

# OAKLAND UNITE CITY PEACE FUTURE

Dear Priya,



It is great to finally reach out to you through our Oakland Unite newsletter in my new role here on the OU team. It's been an exciting and challenging first few months as the OU Manager, getting acquainted (or re-acquainted) with the great work being done by all our grantee agencies and I've had the fortunate opportunity to see and speak to many of you already. I'm looking forward to learning more about our programs and meeting more program staff in the months ahead.

In the short time I've been here, it's become quite clear to me that we all have much to be proud about. Recent evaluation data confirms that Oakland Unite programs are making a difference. Together, we are affecting the lives of over 4,000 individuals annually by providing intensive support services to Oakland youth and young adults most impacted by violence, and it's clear that we are touching the right people—**over 70% of all OU participants have had an arrest for a violent or serious crime before receiving OU services.** What's also clear is the significant positive impact we're having on those individuals—after a year of services, **OU program participants overall show an 83% reduction in arrests for violent crimes.** What this tells us is that the hours and hours of work each of you are putting into strengthening programming, coordinating efforts, and **building relationships** are changing lives and improving communities.

But the work is far from done. Despite marked decreases in homicides and violent crime citywide, Oakland is still seeing too many loved ones hurt by violence. As we enter the final year of this 3-year grant cycle (and of the 10-year Measure Y, itself!), let's be encouraged by the wonderful success we've experienced, but continue to work harder than ever to grow the work and touch more lives. I'm looking forward to working with all of you in making Oakland a safer, healthier city for everyone, but especially for our most vulnerable

and marginalized community members.

In Appreciation,

Peter Kim

Oakland Unite Manager

City of Oakland, Human Services Department

## **Remember to:**

**"Like" us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same!**

Like us on Facebook 

**Make sure to visit our website for news, events and program highlights.**

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

**Friday Summer Nights are Back Starting July 11th!**

**COME JOIN OAKLAND UNITE'S MESSENGERS4CHANGE IN  
EAST OAKLAND!**

# Friday summer nights at the park!



Every Friday Night  
Starting Friday, July 11th  
Through Friday, August 15th  
6pm-9pm



## Entertainment for the entire family!



Free:  
-Food & Refreshments  
-Games for all ages  
-Raffles

Join us for a  
night of fun!

Willie Wilkins Park  
1100 98th Avenue  
(between B st. and C st.)  
and  
Carter Gilmore Park  
1390 66th Avenue

Sponsored by:



For more  
information Contact:

Jennifer Argueta  
510-238-2056  
jargueta@oaklandnet.com  
www.messengers4change.org

**AND CCNI IN WEST OAKLAND!**

**Friday Night Live**

Fun, Games, and Entertainment For the Entire Family

**Prizes:**  
Basketball Tournaments, Raffles, and Games

**Free:**  
Food, Refreshments, Music, Arts and Crafts,  
and Dancing For All Ages

**Brockhurst Street  
Between Market and San Pablo  
(3233 Market St.)**

Every Friday Night  
Starting Friday July 11th - Friday August 15th  
6pm-9pm







For more information, contact: Dylan Hamilton (510)-238-2164 dhamilton@oaklandnet.com

Now that summer is officially here it is time to enjoy the warm weather with the Friday Summer Nights programs in East and West Oakland. Oakland Unite's Messengers4Change will host the 2014 Friday Summer Nights at the Park Program at Willie Wilkins Park (1100 98th Ave.) and Carter Gilmore Park (1390 66th Ave.) in East Oakland. The City of Oakland Neighborhood Services Division will host the 2014 Friday Night Live Program, a City-County Neighborhood Initiative project, at 3233 Market Street in West Oakland. All events are held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Friday starting July 11th and ending August 15th. Come out and enjoy free food, games, entertainment and prizes and to support Oakland community members unite against violence and create safe neighborhood spaces and parks.

See event flyers for a list of local sponsors.

For more information about these events please see the press release [here](#)



## Oakland Street Outreach Worker Training

Oakland Street Outreach Workers from Oakland California Youth Outreach and Healthy Oakland participated in a bi-annual three day training at the beginning of April. The Street Outreach teams learned about stress management, public speaking and setting boundaries with clients. In addition they had the opportunity to speak with faith based partners, crisis response and support network partners and reentry employment partners to strengthen the collaboration in providing services for clients.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Professional Development Training: Restorative Trauma-Informed Practices



Oakland Unite provides on-going professional development opportunities to grantees. In March, Brian Blalock, from Bay Area Legal Aid trained participants on current youth benefit options for clients. On May 21, 2014 Catholic Charities of the East Bay provided a training on Restorative Trauma-Informed Practices lead by Cindy Hill-Ford.

These trainings help Oakland Unite staff and providers stay up-to-date on evidence based practices, current policies and innovations.

## **OAKLAND UNITE EVALUATION**

Every year Oakland Unite programs are evaluated by external evaluators. For the 2012-2013 evaluation Research Development Associates (RDA) took an in-depth look at the implementation and impact of Oakland Unite intervention strategies and individual programs.

**If you have not already seen it, take a look at the Oakland Unite Independent Evaluator 2012-2013 [Final Report](#)**

**PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT: Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education**



### Leonard & Carvell

Carvell was referred to Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) Office of Alternative Education in the fall of 2013. Before Carvell got referred, he was involved in several serious incidents which resulted in him being expelled by the OUSD Board of Education in his sophomore year. That summer he became a father to a beautiful baby girl.

After going in and out of Juvenile Hall, Carvell was enrolled in the Community Day School and introduced to his case manager, Leonard. After completing an assessment, Carvell and Leonard were able to identify 3 main areas of needed wraparound support: 1) Leisure / Recreation 2) Education / Employment 3) Family / Parenting and began the work of creating effective strategies to address these different challenges.

In February Carvell was readmitted back into the Oakland Unified School District and is back on the right path. His case manager, Leonard, was an integral part of working with Carvell to support him to make these needed changes in his life. Carvell has followed all the terms of his probation. He has stopped hanging out with "the wrong crowd." He is learning the construction trade as a back up to his NBA dream and has, with support, remained employed. Carvell successfully finished the terms of his expulsion and is now attending a continuation high school where he has joined the basketball team. Each of these decisions, he says, he made for his daughter and his family but most importantly, for himself.

When asked what words of advice he would give to other teens who are struggling, Carvell said, "I would tell them, when you feel down and out, like you don't have nobody to talk to,

talk to someone you know is there for you. Talk to your mom, your case manager, someone you trust. Once you keep everything in, you end up blowing up to release it. I want other kids to know it's hard to change but you really just gotta want it. You gotta want the change for yourself."



## Congratulations to Bay Area Impact Challenge Winner: Center for Employment Opportunities



Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) is one of Oakland Unite's reentry employment providers and was one of four Bay Area organizations selected by Google to receive \$500,000 of additional support.

To learn more about CEO click [here](#).

### Meet Our Staff: Dan Simmons



Dan Simmons is a Program Analyst for reentry services for Oakland Unite in the Human Services Department for the City of Oakland. He has been involved with Measure Y, Oakland's violence prevention initiative, since 2005 in many different roles including intern, research assistant, policy and planning assistant, and reentry program officer.

In addition to grant management and project coordination, Mr. Simmons, a formerly incarcerated individual and a social worker,

brings a unique mix of skills and experience to reentry policy, planning, and implementation in the City of Oakland.

Dan received both his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Master of Social Work from California State University Hayward.

### COMING UP!

In the next newsletter look for news about the Oakland Unite video!

**We hope that you are enjoying the beautiful summer weather!**

*Sincerely,*

The Oakland Unite Team

