronell successfully graduated from high school and is studying diesel mechanics.*



### Full Service Community Schools

aims to integrate education and social services at school sites in order to make school communities catalysts for social change within the larger neighborhood context. We work with schools to develop the infrastructure needed to integrate a multitude of disciplines on site including mental health, social services, afterschool program, legal services. Some participating schools boast health centers, family resource centers, and extended afterschool, weekend and summer academic programs.

# 85%

*85% of History of Gangs students experienced academic gains.  
A third of the students made it to the honor roll.*



*"I am excited about my future. I know where I want to go."*





# School to College and Career

## *Making the transition*

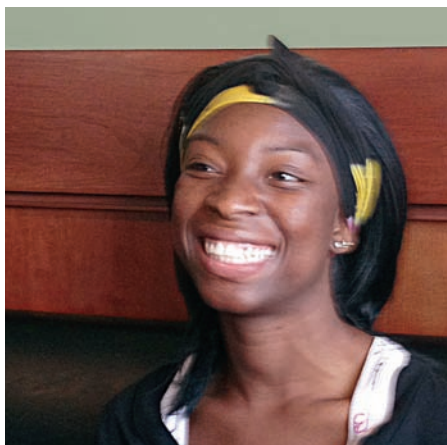
CHRISTINA was born in a refugee camp in West Africa, where she spent the first 10 years of her life. Christina had no access to formal education in the camp, so when she came to the United States and entered the third grade, she was far behind her peers. She recalls, “I was very quiet and tried to learn a lot. At home, I took care of my family, specially my little sister.”

While in high school, Christina was unsure of her next steps. “I wanted to go to college but was not sure how to get in.” Then she learned of the Safe Passages summer internship opportunity. She quickly enrolled and was given a stipend through the Mayor’s Summer Jobs program.

“Safe Passages teachers are the best mentors I have in my life. I learned to talk about what I wanted to do with my life and how to get there. It was not just an office to come in and file papers. I actually got to talk about my dreams and learned how to present myself better,” says Christina.

During her internship opportunity, Christina was exposed to professionals from diverse fields. Along with other high school interns, she met lawyers, doctors, social workers, and elected officials. Christina explains, “I even met a pediatrician while visiting the Mayor’s office. I was so excited because I realized that is what I want to be.”

*Christina’s summer internship proved life-changing. She is now enrolled at the local college. She says, “I am excited about my future. I know where I want to go.”*



### **College and Career Development Initiative.**

Safe Passages works closely with public and private entities to develop new job opportunities for youth during and after school hours, and summer. Students are provided opportunities to learn about diverse career tracks including careers in teaching, law and social justice and urban arts. In addition, students benefit from the mentoring and social supports of professionals who help build their job preparedness skills and readiness for formal internships and job settings.

# 100

*Safe Passages mentors and employs about 100 youth annually in afterschool and summer programs.*

*"We built all the programs that we have in the Family Resource Center at this school," explains Ana Elias, a mother of two girls at Madison Middle School, "the principal and the teacher ask us what we need and we all figure out how to put it together."*





# Family Partnerships—

## *Working with families to build strong futures*

**F**AMILY RESOURCE CENTERS on school sites successfully engage families in their students' schools through a myriad of programs and activities. These include financial education, housing assistance, health care services, mental health services, adult education, job opportunities, free tax preparation and legal services. Moreover, Family Resource Centers offer a space for families to network and feel welcomed at the school site.

Nadina White, also a mother of a Madison school student, explains, "Here, we are like a big family. We get along and hear each other's problems. We know that what we share here, stays here. It is a safe place. Even when we don't speak the same language, we understand each other. We have the same problems and sometimes even a hug from a friend is helpful."



# \$500,000

*Free tax clinics have yielded over \$500,000 in tax refunds to low-income families.*

## Family Resource Center



### Family Resource Centers.

Family Engagement is a cornerstone of Safe Passages school initiatives. In 2008, Safe Passages received a grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies to develop five full service community schools in Oakland in partnership with the public systems. Through the Elev8 Initiative, five middle schools in high need communities built family resource centers. Over 500 families participated in the schools events every month. Each school continues to benefit from strong parent leaders and mentors who have successfully engaged other families and volunteer hundreds of hours in the schools.

*"This year has helped me find what I want to do for the rest of my life.  
I've learned that I ABSOLUTELY want to be a teacher!"*

*— Lily Qiami, AmeriCorps Member*





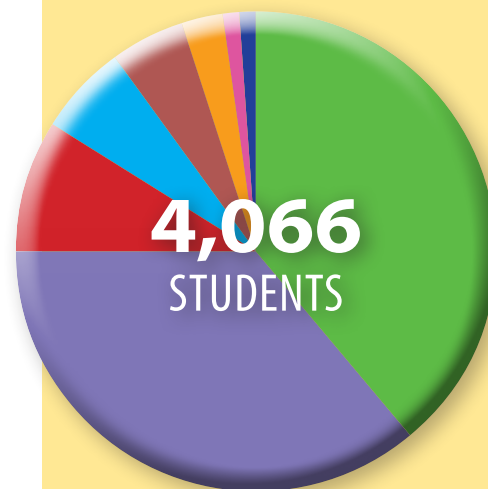
# Safe Passages Client Demographics and Outcomes

**T**HIS YEAR, Safe Passages saw tremendous programmatic growth and impressive outcomes for children across the entire age continuum.

- ▶ Safe Passages served 4,067 children and their families—a 25% increase in program expansion.
- ▶ 89% of students in the afterschool academic programs improved by one or more functional grade levels, thereby experiencing academic success.
- ▶ Safe Passages launched the Get Active Urban Arts Program to develop a cadre of youth leaders in high crime neighborhoods to design community safety strategies utilizing Urban Arts and social justice as a framework.
- ▶ Safe Passages received a highly competitive grant of \$895,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor to develop the

Face Forward: Law and Social Justice Career Pathways Initiative. This wrap around support program aims to improve employment opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system who reside in the most crime impacted and economically disenfranchised areas of Oakland.

- ▶ The Baby Learning Collaborative expanded by 33% to serve the West Oakland neighborhood—over 1500 children and their families in three Oakland neighborhoods participated in community playgroups, parent Saturday workshops, social service programs and community events.
- ▶ Safe Passages leveraged additional public and private funding to sustain all elements of the Elev8 Full Service Community Schools Initiative and replicate components in 15 schools in three school districts in Alameda County.



## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- 39%** Hispanic/Latino
- 36%** African American
- 9%** Asian
- 6%** Pacific Islander
- 5%** Mixed Race
- 3%** Native American
- 1%** Caucasian
- 1%** Other



**89%** LIVE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE



**58%** ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



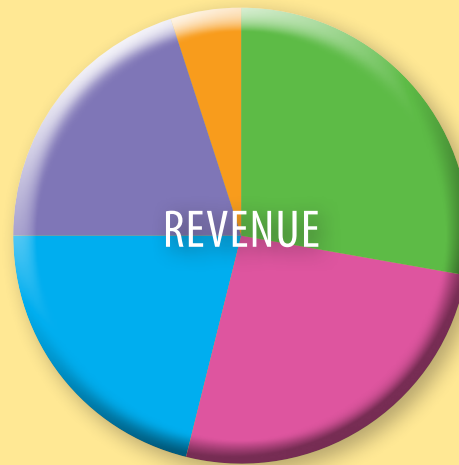
**09%** HAVE EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

# Financial Report

**T**HIS YEAR, Safe Passages leveraged its core operating budget of approximately \$1 million with approximately \$3.7 million for programs.

Safe Passages has a diversified funding portfolio that includes both private and public investment. The Revenue chart reflects approximately a 74% public investment in the programs and systems change work of Safe Passages. Public dollars are considered one of the most sustainable sources of funding.

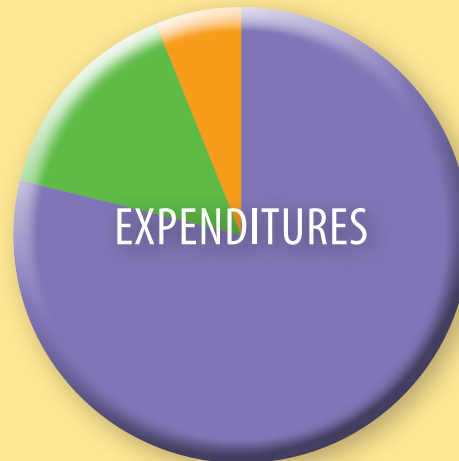
Safe Passages' major philanthropic partners include The Atlantic Philanthropies, Barbara & Donald Jonas Family Fund and the Thomas J. Long Foundation.



**REVENUE**  
*Fiscal Year 2013-2014*

- 28% Local School Districts
- 26% Private/Philanthropy
- 21% Federal
- 20% Local Government
- 5% Other

**Total: \$4,703,251**



**DIRECT EXPENDITURES**  
*Fiscal Year 2013-2014*

- 79% Programming/Incubation
- 15% Facility/Administration
- 6% Management, Research and Evaluation

**Total: \$4,703,251**



# Governing Body / Funders / Partners / Community Providers

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lewis Cohen**, *Chair;*  
*Director of Communications,*  
*National Center for Youth Law;*  
*Former Deputy Mayor, Oakland*

**Jean Quan**, *Oakland Mayor*

**Jose Corona**, *CEO, Inner City Advisors*

**Aimee Eng**, *Senior Program Officer,*  
*Thomas J. Long Foundation*

**Colin Lacon**, *Director of Strategic*  
*Partnerships, Office of the Mayor,*  
*San Francisco; Professional Faculty,*  
*Haas School of Business, University*  
*of California at Berkeley*

**Dr. Tomas Magaña**, *Principal*  
*Investigator, Public Health Institute;*  
*Assistant Professor, Samuel Merritt*  
*University; Attending Physician,*  
*La Clínica de La Raza, Inc.; Assistant*  
*Clinical Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics,*  
*University of California San Francisco*

**Josefina Alvarado Mena, Esq.,**  
*CEO, Safe Passages*

**Jerry Ostrander**, *Financial Advisor,*  
*Edward Jones Investments*

**Lendri S. Purcell**,  
*Senior Program Director, Barbara*  
*& Donald Jonas Family Fund*

**Anne Campbell Washington**,  
*Board Member, Oakland Unified*  
*School District; Assistant City*  
*Manager for the City of Emeryville*

**Sherri Young**, *VP, Wells Fargo Bank*

## PHILANTHROPY

Barbara & Donald Jonas Family Fund  
East Bay Community Foundation  
Echoing Green Foundation  
The Atlantic Philanthropies  
Thomas J. Long Foundation

## FEDERAL

National Corporation for Community  
Service/AmeriCorps  
U. S. Department of Labor

## PUBLIC & PRIVATE AGENCY PARTNERS

Applied Learning Technologies  
Institute  
Bright Research Group  
Edward Jones  
Inner City Advisors  
Public Interest Projects  
Siegel and Yee Law Firm  
Wells Fargo Bank

## COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Cal East Bay State University  
Merritt Community College  
Saint Mary's College  
San Francisco State University  
University of California at Berkeley  
University of California San Francisco

## GOVERNMENT

City of Oakland  
Department of Human Services  
KTOP –TV10  
Oakland Fund for Children & Youth  
Oakland Police Department  
Oakland Head Start  
City of Oakland Head Start Sites  
Workforce Investment Board

## OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent  
Department of Alternative Education  
Department of Community  
Accountability

Department of Family, Schools and  
Community Partnerships  
Department of Research and  
Assessment  
Division of Student Achievement  
Facilities Department  
OUSD Child Development Centers  
OUSD SCHOOL SITES:  
— Claremont Middle School  
— Coliseum College Preparatory  
— Community United Elementary  
— Dewey High School  
— Edna Brewer Middle School  
— Elmhurst Middle School  
— Frick Middle School  
— Futures Elementary School  
— Madison Middle School  
— Ralph J. Bunche High School  
— Roosevelt Middle School  
— Roots Middle School  
— Rudsdale High School  
— United for Success  
— West Oakland Middle School

## SAN LORENZO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent  
Student Support Services  
Bohannon Middle School  
Edendale Middle School  
Washington Manor Elementary  
D.I.C.E. Program

## ALAMEDA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors  
Behavioral Health Care Services  
District Attorney's Office  
Every Child Counts  
Health Care Services Agency

Our Kids Initiative  
Probation Department  
Public Defender's Office  
School Based Health Centers Coalition  
Social Services Agency

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERS

Alameda County Food Bank  
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center  
and Samuel Merritt College Youth  
in Medicine Program  
Asian Community Mental  
Health Services  
Bay Area Community Resources  
Brothers on the Rise  
Centerforce Youth Court  
Central American Refugee Committee  
of the East Bay (CRECE)  
Chabot Space & Science Center (Tech  
Bridge)  
Children's Hospital Oakland  
East Bay Agency for Children  
East Bay Asian Youth Center  
East Bay Community Law Center  
East Bay Consortium  
Family Paths  
Family Violence Law Center  
Fred Finch Youth Center  
Friends of Hacienda Peralta Creek  
Girls Inc.  
Jewish Family and Children's Services  
of the East Bay  
La Clinica de La Raza  
Life Long Medical Care and  
Healthy Oakland  
Native American Health Center  
Seneca Center  
Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation  
STARS Behavioral Health Group  
Through the Looking Glass

## GET INVOLVED!

There are several ways to get involved in the work of Safe Passages and make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth growing up in poverty.

- ▶ Make a donation at [www.safepassages.org](http://www.safepassages.org)
- ▶ Provide an internship opportunity for a youth
- ▶ Organize a baby toy, clothing and/or book drive

Safe Passages is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. All contributions are tax deductible.



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[www.safepassages.org](http://www.safepassages.org)

