

COMMUNITY NEWS



YMCA of GREATER LONG BEACH • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BRANCH • FALL 2016

Message from

Vice President of Community Development Branch

BOB CABEZA
Vice President of
Community Development

It has been an amazing time for change this summer and fall with our Community Development YMCA. First off, WE HAVE MOVED!! We now have a small campus located at 820 Long Beach Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90813. Please come by for a visit and check out our new digs.

On that note, I would especially like to thank our seventy high school and college age youth who led our move and renovation. They prepped the building for painting. They painted the whole interior of the building. They spear-headed the muscle for moving all of our offices and the labs and music studio. Our Youth Institute Alumni are to be commended for living up to the creed of community service for our Y. I would also like to thank our staff for their very hard work and leadership in painting, putting up blinds and window insulation, installing the Internet, doing building repairs like rain gutters, light timers, new sprinkler timers, organizing our new kitchen and upgrading our security.

Our staff are unique in that we have so many different skills that we were able to do most of the infrastructure work ourselves thus saving us thousands of dollars.

Lastly, I would like to thank Randy Zarn for all of his leadership as our Board Chair, coming down and doing some heavy lifting.

All of our Board deserves recognition for all of their support and hard work in making sure that we have the resources necessary for this new venture.

The Youth are actually playing outside now. We have had two outside events, one with youth, one with families. Both events proved what are new facility can do and the need for both indoor and outdoor space. It's a great park environment as well as a newer more centralized building.

This will be something to see when we host our very first Youth Institute summer program here at our newest place. They will never know ST. Luke's or the PAL shed in the industrial section of Long Beach. We have come a long way over sixteen years!



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ELIDA SANCHEZ, MSW
Community School Director

BRENDA SORIANO-VILLA
Family Involvement Coordinator

We are proud to share with our families and supporters that our Community Leadership Institute Inaugural Class received recognition from Robert Garcia, the Mayor of Long Beach, for their commitment to developing their leadership skills and promoting community participation through community service. Our 2nd Cohort followed in the footsteps of our Inaugural class by securing a meeting with Councilmember Dee Andrews and his staff, John M. Edmond and Isabel Arvea. Brenda and I were able to advocate on the parents behalf and share the community member's concerns. They recognized the efforts of Bobbie Smith YMCA Community School's families, students, and residents.

The Community Leadership Institute (parents and community residents) along with the Youth Leadership Institute (3rd to 5th grade) and Smith Advisory Board identified shared areas of concern that affect the school and the surrounding community. These issues had an underlying concern for the safety of our students and families. Some of these issues included the speed of incoming traffic, disregard of traffic laws, dilapidated mobile homes, limited parking for residents and staff, and questionable activity in a few addresses close to the school such as illicit business transactions and breaking into houses and cars.

Our CLI participants are creating change in their community and practicing their leadership skills along the way. Several of them gathered signatures in support of these issues and joined our Advisory Board Meeting to express their concerns to Representatives of Law Enforcement, Public Works and our City Safe Long Beach partners. We are looking forward to continuing our work with our 6th District Council Staff and sharing the outcomes in the future!



On July 13th, Commander LeBaron from the Long Beach Police Department came to Smith to present on Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety. We had over 15 parents come to this presentation and ask questions regarding their concerns on the topic. Everyone found the presentation not only interesting and valuable but also necessary. Commander LeBaron made it very clear that children and youth are engaging in activities that might seem harmless like taking a picture or texting however the reach this image or message has on the Internet can cause irreparable damage to the image, self-esteem, and reputation of one's child not to mention the psychological effects of such activity. He left the parents with techniques and strategies to monitor tablets, laptops, and cell phones. He also educated the parents on commonly used abbreviations that are codes children and adolescents use to hide information from their parents. Over all, it was a successful learning experience for everyone. We are looking forward to Commander LeBaron returning next year to connect with our parents.

Bobbie's Smith Talent Show was a tremendous success and a true community effort! Our parents, Youth Institute volunteers and staff transformed the cafeteria into a beautiful stage showcasing the talent fostered at Smith. Our student performers were phenomenal! We had a total of 14 acts that included dance, singing, gymnastics, and a magic show. In addition, the school's choir class opened the show followed by the instrumental class. Our parents, students and Smith staff truly enjoyed watching the students perform. I would like to give a big thanks to our volunteers: Eddie Perez, Luis Galeas, Brandon Lopez, Lesly Trejo, Roberto Hernandez, Zach Haywood, John Hernandez, Erick Trejo, Carlos Suazo, Sergio Parada, Janae Burns, Janelle Burns, Blanca Tellez, and our Smith custodial staff: Earl, Betty, and Demondre.





DAVID CHAVEZ, MSW
Community School Director

BRENDA TORRES
Family Involvement Coordinator

Jenny Oropeza YMCA Community School is pleased to share that we have our first Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) graduating class. We had a total of 16 youth from grades 3rd to 5th that met weekly for a total of 12 weeks. During the 12-week span, youth learned and executed leadership skills. The YLI group also had the opportunity to facilitate a community service project. YLI partnered with Love in the Mirror Foundation to host Peanut Butter Jelly Time. With the donations of the youth, school staff, and Love in the Mirror, youth were able to make over 250 sandwiches for the homeless. The sandwiches were donated to Love in the Mirror to distribute to food banks locally. Peanut Butter Jelly Time was a great opportunity for the youth to give back to their community and they were very proud of their accomplishments. Jenny Oropeza YMCA Community School is also proud to inform that two of our YLI participants, James Hernandez (5th grade) and Sara (4th grade) joined our Advisory Board Meetings and served as Advisory Board Members.

Finally, we partnered with the Ocean Institute in Dana Point to participate in Ocean Institute Overnight Camp at the Ranch in Laguna Beach on July 18 to July 19, 2016. Community School staff was able to take 12 students to the camp. The youth learned about animals, plants, and the ocean. The youth truly enjoyed this wonderful opportunity (pictures below), they were able to set up tents, see wild animals, including dolphins. Jenny Oropeza YMCA Community School would like to thank Ocean Institute for this wonderful experience. We look forward to continuing to collaborate in the future.



Jenny Oropeza YMCA Community School facilitated and successfully completed the first Community Leadership Institute graduating class. The course was facilitated in English and Spanish for a total of 16 weeks. The program focused on building leadership skills for parents and community members while providing opportunities for participants to plan and complete community service projects. The two groups planned unique community service projects that reflected the needs of their community. We would like to highlight three positive outcomes: First, the English CLI participants held a uniform exchange for the school community. Additionally, the Spanish CLI participants focused on technology: creating an email account, activating their Parent View account, and finding educational resources. The Spanish CLI participants also facilitated a presentation on emotional awareness. And lastly, four CLI participants became members of the Community School Advisory Board. Maria Hernandez serves as the Chair, Rechenda Hill serves as Vice-chair, Irene Melenz and Lilia Ocampo serve as board members. It was an honor to have parents and community members serve in our advisory board meetings.

The Jenny Oropeza YMCA Community School team would like to thank Marisol Zobler for all her dedication and hard work as the Community School Director at Jenny Oropeza Elementary School. School staff, parents, and children will miss her. David Chavez will be starting the new school year as the Community School Director at Jenny Oropeza beginning in the fall of 2016. David graduated last year from CSULB with his Masters in Social Work. During his graduate program, he interned at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) under a Psychiatric School Social Worker and provided 1:1's to students at a high school. He also interned at College Hospital during his last year of grad school. There he was able to assist individuals from all walks of life, ages, and ethnicities to do psychosocial assessments, run coping skills groups, and provide support to them. Post-grad, he returned to LAUSD and CSULB to obtain his Post-MSW Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC). Additionally, he worked at a sister branch of College Hospital for a few months until he got hired by The Y. He looks forward to starting the new school year at Jenny Oropeza Elementary School (formally known as International Elementary School) more details to follow in the next newsletter!





SOKTHEA PHAY
Newcomer Immigrant
Outreach Coordinator

Centro de Bienvenida para Americanos Recientes

YMCA of Greater Long Beach • Community Development Branch

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YMCA of Greater Long Beach • Community Development Branch

The Community Development Branch has a long and great history of working with newcomer immigrants, children of immigrants and refugees. Now, we have established three New American Welcome Centers (NAWC) that are integrated into all the mainstreaming programs at the Community Development Branch. NAWC is also part of the two community schools that work directly with newcomer immigrants. New American Welcome Centers (NAWC) are designed to strengthen immigrant access to vital social services by scaling successful, sustainable Y newcomer inclusion programs and community partnerships. Our NAWC is one of NAWCs among the six Y Associations that the Y-USA is expanding across the U.S.

At our NAWC Y, we offer free classes and vital services for all newcomer immigrants. Since February 2016, there are over 600 newcomer immigrants who received direct and referral services, and involved in the community bridge building events and activities at our community schools and NAWC. Some of our main customized direct services are civic/citizenship instruction classes and workshops, social services navigation classes, application assistance for citizenship and social services. We also provide information and application assistance for refugees or former refugees and asylum seekers who would like to register for permanent residence or adjust their status or replace their lawful permanent residence card. We have a group of diverse staff who can provide services through various cultural approaches and who are bilingual in English and Spanish or Khmer and English. We have also worked and collaborated with agencies and other receiving communities in terms of referral services such as vocational training, job training and placement, immigration law, family law, government benefits, health care, housing and eviction defense.

As experienced over the implementation of the program, some of our clients seek for legal information and assistance on some immigration issues such as Naturalization for people with mental impairment or disabilities, U-Visa, VAWA, DACA and DAPA. Some others seek resources or services to get through hard times when they settle in the U.S for the first time. While others need help with health care, job placement and housing. Sometimes, the same clients seek multiple direct and referral services at the same time.

We are very proud of our Y and what we do to serve the community and be the frontline community development branch working the grassroots level for newcomer immigrants. We want them to know that we believe in them that they will contribute to make our community a better place.



YMCA Family Involvement at LBUSD schools

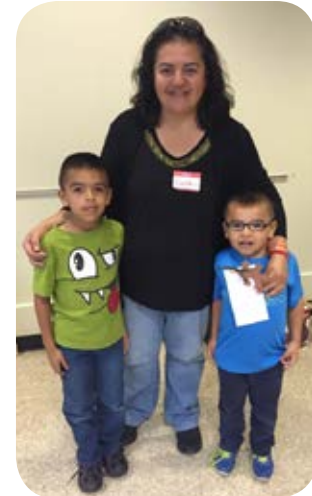
MARISOL ZOBLER, MSW
Family Involvement Director

Family Involvement ended very strong this past school year at our four contract schools: Wilson Classical HS, Jackie Robinson K-8 (JROB), Lindsey Academy, and Grant Elementary! We facilitated a wide variety of workshops in the areas of academic support: Parent Vue, School-loop, Understanding the CELDT, Tutoring as Intervention, Credit Recovery, AP Readiness, College Readiness, A-G Requirements, CAHSEE and other Exams, The Difference between Public, Private Universities & Community Colleges, and the different degrees and the relationships with salaries. We also facilitated workshops covering leadership. In the area of parenting support, we facilitated the following topics: Domestic Violence, Anxiety, Teen Pregnancy & Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Self Esteem & How it Affects Children, Puberty And Sexuality / Teen Emotional Changes / Mixed Messages, and Peer Pressure, Bullying And Harassment, And Drugs, How To Deal With Teen Defiance, Using Positive Discipline to Change Undesired Behavior. We also facilitated the very popular Cafecitos.

This school year started great. We resumed the parent groups at Wilson HS and Jackie Robinson. We kicked off our parent group with 'Coffee with Marisol' at JROB, where parents expressed wanting to learn about ways to become more healthy. They all agreed to have a walking club. So we walk every Wednesday for 30 minutes around Veteran's Park. Then we come in and learn about healthy life styles. The parents love it.

We have a new Principal at Lindsey, Mr. Renny Chu who is very excited about the Family Involvement (FI) program. We will be starting the parent group in October. Ms. Baril at Grant elementary is also very excited to continue with our FI program. We are planning the calendar to also resume the group meetings in October.

Family Involvement is hosting-supervising 10 Social work interns: seven placed at our community schools, two placed at JROB and one at Wilson HS. Stay tuned for more of the adventures of Family Involvement.





LONG BEACH YOUTH INSTITUTE

LES G PETERS • Executive Director of Youth Institute

Every year the Long Beach Youth Institute goes through an evolution to reflect the needs of our community. The New Class and Alumni benefit the most from these evolutionary changes to the program design of the Long Beach Youth Institute.

In early spring we received a phone call from a Marketing Company asking us questions about the Youth Institute and if we knew about an ad campaign called, "Live in Levis." The Marketing Company explained they were working with the Levis Foundation and asked us if we knew of a Long Beach Rapper, Vince Staples. From this discussion, it developed into a partnership with Levis, Vince Staples and the Long Beach Youth Institute to our own "Live in Levis" commercial featuring Vince Staples and the Long Beach YI Alumni. This partnership came with a financial gift to purchase new Digital Music equipment – MacBooks, Logic software, M-Audio equipment (controllers, Midi keyboards), Korg Voice Beats, Rode Studio Mics and cool furniture. In return, the YI Alumni in the Tech Tutor program have to teach Digital Music to elementary-age youth at our Community Schools sites to provide an opportunity for creative expression and develop new skill sets in Digital Music Production.

Around the same time frame, we meet four Engineering students from CSULB, who developed a 3D Printing Club to provide workshops to the general public. We have been talking about developing a 3D Printing program at the YI, but we did not have the skill sets to implement it. The four engineering students agreed to work with us this summer to develop a 3D Printing program and teach product design

to the New Class and Alumni. It was a success on multiple fronts; the alumni had to build two 3D Printers from parts and soldering and wiring to printing parts to complete the build. Both the New Class and Alumni had to learn new software

programs – SketchUp, Fusion 360 and Slic3r. The New Class and Alumni were given a question to solve, "what do you see wrong and how do you fix it?" Each youth had to come up with an idea, design it in Fusion 360 and pitch it to the staff to get the green light to manufacture it with the 3D Printers.

With these two new program additions to the summer Youth Institute, the New Class and Alumni have expanded their skill sets to become more rounded as a Digital Media Artists.

For the past 15 years, St. Luke's has been our home for the Youth Institute we have created many memories and traditions from our 1st Haunted House, 1st Holiday Dinner, 1st Holiday Party and the birth of Change Agent Productions. Now we have embarked on a new era of the Youth Institute – our own CAMPUS. We have moved

to a green space for our teens, families and staff to eat, play and work. 820 Long Beach Blvd is our home now. Come by and see our new program space for Digital Music Production, 3D Printing, MakerSpace and Digital Media Arts computer lab or sit outside and feel the coastal breeze and throw the football around or shoot some hoops.

The next evolution of the Long Beach Youth Institute has begun. YI Alumni from 8 to 15 years ago are coming back to financially support the program. YI Alumni are learning new skills sets. YI Alumni

are making a successful transition from High School to College to the workforce. The Youth Institute is expanding its reach overseas to help youth & teens in at-risk communities.



CAP Interns Join the Fight Against Human Trafficking

DANIEL MEZA
Sr. Art Director of
Change Agent Productions

As summer draws to a close, Change Agent Productions is proud to have added 4 new interns to the roster. Each of the new interns were hand picked for their positive attitudes, willingness to learn and desire to grow. Beyond CAPs projects this summer, the focus for our interns was the Long Beach GRIP Project.

Their first task was to create original graphic designs that conveyed the growing threat of teen human trafficking in Long Beach. After a week of studying the issue, each of the interns chose different approaches to engaging a teen audience. One design draws the viewer in with emotional appeal, another seeks solidarity to fight together and the last is a new take on traditional postcards. Pending approval, we will distribute the informational flyers throughout all LBUSD high schools.

Moving beyond print media, the interns also created PSA videos that sought to bring the issue to life. We are proud of their originality, thoughtfulness and execution. Moving forward, CAP looks to have a promising fall while wrapping up videos from this summer: including videos for our YMCA Early Childhood Education branch, the Patrick Henry Foundation, Culinary Arts Kids Eat and the California Department of Education. Onward!



YOUTH INSTITUTE REPLICATION

JONATHAN GRAY • Youth Institute Operations Director



Sixteen summers have come and gone since the inception of the Youth Institute. This summer holds the distinction of being one of the best. This year, the Youth Institute joined with local Long Beach Rapper Vince Staples to create a Youth Institute in North Long Beach. Vince along with City Councilman Rex Richardson partnered with the Community Development YMCA to hold the North Long Beach Youth Institute at Hamilton Middle School. YI Alumni Ariadna Zuniga and Nick Diamantides ran the North Youth Institute; their experience was instrumental to the success of the North Long Beach Youth Institute. During the

summer Vince Staples spent a day at the North Long Beach Youth Institute and even made a cameo in a couple of the films. The teens in North Long Beach also had the chance to design and make a product using our 3D printers. These skills will be monumental in changing the lives of the teens that went through the Youth Institute in North Long Beach. This is really a testimony to the success of the Youth Institute and the need of the Youth Institute around different neighborhoods in Long Beach.

In addition to our twelve sites that are run in the United States, the YMCA Cambodia welcomed their first Youth

Institute New Class in April. The Youth in Cambodia are learning the valuable technology skills that the Youth Institute teaches; more importantly they are having treasured life experiences that can only be found in a Youth Institute. Former Community Development Staff Ron Ung has really made the Cambodia Youth Institute his passion at that culminated in late June when he had the Cambodia YMCA Fundraising Gala, where he raised enough money to operate another year of the Youth Institute in Cambodia. Our team really commends Ron for his unwavering commitment to empower the young people in Cambodia.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • SERVICE LEARNING

It's that time of the year again, Youth Institute (YI) Haunted House @ Shoreline Village. This is our 9 year of providing a Haunted House for the community and it has become one of our largest service learning and fundraising projects for the YI Alumni.

Come down if you are brave enough to visit Scorpion Ridge Ghost Town @ Shoreline Village. Admission is \$5 per person. All proceeds support the Youth Institute. We are open on the following days:

- October 14th thru 16th from 5p to 9pm
- October 20th thru 23rd from 5p to 9pm
- October 26th thru 31st from 5p to 9pm



SHORELINE VILLAGE HALLOWEEN HAUNT

ZOMBIE WALK
 Oct 14, Friday 6pm
 Oct 15, Sat 6pm
 Oct 16, Sun 5pm
 Music 6-9 pm, Friday & Sat
longbeachzombiefest.com

HAUNTED HOUSE
 Oct 14-16, 20-23, 26-31
 Opens at 5 pm
 \$5 Admission

All proceeds go to support the YMCA Youth Institute.

Oct 29
 Magic Shows 4-9 pm
 "Uncle Spooky" Music 5-8 pm

Oct 30
 Magic Shows 2-4 pm

Oct 31
 Trick or Treat from 4 pm
 Costume Contest 5pm
 Face Painting 4-8 pm

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