

OAKLAND UNITE **1** CITY PEACE FUTURE

OAKLAND UNITE NEWSLETTER-FALL 2014

Dear Priya,



It is hard to believe that it has been almost ten years since Measure Y was passed and we started funding violence prevention and intervention services throughout our city. We have learned a lot over the years and I am pleased to report that our most recent independent evaluation shows that since 2004, Oakland Unite programs have been increasingly successful at narrowing our focus to serve those with the *highest risk of being involved in violent or serious crimes* and yet at the same time, we have shown *increasingly better recidivism outcomes* for those we serve. In other words, every year we reach more loved ones directly impacted or responsible for violence, and every year we get better at helping those same folks not engage in more violence. We can take pride in having a profound impact in the lives of our program participants and the fact that we are playing an active role in making a safer Oakland. *(For a more complete picture, come out next week, Tuesday 10/28, to the Public Safety Committee meeting where our independent evaluators will present their most recent evaluation report.)*

As always, our work is not done. Let these positive outcomes inspire us to work even harder and smarter. Over the course of the next 9 months, let's continue to build a strong foundation of strategic programming, coordinated services and relentless concern for the ones we serve now, so that we may serve the many more we have yet to reach and who still need support, opportunities and advocacy. The election is less than two weeks away, and what happens on November 4th is critically important to Oakland, as it will influence not just the shape of violence prevention programming for the next decade, but it will also impact our schools, our public transportation, and will determine the Town's leadership. Encourage your friends, family, and community members to learn all they can about the issues at hand, and remind them to exercise their power to voice their concerns

and VOTE.

In Appreciation,
Peter Kim
Oakland Unite Manager
City of Oakland, Human Services Department

OAKLAND UNITE EVALUATION

Every year Oakland Unite programs are evaluated by external evaluators. Recently Oakland Unite's independent evaluators, Resource Development Associates (RDA), have been working on a retrospective evaluation for Measure Y funded programs and strategies. The key findings from the evaluation are that Oakland Unite programs have increasingly targeted high-risk individuals and have seen progressively lower recidivism rates.

See the entire PowerPoint Presentation [Here](#)

**Come out on Tuesday, October 28 @ 6pm to hear the presentation
at the Public Safety Committee Meeting at City Hall.**

And stay tuned for the full report coming soon.

For more information on the 2014 Public Safety Ballot Measure read the Fact Sheet below:

[Measure Z Fact Sheet](#)

**Check-out the website to watch the
Oakland Unite video!**



Or click [HERE](#) to watch it.

To learn more about J'Shaun's story watch the short video [OAKLAND UNITE VOICES: J'Shaun](#) by clicking [HERE](#).

OAKLAND UNITE IN THE NEWS

Recently there has been a lot of media coverage around violence prevention efforts in the City of Oakland. Many of the articles include quotes from our Oakland Unite team and partners. If you are interested please click on the links below to read the articles.

"[Guns Down. Don't Shoot.](#)" by James O'Brien

"[Steps Toward Peace: Reporting on the decline in homicides in Oakland](#)" by Brenda Payton

"[Finding Hope After Prison](#)" by Sam Levin

Author James O'Brien was featured on The Eastern Shore speaking about violence and its aftermath. He mentions Oakland Unite's Kevin Grant and Emilio Mena and the important work that all our programs do. Click [HERE](#) to listen to the webcast.



This Year's Friday Summer Nights at the Park program was a huge success!

The six week program brought out hundreds of community members at both Willie Wilkins Park and Carter Gilmore Park in East Oakland. Children, youth and families were able to enjoy entertainment, food and activities at the events that helped foster community and create safe spaces at the parks. In addition, these events employed 25 East Oakland youth for the summer and gave them the opportunity to give back to their community and learn important job skills.

Special Thanks

Thank you to the organizations that participated at the parks program this summer. These organizations are deeply rooted in community efforts to foster neighborhood unity and share resources through their networks.

Oakland Fund for Children and Youth - Thank you for the generous grant. Through this grant we hired our youth leaders, case managers, and site coordinators for both parks this summer. Youth at the parks had access to case managers on site who worked closely with them all summer and

connected them to additional services and support.

Mayor Jean Quan's Office - Thank you for the support and giving us the opportunity to hire 13 additional youth through the Mayor's Summer Jobs program.

Oakland Parks and Recreation - Thank you to Oakland Parks and Recreation for allowing us to use Carter Gilmore and Willie Wilkins parks for our fourth year in a row.

CAL-PEP -Thank you for providing free screenings for sexually transmitted infection (STI) and HIV at the parks events.

Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters (CARD) -Thank you for distributing free emergency blankets and teaching the community about "MacGyvering" - turning common household items into useful tools in emergency situations.

First 5 Alameda County - Thank you for partnering with the community and sharing in their efforts to build a county-wide continuous prevention and early intervention system that promotes optimal health and development, narrows disparities and improves the lives of children ages 0 to 5 and their families.

Oakland California Youth Outreach - Thank you for joining us again this year and having Street Outreach Workers participate and connect with our youth during the summer events.

Victory Outreach - Thank you for having volunteers each week to help with the grill on 98th Avenue. Week after week Victory Outreach helped us cook over 100 hamburgers, hot links, and hotdogs.

Oakland Zoo - Thank you for all the free Family Park Passes to the Oakland Zoo. Once again, the families that won the tickets in our raffles were excited to have the opportunity to take their kids to the Zoo.

Real Choices - Thank you for your ongoing support week after week with our youth. Real Choices joined us at Carter Gilmore Park, helped us supervise youth, and brought volunteers every Friday to help man the grill.

**Again, thank you to everyone who helped make the 2014
Friday Summer Nights at the Parks program a huge success.
Hope to see you all at the parks next year!**

**Oakland Unite
Street Outreach Worker Training**

Oakland Unite's Fall Street Outreach Worker Training gave our street outreach teams a chance to reinforce their knowledge around best practices, highlight successes and troubleshoot challenges in their work. They also had the opportunity to strengthen important collaborations with community partners. Thank you to our Street Outreach Workers for all of their hard work



and their commitment to decreasing violence in Oakland!



PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT: Ceasefire Case Management



Emilio & Terrell

Terrell is 32 years old and was born and raised in East Oakland. As a kid he loved to play sports and was always very active. However, his home life was unstable and he yearned for the finer things in life. Eventually he started hanging-out with the wrong crowd and doing

illegal activities to make money so he could buy nice things his family could not afford. After spending years going in and out of jail and prison Terrell began to realize that something in his life needed to change. Then in September of 2013 he got "called-in" by Oakland's Operation Ceasefire.

Initially he felt scared. Terrell was finally starting to make better decisions in his life and then he was "called-in" by the Oakland Police Department. However, after he heard what was being offered he decided to take advantage of the case management and community resources that were presented to him at the call-in.

He met his case manager, from Oakland Unite, and instantly felt supported. Terrell explained, "Emilio is sincere, he pointed me in the right direction, his personality made me click with him."

Through his relationship with Emilio and the resources he was offered Terrell was able to successfully complete school to become a personal trainer and received his certificate. Terrell has always loved working out. After having a hard time finding work due to his criminal record Terrell decided he could put his passion for fitness towards a career. Terrell is now a certified personal trainer and has his own business. He loves his job because it is all about helping people and saving lives. He says he enjoys "seeing people happy and in shape and overcoming their diseases."

When asked what advice he would give to others wanting to change their lives he said, "Believe, have patience, stay focused and good things will come." He is a strong believer in discipline, dedication and desire.

Currently, Terrell is enrolled at a local community college to continue his education and is working towards a degree in kinesiology.

Terrell's story highlights the importance of the work being done by Oakland Unite case managers. The ability to build relationships with participants, connect them to resources and services, and support the changes they are making in their lives is a critical component to their success.



Congratulations to CivicoRPS Schools

WE MAKE OAKLAND LOOK GOOD. CIVICORPS



Civicorps was recently granted a landmark contract by the Oakland City Council in partnership with Waste Management and EBMUD. Starting July 1, 2015 Civicorps will collect up to 70 tons/day of organics from 1,400 restaurants, cafes and food service establishments in the City of Oakland with Class B driver-trainees.

This important contract will create internships and future employment opportunities that create pathways out of poverty for Oakland families.

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

Meet Our Staff: Josie Halpern-Finnerty



Josie Halpern-Finnerty joined Oakland Unite as a Program Planner in the fall of 2012, and works most closely with the Street Outreach, Crisis Response, and Ceasefire strategies.

Before joining the City of Oakland she worked as an analyst for the state's Community Corrections Program on a project designed to increase the use of evidence-based practices in probation.

Josie has a Masters in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to turning to violence prevention and criminal justice-focused work, Josie spent a number of years implementing HIV prevention and family planning projects at a public health research and training organization.

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

COMING UP...

Look for the full retrospective evaluation report.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

The Oakland Unite Team

