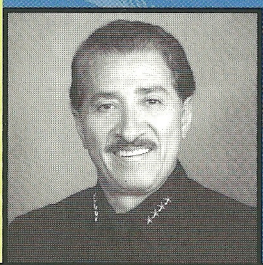
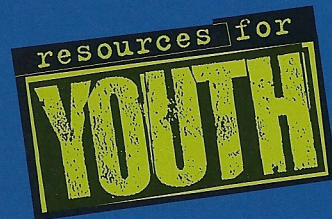


A MEETING OF THE MINDS



RESOURCES FOR YOUTH **A Report on the**
April 9, 1997
Statewide Videoconference



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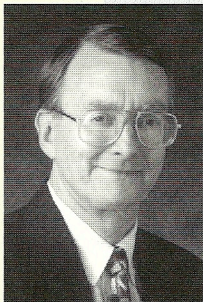
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Pictured on Cover:

Louis Cobarruviaz, San Jose Chief of Police
Jeremy Estrada, student and violence prevention advocate

Resources for Youth is funded by a grant to
Martin & Glantz from The California Wellness Foundation



A MESSAGE FROM GARY YATES

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE CALIFORNIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION

Violence is a public health problem of massive proportions in California. In fact, it is the leading cause of death for youth age 19 and under. In response to this tragic situation, The California Wellness Foundation and seven other co-funders are providing \$35 million over five years for a Violence Prevention grantmaking program. An important philosophy of this program is that local communities often know best how to address local problems – but they need the resources to put that wisdom and strength to work.

The voting public, whether conservative or liberal, whether from southern or northern California, agrees. Voters strongly support investment of tax dollars in community-based programs that help prevent youth violence. California voters steadfastly refuse to give up on young people. They say that it is never too late to help youth who have gotten involved in the criminal justice system.

Unfortunately, too much of the current discussion regarding prevention strategies is obscured by partisan rhetoric. Shifting resources to more comprehensive violence prevention programs requires that we move beyond the special interests, beyond the politically expedient, and beyond the punishment mentality. The issue we must bring to the forefront of the debate is not what we should do with individuals that have committed violent acts, but what we as a society are willing to do to prevent violence before it happens.

A critically important discussion began on April 9 when nearly 2,000 opinion leaders across California joined together in an honest dialogue about youth violence prevention. Funded with a grant from The California Wellness Foundation, and cosponsored by the League of California Cities, California Police Chiefs Association, Chief Probation Officers of California, California State PTA and the League of Women Voters of California, the **Resources for Youth: An Honest Dialogue** videoconference featured policy makers, law enforcement officials, judicial officers, health professionals, advocates, policy experts and youth who talked about strategies to improve the prospects for California's young people.

During local discussions that followed a statewide broadcast, 665 participants signed on to the Resources for Youth Network, which aims to create a statewide voice for local advocates in support of increased investment in youth violence prevention. If you would like to become part of the Network, please fill out the form at the back of this report.

The videoconference was a strong beginning. It is critical that we continue to work together toward a future in California when we can proudly say that violence is no longer the leading killer of our children.

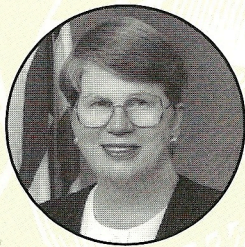
“It’s never too late to help young people who have gotten caught up in the juvenile justice system.”

— *Frank Acosta, Senior Program Officer for
The California Wellness Foundation.*

Violence is the number one killer of youth under the age of 19. It is a public health epidemic of devastating proportions – and it is getting worse.

In California, polarized and politicized discussions have made it difficult to agree on solutions. One thing we can all agree on is the need to engage in honest dialogue.

That dialogue was opened April 9, 1997 at the **Resources for Youth: An Honest Dialogue** videoconference. Nearly 2,000 people participated in the event at 31 sites across California. Concern over youth violence brought together a broad spectrum of backgrounds and perspectives. In the statewide telecast, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein spoke to the importance of investing in prevention strategies. The videoconference featured facts, polling data, youth perspectives and strategies, with discussion and comments from experts, community leaders and policy makers.



Attorney General Janet Reno

“Too often our state and local budgets are devoted to the cost of failure rather than investing in success. We know now that crime prevention strategies work.”

— *U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno*

From two linked satellite sites – Los Angeles and Sacramento – San Jose Chief of Police Louis A. Cobarruviaz, student and youth advocate Jeremy Estrada, San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, Pastor Sonny Lara, State Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer, Joseph E. Marshall of the Omega Boys Club, the Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Justice of Los Angeles County Juvenile Court and State Senator John Vasconcellos opened dialogue about what must be done to begin to address youth violence. KNBC Los Angeles News Anchor Wendy Tokuda moderated the discussion.

After the statewide telecast, panelists at 11 locations led discussions of next steps to promote increased resources for youth violence prevention strategies. Whether community leader, former gang member, probation officer or elected official, the sentiment was the same: California needs to invest in youth violence prevention today. Participants swept aside their politics and special interests to open dialogue on how California can address this urgent health epidemic.

Californians are ready to invest in prevention strategies, found the bipartisan team of Republican pollster Ed Goeas and Democratic pollster Paul Maslin.¹

Results of a statewide survey of California voters show that the vast majority believe it is time to emphasize the prevention of youth violence rather than just building more prisons to hold juvenile offenders.

“An overwhelming majority say, ‘let’s invest in prevention’... Across gender, parties, generations, ideology, there is more consensus on this issue than I’ve ever seen.”

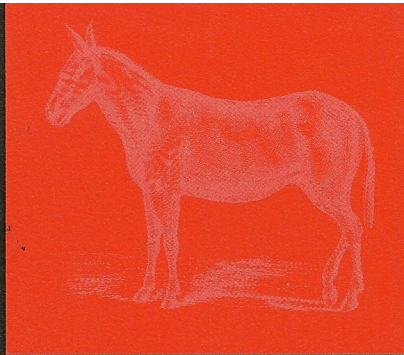
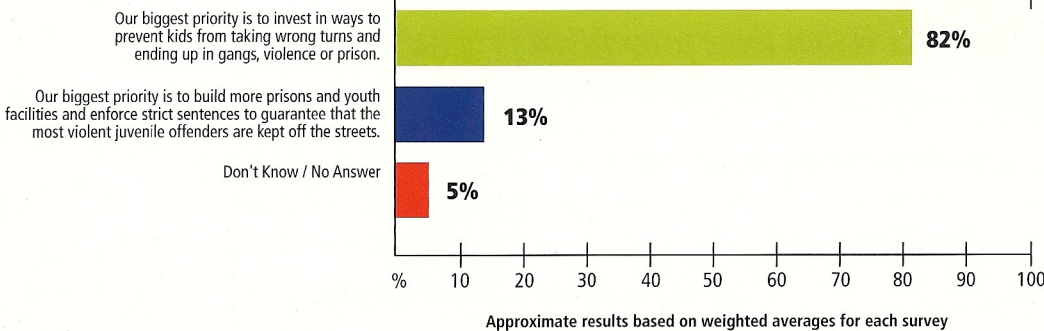
—Ed Goeas, Republican pollster

“You can’t simply use incarceration as the only tool. Voters are leading the elites in this attitude.”

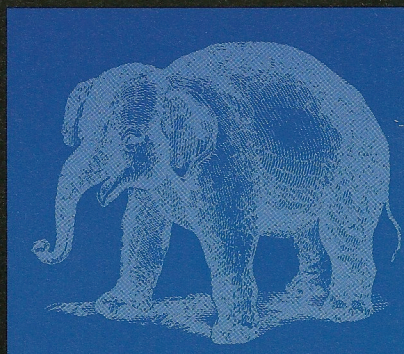
—Paul Maslin, Democratic pollster

Voters Choose Prevention Over Incarceration by a Ratio of 5 to 1

The population of male teenagers, who statistics show commit the most crimes, is expected to increase 25 percent in the next 10 years. In response to this statement, which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion?



¹From February 7 - March 23, 1997, Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates in conjunction with Ed Goeas of The Tarrance Group conducted five regional telephone surveys of registered voters in the major media markets of California. A total of 1,700 interviews were completed.



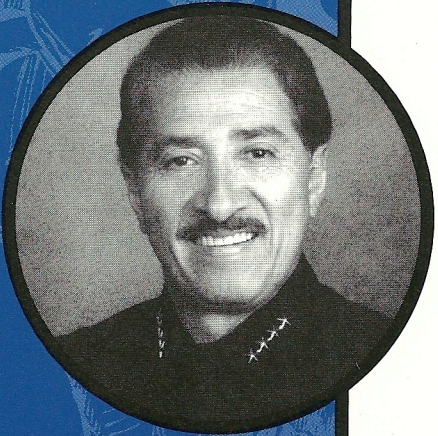
In welcoming participants to the Resources for Youth videoconference, Gary Yates emphasized that youth need support before they get involved in or become a victim of violence. However, the issue of youth violence and prevention is often obscured by partisan politics. Argued Yates, "there is no inherent conflict between prevention and incarceration; they are simply two points along a continuum to address youth violence . . . However, in California, we have lost our balance. We are overweight in incarceration while anemic in prevention."



Jeremy Estrada

"People did not give up on me. I was an uncontrollable violent youth. That lifestyle landed me in a revolving door of juvenile justice. But instead of being put in a cell and forgot about for a couple years, I was sent to prevention programs. I was positively reinforced."

—Student and youth advocate Jeremy Estrada



Chief Louis Cobarruviaz

David Ng Photography

"I know that some of the conservatives will assume that we're talking about bleeding heart programs. The fact is that these prevention programs work. We need to work harder as a community to continue to improve them."

—San Jose Chief of Police Louis Cobarruviaz



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission maintains that violence is preventable – and is working to help communities in the Pico-Aliso/Boyle Heights district of East Los Angeles get involved in solutions. The community-based nonprofit's Violence Prevention Program aims to empower the community. The organization runs youth mentoring and leadership programs, a youth-produced television program, an employment referral center and offers courses to help at-risk students earn

“A court should only be a last resort. I am encouraged because dialogues such as this show that some of us are on the right track. We just need to follow through.”

*—The Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Justice,
Los Angeles Juvenile Court*

“Ask twice. Talk to your legislator, your mayor, your city council member. Have a group of young adults come and say, ‘This is what we need.’ Most elected officials are eager to see that happen.”

— Mayor Susan Golding, City of San Diego

Los Angeles Statewide Telecast Panelists:

San Jose Chief of Police Louis Cobarruviaz

Jeremy Estrada, student and violence prevention advocate

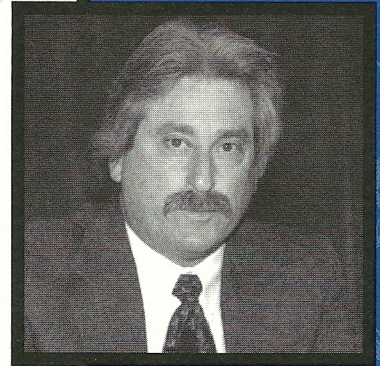
Mayor Susan Golding, City of San Diego

The Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Justice, Los Angeles Juvenile Court

Moderator: KNBC Los Angeles News Anchor Wendy Tokuda

Welcome: Gary Yates, President & CEO, The California Wellness Foundation

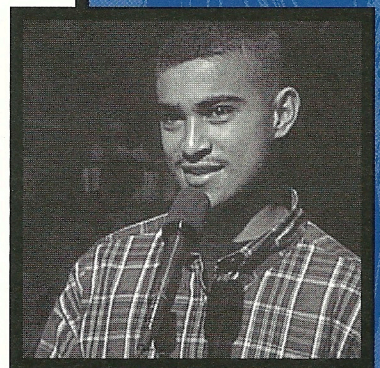
**Local Discussion Moderator: Donald Pelegrino, Associate,
Pelegrino & Associates**



The Honorable Michael Nash



Mayor Susan Golding



Mario Lemus, Peace Colors, Inglewood

diplomas. Mothers in its Comite Pro Paz (Committee for Peace) groups organize campaigns and alternative strategies for gang intervention and violence prevention, and help residents fight for the things their families need. Homeboy Industries, an innovative economic development project incorporating enterprises such as Homeboy Bakery and Homeboy Silkscreen, is also housed at Proyecto Pastoral.



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

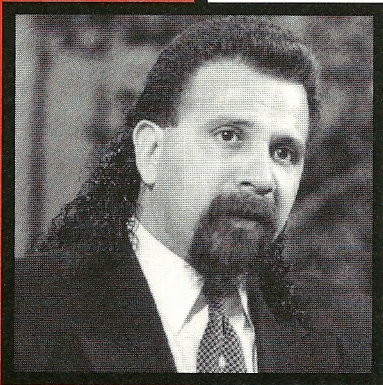
Attendees in Sacramento were inspired by the leadership and variety of voices represented on the panel. In local discussions, participants lauded the good programs that do exist in Sacramento, as well as the motivated individuals who lead them. The many youth in the audience were animated and eager to participate in the discussion. Several called on panelists to remain committed and involved in violence prevention programs for youth.



State Senate President
Pro Tem Bill Lockyer

"We are now talking about shifting our emphasis from detention to prevention. We know we need to do more. \$50 million was added to the budget last year. I am hoping this year we will at least do that and maybe be able to double it, plus integrate and spend the current dollars smarter."

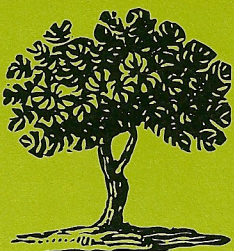
—State Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer



Pastor Sonny Lara

"Youth are tired of hearing promises from politicians that don't happen. They don't want to hear it; they want to see it done."

*—Pastor Sonny Lara, Mexican American
Community Services Agency*



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

The Boys & Girls Club of Stockton works with youth and adults in the Stockton community to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors related to youth violence with programs that facilitate social, occupational, educational, recreational and character development for children and young adults. The Rites of Passage program is a multi-faceted project that works with middle and high school boys to enhance self-esteem, develop leadership skills and teach critical thinking, cultural/historical awareness and conflict resolution.

“I challenge everybody taking part in this program to immediately contact, in person, your legislator and take her or him to one of these prevention programs. Help awaken us legislators to the humanity of your kids.”

—State Senator John Vasconcellos

“Just like any other form of disease that is killing so many people, like cancer, heart disease, AIDS, one mounts an effort to begin to try prevention and treatment... Prison is not the way to do that.”

*—Joseph E. Marshall, Executive Director,
Omega Boys Club*

Sacramento Statewide Telecast Panelists:

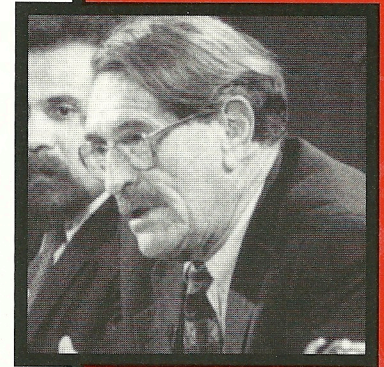
Pastor Sonny Lara, Mexican American Community Services Agency

State Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer

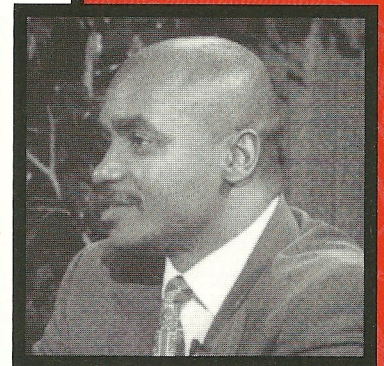
Joseph E. Marshall, Executive Director, Omega Boys Club

State Senator John Vasconcellos

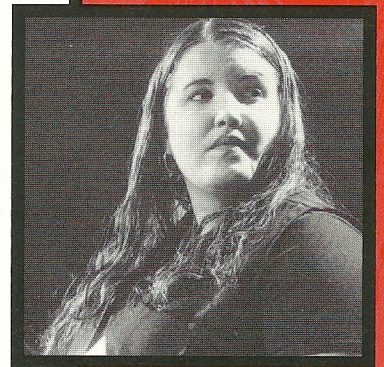
Local Discussion Moderator: Leyna Nguyen, KCRA-TV, Anchor and Reporter



State Senator John Vasconcellos



Joseph E. Marshall



Adina Medina,
La Familia Counseling Center

Asian Resources, Inc. is a non-profit, community based organization dedicated to providing multiple services to refugees, immigrants, and socio-economically disadvantaged youths and adults so they may become a vital part of a changing and diverse society.



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

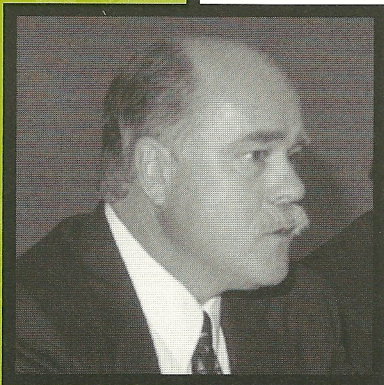
In San Diego, youth who attended the conference expressed their frustration that more youth voices were not heard in the dialogue. Said youth Sophonya Simpson, who is Director of the San Diego Youth Congress, "We as young people should be seen as resources. We know what works and what doesn't work." After the local discussion, staff from Senator Barbara Boxer's office requested names of people in the community to contact for input on the creation of legislation for after-school programs.



Dr. Rudy Castruita

"Years ago I was just like the young Jeremy Estrada. But, like Jeremy, someone took an interest in my future. They saw potential in me. We must do the same for our youth today. We can all make a difference."

—Dr. Rudy Castruita, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools



Chief Probation Officer Alan Crogan

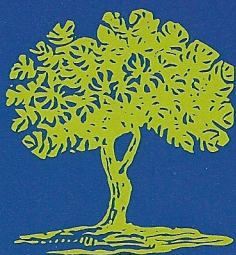
Byron Pepper Photography

San Diego Panelists:

Dr. Rudy Castruita, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools
 San Diego County Chief Probation Officer Alan Crogan
 Carrie Peery, Principal, Alexander Hamilton Elementary School
 Supervisor Ron Roberts, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
 Reverend Rolland Slade, San Diego Southern Baptist Association

Moderator: Ted Garcia, KFMB, Channel 8 (CBS) Reporter

Welcome: Dr. Robert Ross, Director, San Diego County Public Health



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

EYE Counseling and Crisis Services believes that just as cycles of violence, poverty, and hopelessness are passed on, a Cycle of Wellness can also be constructed so that community health and well-being will be passed on from generation to generation. The Escondido Youth Empowerment Project mentors Escondido youth who have been referred by police, probation, schools, and self-referrals to develop leadership and mediation skills, and cultivate an ethic of empowered community service. A central characteristic of EYE's proactive approach towards youth development is mentoring youth to help them take personal responsibility.

The San Francisco meeting was held at Delancey Street Foundation, a cooperative residential community for ex-convicts. Welcoming speaker and Delancey Street Foundation Vice President Abe Irizarry – himself an ex-convict and former substance abuser – immediately caught the audience’s attention. He emphasized the need for structure, discipline and adult attention in the lives of youth. Following the statewide telecast, members of the audience rose one after another to suggest next steps to continue violence prevention work, from mentoring to workshops to peace walks. Phone numbers were exchanged; people were excited to get together and get involved.

“We usually thought that bad kids were going to get hit with violence, but it turns out that all kids are potentially in danger of violence because the problem is just so massive now.”

*—Supervisor Leland Yee,
San Francisco Board of Supervisors*



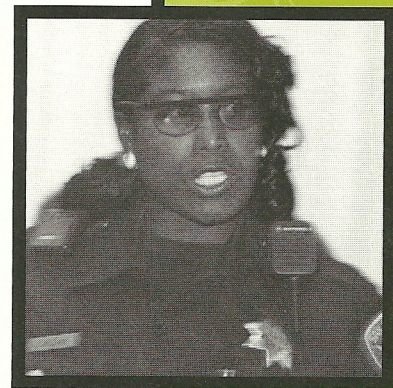
Supervisor Leland Yee

San Francisco Panelists:

- Julia Globus-Sabori, Chair, San Francisco Youth Commission
- Daniel Macallair, Associate Director, Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice
- Mitchell Salazar, Executive Director, Real Alternatives Program
- Supervisor Leland Yee, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Moderator: Barbara Rodgers, KPIX, Channel 5 (CBS) Reporter

Welcome: Abe Irizarry, Vice President, Delancey Street Foundation



Yulanda Williams, Field Training Officer,
San Francisco Police Department

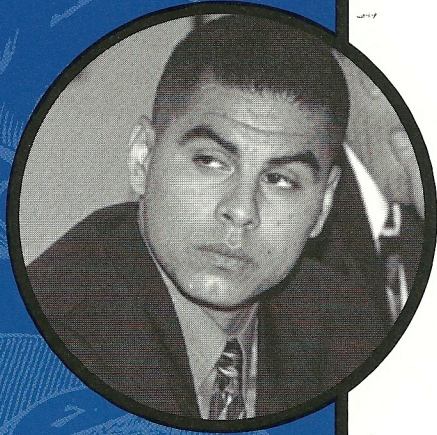
Photographer: MVP

Established in 1969, the Real Alternatives Program (RAP) works with organizations and schools to provide education, jobs, gang prevention, and recreational services for youth. RAP’s Mission District Community Peace Initiative has established a Youth Peace Posse, made up of trained and paid youth organizers and parents, to engage the community in violence prevention projects. RAP’s community mobilizations have brought public officials and corporate leaders together with community leaders and neighborhood residents.



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

In Fresno, Supervisor Juan Arambula opened the local discussion with an admission of the need for prevention funding by the Board of Supervisors. Youth participant and former gang member Homer Leija agreed, expressing his concern that "we're missing the boat" with at-risk youth today. "It takes prevention programs," urged Leija, "to combine and build relationships with these young people, and begin to show them there is an alternative."



Michael Zavala

"For the problem to be solved, people in the community need to get involved.... Young people need to wake up and be creative. They need to look and see what they can get involved in."

—Michael Zavala, Former Gang Member and Outreach Specialist for Cornerstone Church



Supervisor Juan Arambula
and Councilmember Henry Perea

Creative Eye Photography Inc.

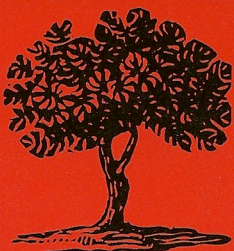
Fresno Panelists:

Alfonso Hernandez, Director, Chicano Youth Center
Councilmember Daniel Ronquillo, City of Fresno
Fresno Chief of Police Ed Winchester
Michael Zavala, Outreach Specialist for Cornerstone Church and
Former Gang Member

Moderator: Nancy Osborne, KFSN, Channel 30 (ABC) News Anchor

Welcome:

Supervisor Stan Oken, Chair of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Juan Arambula, Vice Chair of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

Established in 1977, the Chicano Youth Center serves more than 15,000 Fresno youth annually. In addition to the Chicano community, the Center also serves Asian and African-American communities. The Center's programs include: youth sports leagues, gang intervention and prevention, youth leadership and self-esteem training, teen pregnancy prevention, cultural and educational programs, tutoring, and mentoring. The Center publishes a youth-produced magazine and newsletter that serves at-risk Fresno youth and has established a network of community groups that address the need to increase services for youth in Fresno.

Attendees at the Oakland meeting will remember a poignant moment when a youth rose to express her fear of violence, and broke into tears. "Violence really scares me these days," said the young woman, "I lost eight friends since September who were all in high school." She continued with an emotional appeal to the audience, "All the support we can get would be great. I want to go to college and have a future of my own."

"If you give youth an opportunity, they will rise to the occasion. We need to create opportunities for youth to be involved in solutions. In this way we can cultivate the leaders of tomorrow."

—Rachelle DeStephens, Coordinator, Oakland Unified School District Law Court



Rachelle DeStephens

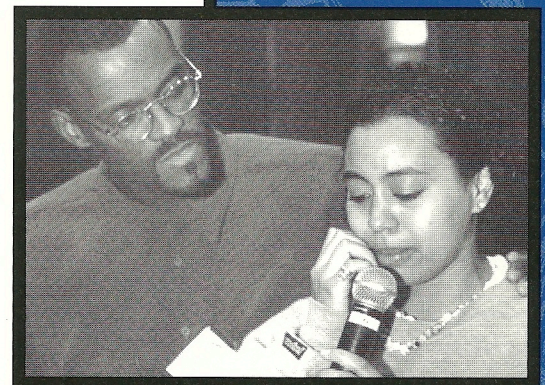
Oakland Panelists:

Professor Elliot Currie, UC Berkeley Legal Studies Program
Rachelle DeStephens, Coordinator, Oakland Unified School District Law Court

Oakland Chief of Police Joseph Samuels

Maria Theresa Viramontes, Executive Director, East Bay Public Safety Corridor Partnership

Moderator: Gregory E. Hodge, Executive Director, Urban Strategies Council



Gregory E. Hodge and youth

Photography: George Draper

Neighborhood House of North Richmond's community-based alliance of public and private agencies, called the "Community-in-Peace" (CIP) Partnership, addresses youth gang-related violence in West Contra Costa County. The CIP Partnership targets underserved, at-risk youth and their families in schools with an ethnically diverse population of African-American, Asian and Latino students. This school-based violence prevention program advocates school, parent and youth collaboration. CIP Partnership also provides noon recreational programs, conflict resolution workshops, counseling services, and parent and youth leadership programs.



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

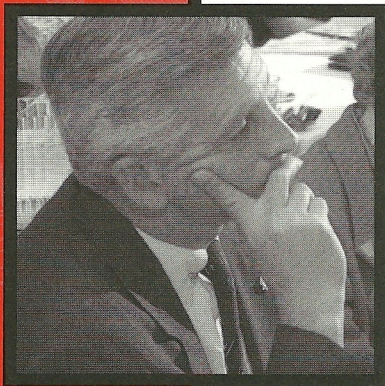
San Jose attendee Gail Ortega from Ugima Adult and Family Services brought home the argument against incarceration as a solution, questioning whether anyone released from prison or the youth authority returns to the community ready to welcome loving relationships. He suggested instead that "the process of imprisonment is a process of gladiator training." Youth at the conference agreed that their peers are not getting the structure and guidance they need at home. Jackie Salas from Nuestra Casa Youth Project warned, "[Youth] have nothing to do, so they go out on the street to look for trouble."



Mayor Susan Hammer

"You can't just treat the symptoms of a kid who is not going to school, or who has run afoul of the law. You really have to involve the parents. Parents have to be held responsible for their kids' actions and they have to be involved in the solutions."

—Mayor Susan Hammer, City of San Jose



Los Gatos/Monte Sereno
Chief of Police Larry Todd

ProPhoto

San Jose Panelists:

Priya Haji, Executive Director, Free At Last

John Hubner, Author/Writer, West Magazine – San Jose Mercury News

Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, Program/Clinical Manager,
Asian American Recovery Services

Cleveland Prince, Probation Officer, Santa Clara County

Moderator: Maggi Scura, KNTV, Channel 11, News Anchor

Welcome:

Supervisor Blanca Alvarado, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Mayor Susan Hammer, City of San Jose



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

Founded in 1964, the Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc. (MACSA) develops comprehensive and integrated programs to address the needs of the Santa Clara County community. MACSA's Youth Opportunities Unlimited program provides services such as after-school child care, programs to enhance self-esteem and leadership skills, tutorial assistance and computer literacy workshops. Other MACSA programs include services aimed at assisting youth, families and seniors.

Panelists in Riverside offered a unique combination of business, law enforcement, education and advocacy perspectives. Judith Auth, Director of Riverside City and County Libraries, objected to the discrepancy between dollars spent on the county's literacy program and on incarceration. Entrepreneur Elijah Frazier spoke of the need to include youth in the economic development of the community. Referring to drug and gun dealers, he remarked, "these people are illegal entrepreneurs. What can we do to make them productive, contributing entrepreneurs?" Vice Principal Ira Gray declared, "Children are hungry! Hungry for nourishment, education, love and help. What are we going to do about it?"

"Locking up youth is not a viable solution. The only way to save our youth is to invest dollars on the front end in youth diversion, intervention and education."

*-Riverside County Chief Probation Officer
Thomas J. Callanan*



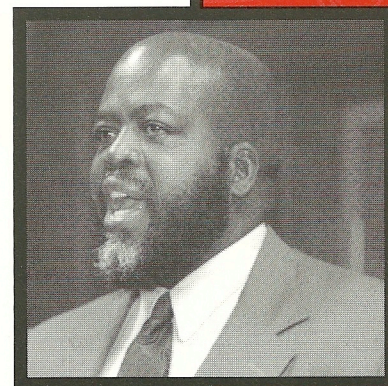
Chief Probation Officer Thomas J. Callanan

Riverside Panelists:

Judith Auth, Director, Riverside City & County Libraries
Riverside County Chief Probation Officer Thomas J. Callanan
Elijah Frazier, Entrepreneur & Board Member, People Reaching Out
Ira Gray, Vice Principal, Emerton Elementary School

Moderator: Jorge Cruz Hernandez, Attorney at Law

Welcome: Mayor Ron Loveridge, City of Riverside



Elijah Frazier

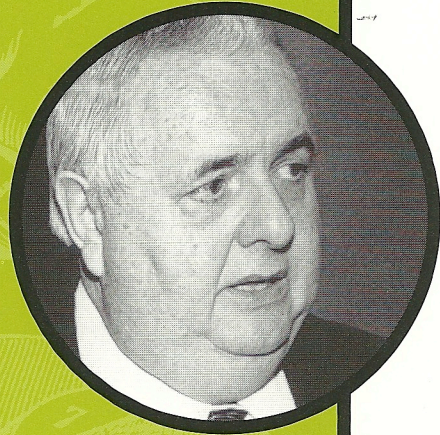
Puma Photo

Inland Agency is a community-based, multiethnic, health promotion and violence prevention agency that has served Riverside and San Bernardino counties for over 25 years. Inland Agency's violence prevention initiative, People Reaching Out (PRO), strives to reduce youth violence by: raising awareness and support of violence prevention efforts; increasing knowledge of and access to quality job opportunities; encouraging parental involvement; and recruiting more youth to participate in prevention programs. Specific programs include conflict resolution programs, co-ed parenting classes, job placement programs, and afterschool activities for 8th to 12th grade students.



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

"It was about time something like this was done," was the sentiment expressed by many participants at the Pomona site. More than a dozen representatives in the audience – from law enforcement, education, advocacy groups, community organizations and policy maker staff – stood to echo the concerns expressed about youth violence. They reiterated the immediate need for more resources for violence prevention efforts, and called on Pomona communities to get involved in the lives of their youth.



Jim Ballew

"Perhaps if we keep chipping away at the idea of getting more dollars for youth services, it'll be like the walls of Jericho. Hopefully, if we keep marching and sounding the trumpets, there'll be a break in the walls of finance."

—Jim Ballew, Commissioner, Los Angeles County Superior Court



Cal Poly Pomona President Bob Suzuki

Slobodan Dimitrov Photography

Pomona Panelists:

Jim Ballew, Commissioner, Los Angeles County Superior Court
Lawson Bush V, Imani Saturday Academy
Mayor Eddie Cortez, City of Pomona
Linda Nunez, Community Advocate

Moderator: Reverend La Quetta Bush-Simmons, Inland Valley Council of Churches

Welcome: Bob Suzuki, President, Cal Poly Pomona



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

Community Wellness Partnership (CWP) works to empower youth as part of its violence prevention strategy. The community-based movement aims to provide a platform for youth voices, educate youth on issues relevant to them, increase awareness of resources available to youth, and facilitate change in institutions to make them sensitive to the needs of youth. CWP offers youth leadership classes for social change, including policy and media advocacy, cultural identity, public presentations, community organizing and a newspaper.

In welcoming participants to the Resources for Youth videoconference, Santa Cruz Mayor Cynthia Williams praised community-based organizations that have made a difference for youth. But it is not enough, she warned. Local panelists concurred, adding that the epidemic of youth violence is getting worse. Chief of Public Health Betsy McCarty remarked that in looking for solutions to youth violence, we need to study youth who have succeeded, and give youth a vision of the future. Police Chief Steve Belcher urged the audience to tell others in their communities that we must work together to protect our youth.

“Our youth need resources for the future. If we as a community don’t provide those for them, what are they left with? We are losing too many kids to prisons and the streets.”

—Maribel Gallardo, Barrios Unidos



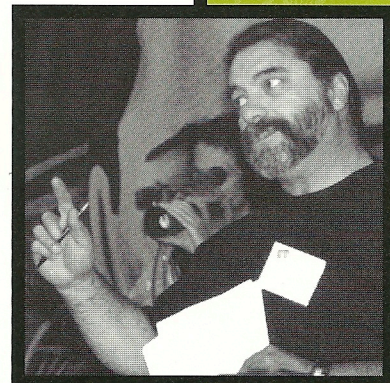
Maribel Gallardo

Santa Cruz Panelists:

- Santa Cruz Chief of Police Steve Belcher
- Maribel Gallardo, Barrios Unidos
- Councilmember Scott Kennedy, City of Santa Cruz
- Chief of Public Health Betsy McCarty, City of Santa Cruz

Moderator: Cristina Rodriguez de La Mar, City of Santa Cruz

Welcome: Mayor Cynthia Matthews, City of Santa Cruz



Art Guerra
Friends Outside

Ella Seneres, Photographer

A member of the California Coalition of Barrios Unidos and headquarters for the state and national coalitions, Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, Inc. works to prevent and curtail violence among Latino youth. It approaches youth violence by engaging those who have experienced and overcome the challenges facing young people to serve as community workers. These community workers focus on building positive self-esteem and cultural pride of youth through meaningful activities, education and job training. To encourage economic development, Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, Inc. also facilitates job placement for youth in the local community.



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

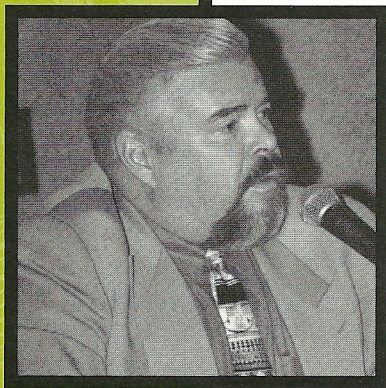
The importance of working together was stressed throughout the meeting in Santa Ana. "This conference is a celebration of our similarities. We all want to provide for the safety of our families," said a representative from the San Clemente Police Department. School principal and panelist Judith Magsaysay urged attendees "to stop and think — what is it we want youth to know and do as they become responsible members of the community?" The audience was enthusiastic about prospects for success. "We've made progress between this conference and the last one—I've seen it!" declared a participant from the League of Women Voters.



Mary Leigh Blek

"We have to stop thinking that violence in our home city is what is important. Our children go everywhere for college, for recreation, for work.... Every city is 'our city.' We need to combat 'Orange County Denial.'"

—Mary Leigh Blek, Co-Chair of Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence



Chief Probation Officer Michael Schumacher

Santa Ana Panelists:

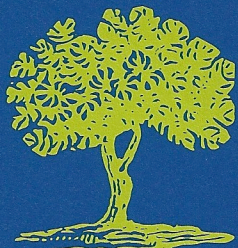
Mary Leigh Blek, Founder/Director, Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence

Judy Magsaysay, Principal, Pio Pico Elementary School

Orange County Chief Probation Officer Michael Schumacher

Moderator: Daria Waetjen, Coordinator of Violence Prevention Programs, Orange County Department of Education

Photos: Paradise West Creative Services



STRATEGIES
FOR HOPE

Michael Schumacher travels the state and to Washington, D.C. to promote his "8%" solution to juvenile crime. Eight percent of juveniles arrested are committing over 50% of crime. It is these 8% of youth that must be targeted — and they must be caught before committing their first crime. Youth in this group have a standard profile, Schumacher explained. They are failing school, come from disrupted homes, have a history of alcohol or drug abuse. They usually commit their first crime before the age of 15. "Prevention and intervention can change the tide," he declared.

Beyond the 11 downlink sites, another 23 locations requested a broadcast of the Resources for Youth videoconference. These auxiliary sites enabled some of those most concerned about preventing youth violence — particularly educators and probation officers — to participate in an honest dialogue about solutions to this epidemic.

“For any community dealing with the issue of gangs and youth violence, it is important to share ideas and learn about what’s successful in other communities so we don’t have to reinvent the wheel.”

- Vice Mayor Janet Condron, City of Santa Rosa



Vice Mayor Janet Condron

Alameda County Probation Department, Oakland
 Alameda County Office of Education, Hayward
 California Research Bureau, Sacramento
 College of the Siskiyous, Yreka
 City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa
 Compton Unified School District, Compton
 Corona-Norco Unified School District, Norco
 Humboldt County Office of Education, Eureka
 Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Bakersfield
 Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach
 Modoc County Office of Education, Alturas
 Oakland Unified Schools, Oakland
 Placer County Office of Education, Auburn
 Plumas County Office of Education, Quincy

San Joaquin County Office of Education, Stockton
 San Luis Obispo County Probation Department,
 San Luis Obispo
 San Mateo County Office of Education, Redwood City
 Santa Clara County Office of Education, San Jose
 Santa Monica College, Santa Monica
 Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa
 Siskiyou County Department of Public Health, Yreka
 Sonoma County Office of Education, Santa Rosa
 Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, Yuba City

Community Television in Santa Cruz and KCSM in San Mateo taped and broadcast the videoconference.

14

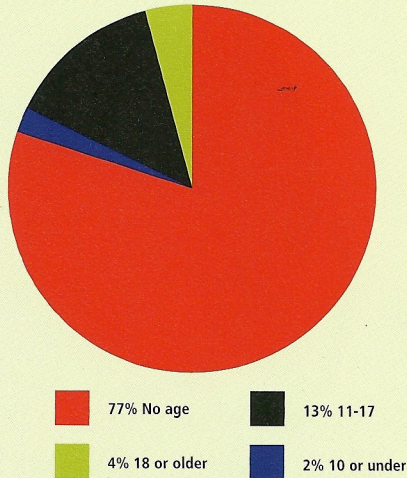
The Violence Prevention Initiative of the Mendocino County Youth Project, a community empowerment program, serves two rural communities. In each, the community chose the focus of violence prevention efforts. Covelo community members have formed multi-generational partnerships that provide support for prevention teaching and training in local schools. After-hours recreational activities have also been offered to youth at schools in the Southcoast Community. The program empowers youth by letting them share in the decision-making and implementation of programs and activities. Youth learn to see themselves as their own best resource.



STRATEGIES
 FOR HOPE

Get Involved - Resources for Youth Network Opportunities

Californians Agree, It's Never Too Late



Do you think there is an age at which it is too late to help a young person who has gotten involved in violence and crime?

Following the videoconference, June was declared Resources for Youth Month to draw attention to the importance of increased investment in youth violence prevention. Hundreds of community leaders across California took part in the Never Too Late Pledge Program. They promised to take action and continue the momentum created by the videoconference. By pledging to take action, these leaders have also become part of the Resources for Youth Network, which creates a statewide voice for local advocates in support of youth violence prevention.

Below are examples of how Californians have become involved:

More than 45 California cities and counties proclaimed June 1997 "Resources for Youth Month." Many of these proclamations were made as a result of requests from individual RFY Network Members. (See list on page 16.)

More than 100 concerned citizens of California contacted their elected officials to ask for increased investment in youth violence prevention, including representatives of local PTA's, Probation & Police Departments, health care workers, and educators. For example:

- Students Together Organizing Peace (STOP), a group of youth trained by Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women, wrote letters to the Los Angeles mayor, city council and the governor to ask that they make funding youth violence prevention a priority. The youth will also invite the elected officials to visit one of their training programs, so that the officials can see first hand how their violence prevention program works.

Other network members wrote letters to the editor of their local newspapers. Some individuals were able to publish articles or editorials on the subject of youth violence prevention.

More than 40 organizations, including school districts, police officers and health providers have agreed to compile neighborhood resource maps. The mapping project will help youth identify positive community resources and conditions they would like to change or improve. Some community organizations have already started the effort.

- Bayview Hunters Point Foundation/Prevention & Leadership Alternatives for Youth, a neighborhood-based primary prevention program in San Francisco, has completed a neighborhood map illustrating the positive and negative outlets in the community.
- International Mutual Assistance Association, a San Diego organization that aims to strengthen the role of parents, the community and law enforcement in violence prevention and reduction, is developing two neighborhood maps. These will demonstrate the resources available to youth.

Educators, health providers and other organizations demonstrated support by sponsoring special activities. For example:

- Peace Colors Violence Prevention Project, a comprehensive youth driven, school based program of Southern California Youth & Family Center in Inglewood, organized a Resources for Youth Community Clean-Up at Morningside High School. Youth planted trees and flowers around the school and distributed white peace ribbons to community residents. The activities brought youth together in support of positive resources for youth.
- West Oakland Violence Prevention Project, a violence prevention initiative of the West Oakland Health Council that seeks to expand school-and community-based conflict mediation services, held an open house so that members of the community could see a violence prevention program in action.

Local Governments that Declared June, 1997 Resources for Youth Month

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Alameda | Manhattan Beach | San Marcos |
| Belvedere | Martinez | San Rafael |
| Berkeley | Moorpark | Sand City |
| Buena Park | Oakland | Santa Clara County |
| Covina | Orange Cove | Santa Cruz |
| Cypress | Pacific Grove | Santa Cruz County |
| El Cerrito | Palmdale | Santa Rosa |
| Fresno | Pinole | Shafter |
| Fresno County | Pittsburg | Stockton |
| Galt | Reedley | Sunnyvale |
| Grover Beach | Rohnert Park | Tehachapi |
| Half Moon Bay | Rolling Hills Estates | Tulare County |
| Hercules | San Bernardino | Vallejo |
| Laguna Niguel | San Francisco | Visalia |
| Lakeport | San Francisco County | Walnut Creek |
| Lake Forest | San Joaquin County | |
| Madera | San Jose | |

“It costs \$32,000 a year to keep one child in California Youth Authority. We only spend under \$4,000 a year to educate him. There’s something wrong with these figures.”

– Carol Ruley, Immediate Past President, California State PTA

The Following are Some of the California Organizations Working to Prevent Violence in Their Own Communities



Asian Resources, Inc.

2251 Florin Road, Suite 108
Sacramento, CA 95822
916-424-8960.

Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation/Prevention & Leadership Alternative for Youth

5815 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
415-671-1013.

Boys & Girls Club of Stockton

P.O. Box 415
Stockton, CA 95201
209-466-1264, 209-466-8431.

Chicano Youth Center

50 North Calaveras
Fresno, CA 93701
209-497-8552.

Community Wellness Partnership

640 South Garey
Pomona, CA 91766
909-469-2299.

EYE Counseling and Crisis Services

165 East Lincoln Avenue
Escondido, CA 92925
760-480-6130.

Inland Agency/People Reaching Out

2060 University Avenue, Suite 102
Riverside, CA 92507
909-686-8946.

International Mutual Assistance Association

4102 El Cajon Boulevard, Second Floor
San Diego, CA 92105-1120
619-584-4018.

La Familia Counseling Center

5523 34th Street
Sacramento, CA 95820
916-452-3601.

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women

6043 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90028
213-462-1281.

Mendocino County Youth Project

776 South State Street, Suite 107
Ukiah, CA 95482
707-463-4915.

Mexican American Community Services Agency

660 Sinclair Drive
San Jose, CA 95116
408-929-1080.

Neighborhood House of North Richmond

305 Chesley Avenue
North Richmond, CA 94801
510-235-9780.

Peace Colors Violence Prevention Project Southern California Youth & Family Center

101 North La Brea Avenue, Suite 100
Inglewood, CA 90301-1769
310-671-1222.

Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission

135 North Mission Road
Los Angeles, CA 90033
213-881-0030.

Real Alternatives Program

2730 Bryant Street; Second Floor, West Wing
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-282-9984.

Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos

313 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4501
408-457-8208.

West Oakland Violence Prevention Project

2730 Adeline Street
Oakland, CA 94607
510-465-1508.

**This is only a partial list of violence prevention organizations in California.
For more information about organizations in your area,
please call Resources for Youth at (415) 331-5991.**

The California Wellness Foundation and Resources for Youth thank the statewide and local cosponsors and supporters of the April 9, 1997 videoconference.

STATEWIDE EVENT COSPONSORS:

California Police Chiefs Association, Inc.
California State PTA
Chief Probation Officers of California
League of California Cities
The League of Women Voters of California

LOS ANGELES COSPONSORS:

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women
Los Angeles League of Women Voters
Los Angeles PTA
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission
Southern California Youth & Family Center
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

SACRAMENTO COSPONSORS & SUPPORTERS:

Asian Resources
La Familia Counseling Center
SacraMentor
Stockton Boys & Girls Club
Arsie Anderson of African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Bob Allaire of Stanislaus County Department of Mental Health
Child Development Program Advisory Committee
California State Association of Counties
Lutheran Office of Public Policy
Placer Peer Court

OAKLAND COSPONSORS:

The Mentoring Center
Oakland Police Department
Neighborhood House of Northern Richmond/Community-in-Peace
Partnership
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention
Teens on Target
West Oakland Violence Prevention Project/West Oakland Health
Council, Inc.
Youth ALIVE!

SANTA ANA COSPONSORS & SUPPORTERS:

Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence
Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County

FRESNO COSPONSORS

Barrios Unidos
Chicano Youth Center
Fresno County Probation Department
Fresno League of Women Voters
Fresno Police Chief Ed Winchester
Fresno PTA
Nora Benavides, Violence Prevention Initiative Community Fellow

POMONA COSPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Community Wellness Partnership
Office of President Bob Suzuki, California Polytechnic
University, Pomona

RIVERSIDE COSPONSORS

Inland Agency
People Reaching Out

SAN DIEGO COSPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

EYE Counseling & Crisis Services
California Police Chiefs Association, San Diego
Ninth District PTA of San Diego
International Mutual Assistance Association
League of California Cities, San Diego
The League of Women Voters, San Diego
Partners Mentorship
San Diego Padres
San Diego Southern Baptist Association
South Bay Community Services
The Children's Initiative

SAN JOSE COSPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA)
San Jose/Santa Clara League of Women Voters
Santa Clara County Police Chiefs Association
Sixth District PTA of Santa Clara County
Santa Clara County Public Health Department

SAN FRANCISCO COSPONSORS

Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention
Real Alternatives Program (RAP)
Trauma Foundation

SANTA CRUZ COSPONSOR

Barrios Unidos

The California Wellness Foundation is an independent private foundation created to improve the health and well-being of the people of California. It was funded in February 1992 by a substantial endowment from Health Net. Recognizing that violence has become a public health problem of severe magnitude and that youth are disproportionately affected, the Foundation has made youth violence prevention the focus of its first initiative.

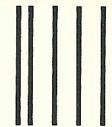
More than \$35 million has been allocated to the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) over an initial five-year period and dedicated to developing and evaluating a comprehensive approach to reducing youth violence.

One objective of the Foundation's VPI is to alter the view of many Californians that violence is inevitable. It isn't. By placing the issue on the public health agenda, The California Wellness Foundation hopes to stimulate

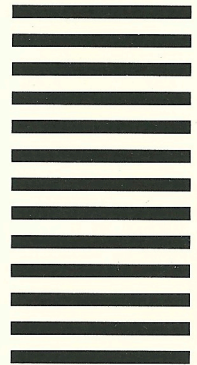


understanding and support for policies and programs that will prevent youth violence. As part of the VPI, The California Wellness Foundation provided a grant to Martin & Glantz to create a public education campaign designed to increase resources that help to reduce the level of violence among the state's young people.

The campaign begins with the assumption that youth violence is a problem that affects all of us. While ensuring public safety is a priority, we believe much more can be done to prevent youth violence. Discussion of solutions is often difficult because this issue has become politicized and opinions polarized. One thing we can all agree on is the need for an honest dialogue. The campaign provides California policy makers and community leaders with facts, perspectives, voices and strategies to prevent youth violence so that together we can become resources for our youth.



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You and the Resources for Youth Network & Never Too Late Pledge Program

The Resources for Youth Network and the Never Too Late pledge program will continue to provide opportunities for community leaders like you to voice the need for investment in youth violence prevention. By pledging to support increased resources for youth, you will receive special updates on legislative action and highlights of activities taking place statewide to support youth violence prevention projects.

When you join the Network, we will send you a pledge kit and materials to help you take action in your community.

To sign on to the Network, please return the response card below.



For immediate access to informational materials,
call our automated fax-on-demand line at 1-888-329-4409.

NAME —

TITLE —

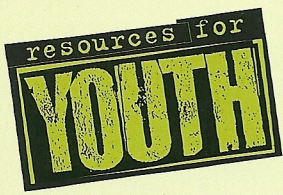
ORGANIZATION —

ADDRESS —

PHONE/FAX —

EMAIL —

- I agree with 77% of California voters, it is never too late! I want to join the Resources for Youth Network.
 - Please send me a Never Too Late Pledge Kit.
 - Please share my name with others in my community interested in preventing youth violence.
 - Other (please indicate) _____
- I am not able to participate in the Network at this time. Please continue to update me on information about the project and the Resources for Youth campaign.
- I do NOT want to receive any more information from Resources for Youth. Please remove my name from the mailing list.



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San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 331-5991

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A M E E T I N G O F T H E M I N D S

"I appreciate being looked at as a success story. But there are thousands of stories like mine, and more impressive than mine, out there on the streets..."

We need to keep building these success stories, and the only way we're going to build these success stories is through prevention and intervention programs. We must take it upon ourselves to help these children out."

—Jeremy Estrada