Dear Friend,

As we embark on a New Year, I wanted to share with you some of the positive and exciting violence prevention work happening in Oakland. On behalf of all of the Measure Y staff and grantees, I wish you a safe and peaceful 2012.

For a Safe Oakland,

Sara Bedford
City of Oakland, Policy and Planning Manager

**A Place to Call Home**

Safe, affordable housing is critical for paroled young adults to successfully reenter Oakland's community. To help clients meet this need, Measure Y is partners with the Oakland Housing Authority and provided housing for 40 Project Choice case managed young adults in 2011. The Oakland PATH to ReHousing Initiative (OPRI) brings together multiple public agencies and community organizations to prioritize client needs and reduce barriers to stable housing. Project Choice case managers work intensively with OPRI clients, pre- and post release, for a period of up to 18 months after their release to ensure secure housing, find employment and build other important life skills. For more information, contact Dan Simmons at (510) 238-4978.

**Holiday Toy Drive**

Measure Y’s Messengers4Change program partnered with Mayor Jean Quan’s Office and Allen Temple’s Public Ministry to host the 1st Annual Toy Drive/Holiday Party in East Oakland at Allen Temple Baptist Church on December 17, 2011. In order to better reach children in East Oakland, Messengers4Change and Oakland Street Outreach held a special registration event at Willie Wilkins Park in November. The day of the Holiday Party there were over 450 families in attendance and over 900 children. With the help of Allen Temple Public Ministry, Oakland Street Outreach and community volunteers over 900 toys were given away through the Mayor’s Toy Drive program or Allen Temples Public Ministry Toy Drive. This event would not have been possible without the generous donations Measure Y was able raise through the community to provide the entertainment, snacks, and refreshments. This includes donations from Meyers & Nave and the Alvarado family. Thank you for a wonderful event!

**Youth on the Rise: Jeffrey’s Story**

In early 2010, Jeffrey was facing charges of 3 separate robberies. Prior to his arrest, Jeffrey was already falling in school and did not attending school regularly. In June 2010, Jeffrey was referred to Youth Uprising and was reluctant to meet with case management. During the initial meeting between the case manager, the youth and the family, the youth became more at ease but was still hesitant to engage in program participation. It took a lot of one-on-one time with the case manger and consistent involvement such as routine school and home visits to assure Jeffrey that the case manager was available for support and guidance. When Jeffrey was released from the Transition Center at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center, his mother enrolled him in a new school. The new school setting, combined with Jeffrey’s decision to start coming to the center and engaging in activities, made it easier to build a trusting relationship to guide him towards positive outcomes and goals. Jeffrey and his case manager created a list of goals and identified school as the primary goal. Jeffrey’s attendance, work assignments and grades have improved significantly and he is proud of the substantial growth in his life. The case manger frequently checks in at school and has developed a school plan with the principal. Now, Jeffrey has plans for the future, is set for graduation and is looking forward to transitioning to secondary education. Recently, Jeffrey successfully completed the Youth Employment Partnership employment training program and continues to receive daily support and praise for all of the positive life changes that have occurred in his life.

Questions? Comments? Have a story to share about your neighborhood? For more information, please visit us at www.MeasureY.org