



## Oakland Unite Newsletter- Summer 2013

Dear Friend,

There has been much reason to pause and reflect this summer, as California prison inmates are on a powerful hunger strike protesting conditions of solitary confinement, and the verdict in the Zimmerman trial highlights meaningful and challenging questions about the notions of public safety in this country. The work of Oakland Unite is more important than ever, as we work with our grantees to combat violence in our community. We launched this year's Friday Summer Nights in the Park event on Friday, July 12, 2013, and had a great time with community members at the Willie Wilkins Park on 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Carter-Gilmore Park on

### JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGY EVALUATION REPORT PUBLISHED

Since 2007, The U.S. Department of Justice has funded a collaborative juvenile reentry project in Alameda County through the Federal Second Chance Initiative, led by the Department of Human Services in partnership with Alameda County Probation, Alameda County Healthy Services, Oakland Unified School District, and community-based agencies. This project supplements the work of Oakland Unite's Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Strategy, bringing additional resources to support youth returning to Oakland from the JJC.

Dr. Sonia Jain, Senior Research Associate for [WestEd](#), a research and evaluation agency, conducted an evaluation study and published a report on the process evaluation of the Second Chance demonstration project led by Oakland Unite between 2011 and 2013. The report highlights the substantial systems change work that has been done to improve outcomes for reentry youth in Oakland. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected for the evaluation from an online system-wide partner survey, key interviews, a focus group with Case Managers and a Provider Site Visit Report review.

The Project's Key Accomplishments highlighted in the report include:

- At least 90% target population received pre- and post-release services;
- Approximately 98% of youth were provided with a school placement at OUSD within three days of exiting JJC,
- Staff and organizational capacity building through trainings on cornerstone topics
  - Improved data sharing protocols
- Common vision and flow of work for smooth youth transitions from detention to the community
- New individualized approach to juvenile supervision at Probation Dept.
- Staff-wide training in positive youth development and individual achievement plans and case management.

---> [Download it here.](#)

66<sup>th</sup> Avenue, both in East Oakland. We are moving forward with grant renewals for the new fiscal year - go to our website for more information on funded grantees. Finally, I have recently transitioned out of my role as Interim Manager, and Mark Henderson will be acting in that role until further notice. The Oakland Unite team will continue to bring you news and updates about our work, and the significant achievements of our grantees.

Thank you,  
Priya

Priya Jagannathan  
Oakland Unite  
City of Oakland  
Department of Human Services



*Make sure to check out our  
Oakland Unite Facebook*

## WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

1. JJC Wraparound FEATURED article is updated with a great locally-made video about [Welcoming Circles](#).
2. [Grantee Client Consent forms](#) are updated and translated into Spanish and Chinese.  
Note -- some new age limits.
3. [Like us on Facebook](#) to get weekly updates about Oakland Unite.



The Oakland Unite website

## SUCCESS STORIES

All of our Oakland Unite grantees have powerful participant success stories that illustrate the impact their programs have had on the people they have served. Our website includes these success stories, with pseudonyms used to protect clients' identities. In this newsletter edition, we are highlighting a success story from Youth Employment Partnership's Young Adult Reentry Program.

Youth Employment Partnership (YEP) is working with "Franklin," a 19 year old who was raised and currently stays in East Oakland. Franklin came to YEP without a high school diploma or GED, was on probation for robbery and had never worked before. His social skills were minimal and he seemed to lack confidence in himself. Aside from difficulty with his education, he had been impacted by violence - his brother was shot and killed by the police about 2 years ago. Despite these barriers, Franklin still managed to work hard and finish YEP's three-week JRT (Job Readiness Training). Once completing JRT, he was placed in the GED program and started working at YEP's Training Grounds Café. After completing a portion of work experience hours at the café, he wanted to transfer to construction. *Since his beginning the program, Franklin has passed three GED tests and is currently taking an introductory college course at Laney College. Aside from moving forward in his education, he was recently hired in March 2013 into a customer service job.*

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: Presidential Award to Michelle Clark**



In early June, Michelle Clark, Director of Youth Employment Project (YEP) was given the Presidential Champions of Change Award as part of the Crowdfunding group of twelve awardees -- entrepreneurs funding start-up innovative projects. She was recognized for the consistency of successful outcomes from YEP's programs in general and the recent partnership with Solar Mosaic to bring solar energy to YEP, creating a new living classroom that provides solar education to YEP's participants.



For more information , please visit our website: [www.OaklandUnite.org](http://www.OaklandUnite.org)

*Sincerely,*

The Oakland Unite Team  
Measure Y: For a Safe Oakland

