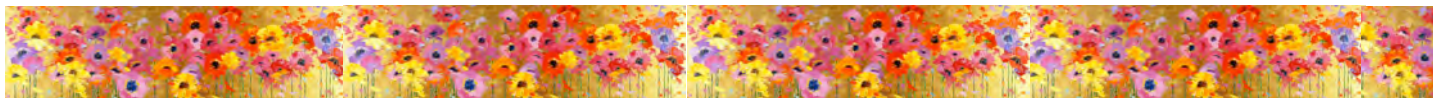




HORIZONS NEWSLETTER

MARCH & APRIL EDITION



KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

MARCH 4TH DAY OF ACTION



Student committees and teachers associations, labor unions and local activists united on March 4th to defend our right to education. Several groups of Horizons youth set out for SF Civic Center to rally against tuition hikes and the cancellation of summer school- See YWAP Coordinator Jackie Balingit with program participants below:



With over 10,000 people in attendance, the message was loud and clear. *Education Is A Right. Save Our Schools.*

TRAFKINTU: STORIES OF RECOVERY

Trafkintu is Horizons' art therapy counseling group which takes place Tuesdays & Fridays @ The Latino Commission.

Six self-motivated Trafkintu participants joined together under the leadership of Mental Health Specialist Intern Francisca Lizana (pictured below) and guest facilitator Luis 'xago' Juarez. The group spent several months preparing their stories of recovery manifested through theater, rap, and spoken word. The show debuted on March 3rd before a packed room of TLC & Horizons staff.

Members of Trafkintu were ready to share their experiences of survival. Francisca and Xago recognized their potential and provided them the theatrical outlet to express the struggle they've endured and the triumph they've achieved.



Francisca is currently representing the Trafkintu art therapy model and Horizons as a whole at the Primer Congreso Nacional de Arteterapia in Girona, Spain. The invitation to attend is an honor bestowed upon few- Francisca is one of two North Americans invited to present their successful art therapy techniques.

Expressive art therapy in a residential drug & alcohol treatment context is a under-studied and under-utilized method. We await Francisca's return to report back on reception of her pioneering efforts.

HORIZONS STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Horizons staff partook in an afternoon of self care and interpersonal engagement in Pacifica this past March 19th. By engaging in activities outside of the regular work environment, staff development outings serve to improve the skills and performance of Horizons' employees across the board. Pictured below from left to right: YWAP Coordinator Jackie Balingit, Sub. Abuse Counselor Fernando Serrato, NDEP Coordinator JoAnna Van Brusselen with daughter lolani, MYEEP Coordinator Sabrina Mutukisna, and DJ Project Coordinator Matt Moretti.



EMERGENCY SITE PREPARATION



Horizons staff revisited the Emergency Response Plan at our March All-Staff Meeting. This review served as an annual reeducation of our incident command structure, evacuation routes, building safety procedures and more. We've taken measures of preparedness to ensure the safety of our clients, staff, and facilities.

March Progress & April News

Young Men Against Violence (YMAV)

After 10 weeks of educational training on topics like teen dating violence and community building, Level 1 participants closed out YMAV Cycle 3.

Six young men presented their end-of-cycle theater performance to three SFUSD schools- Newcomer HS, Everett Middle School, and Horace Mann Middle School. These schools were intentionally selected for their high Spanish speaking population and younger aged student body. These two identifiers are reflections of Level 1 Cycle 3 participants and proved to be important audience characteristics for their message.

Their performance focused on the challenges immigrants face once arriving in the United States. YMAV presentations are interactive in nature such that audience members are able to step into the scene and positively affect the momentum of skits. Pictured below you will see one youth's father along side YMAV participants presenting an alternative to a life of crime.



YMAV also presented on-site at Horizons for friends, family, and staff (see below, from left to right: Celina Lucero, Jackie Balingit, and Donna Saffioti Johnson).



MYEEP & NDEP

California College Tour

This spring break, Horizons' high school juniors and seniors experienced life like a college student. 5 MYEEP and 4 NDEP youth have participated in Horizons' first ever College Tour 2010. Colleges of interest are: University of California Los Angeles, University of Southern California, Cal State University Long Beach, and Cal State University Northridge.

Program Coordinators JoAnna Van Brusselen, Sabrina Mutukisna, and Matt Moretti acted as role models, tour guides, and chaperones along the way. All 12 members of the tour headed out by van early Tuesday morning, arriving by mid-afternoon at UCLA for a group tour of the campus and a chance to sit-in on one of two classes: Human Health and Sociology; African American Politics. DJ Project Coordinator Matt gave youth the insiders scoop about campus affairs because he is a recent alumni of the university. That evening the group drove to Venice Beach boardwalk for experiential exploration of Southern California lifestyle.

Wednesday morning the tour arrived at USC for breakfast in the dining commons, a walk around campus, and a chance to watch USC football tryouts. They then departed for Santa Ana to enjoy the afternoon at Disneyland by means of free tickets they acquired by volunteering at an elementary school in Richmond.

The next college along the way was CSU Long Beach where youth partook in a guided tour of campus, as well as an intimate meeting with a college counselor to discuss admission requirements. They drove from CSULB to Cal State Northridge, where MYEEP youth Delilah Gayden has already been accepted. This stop allowed for more college touring and a personal highlight for our Northridge acceptee.

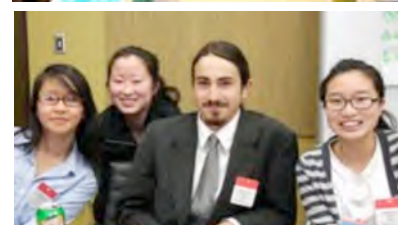
This college tour was partially supported through fundraising efforts including: a \$755 donation from Landor Associates, a Shoe Painting Party held at Horizons in early December 2009, and several cupcake sales put on by MYEEP Coordinator Sabrina Mutukisna. Fundraising outlets and DCYF program budgets served to financially back the college tour; Exposing our youth to the realities of a college education proved to be priceless.

Below: College Tour Participants at CSUN and Disneyland.



BizAcademy

Three Horizons' NDEP students [Deprece Bonilla, Sylisia Buckley Chung, and Jad Quesada-Khoury] were competitively selected this Spring Break to attend BizAcademy, a Salesforce-sponsored business training for youth. Great work team! We're truly proud of your hard work and dedication.



Environmental Prevention (EP)

The Horizons' Environmental Prevention group- calling themselves EPSF- worked hard this quarter surveying local neighborhoods' alcohol sales as an indicator of alcohol accessibility to youth. Below, you'll see 3 members of EPSF displaying their Community Mapping Project, wherein youth went out and collected data on Liquor retailers such as liquor/convenience stores, restaurants, and bars. The youth took pictures of the retailers and placed them on a map of the Mission in order to visually depict the geographic density of liquor sales.



The youth also developed an alcohol access survey to be distributed in-house at Horizons and externally at other community based organizations throughout San Francisco. To date, EPSF has collected 253 surveys and is currently examining the data collected in order to develop their project to address youth access to alcohol.

Horizons Soccer Team (called Horizons F.C.), a part of our Prevention component here at the agency, was invited to participate in the annual Association Cup held on March 19-21 in Ripon, CA. While veteran players knew the routine, this was the first tournament play for most of the new members of the team.



The tournament served as a bonding experience for old-time and new-time players, as well as a for coaches Hector Ramos and Juan Cornejo. See Below: Juan with plain-clothes players at a team dinner.

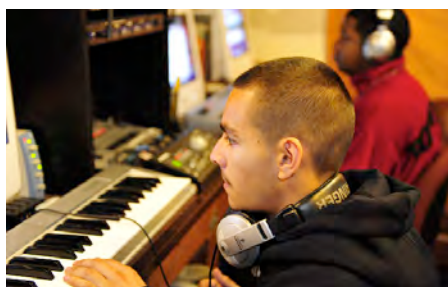
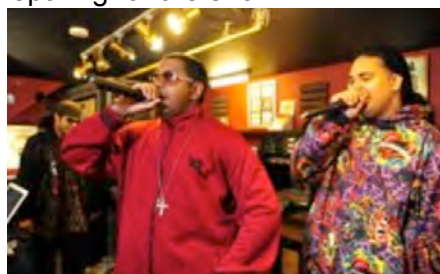


Although Horizons F.C. did not advance in the tournament to the quarter finals, players and coaches alike familiarized themselves with team dynamics and valued the team-building time together on the road.

The DJ Project

DJ Project Coordinator Matt Moretti worked together with DJ Project instructors and Horizons youth to put on the first ever High School Tour. Our DJP Youth Crew booked a series of events at Metropolitan Arts and Technology HS, Abraham Lincoln HS, and City Arts and Technology HS. Every event included performances from audio production, DJ, and breakdancing classes, while two of the school sites caught special guest performances by Lady V and the Gett Money Boyzz.

Pictured below, DJP participants preparing for the show:



DJ Project Spring Cycle is off to a great start, with on-site Audio Production and DJ classes at full capacity. Intro Audio Production is reaching a new batch of 8 bright youth, half of which are female, and DJ classes are serving anywhere from 6 to 8 youth daily. Breakdancing is booming with introductions to new variations of movement, power moves, and dance musicality.

“All Eyes On Us”

The DJ Project is currently working to promote a song competition called “All Eyes On Us” wherein youth submit original music about media messaging, specifically surrounding topics of drugs and alcohol. Musicians are encouraged to convey positive messages in their lyrics, messages that will reach big alcohol companies that spend billions each year targeting youth. For entry details, visit www.thedjproject.com.

Young Women Arise (YWAP)

Stephanie is YWAP's Level 2 Peer Motivator Training Assistant, and in this role she's responsible for supporting Tuesday's Level 1 Training, organizing a support group of her own, and compiling a resource manual for publication amongst our community. Stephanie is a YWAP Level 1 graduate herself; her first-hand understanding of the challenges young women both face and overcome is what suits her perfectly for this undertaking.

The resource manual will be an assemblage of shared stories, statistics, resources for higher education, hotline contacts, and tools for healthy living. Self-care is a hot topic for young women, so the manual will speak to methods for healing oneself and benefits of counseling.