



# HORIZONS NEWSLETTER

## MAY & JUNE EDITION

### KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP



### **\$1000 GRANT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION**

Horizons Unlimited Environmental Prevention Program (EP) has been awarded \$1000 from Youth Leadership Institute to support the EP Access Campaign. The Campaign is a project designed to address youth access to alcohol in our communities. The \$1000 grant was secured through the efforts of EPSF (Environmental Prevention San Francisco), Horizons EP team consisting of Prevention Coordinator Hector Ramos and six youth participants.

EPSF intends to use the grant to fund resources and outreach materials for their project such as posters citing access statistics and public service announcements featuring Horizons youth Jerusalem and Veronica. These PSAs are created and recorded on-site with the help of EP Coordinator and Audio Production Instructor Korise Jubert, with the purpose of bringing to life a powerful, clean, and sober voice.

Below: EPSF participants Jerusalem and Veronica, AKA Juse and Lady Vee, along side Korise at a community Townhall event.



This past month, EPSF also attended Youth Leadership Institute's Friday Night Live showcase, an exhibit of youth-led environmental prevention around the city. EPSF's resource table pictured below:



### **THAI AMBASSADOR VISITS HORIZONS**

Horizons was pleased to welcome Mr. Supagon Noja from Thailand as a guest to observe and discuss our Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs. Mr. Noja arrived on May 20th through sponsorship by the U.S. Department of State and the Institute of International Education/ West Coast.

Mr. Noja is the Project Director of the Child Protection and Development Center, a Thai agency working to protect children at risk of exploitation and sexual abuse. The center works within a four part system: prevention & education for families; outreach to collect data and aggregate statistics; drop-in center to provide basic necessities; permanent residence for long-term support.

### **CAADE GRADUATES**

Horizons very own Donna Saffioti Johnson and Jackie Balingit have graduated with pride from the College of San Mateo Alcohol and Other Drug Studies Certification Program. The program, officially called California Association for Alcohol & Drug Educators (CAADE), provides individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities required to be effective counselors in the treatment of alcohol and other drug dependency and abuse.

The graduation took place at the Clarion Hotel in Milbrae on Friday May 21st at 5:30 pm. Executive Director Nora Rios Reddick and Program Director Celina Lucero represented Horizons at the event to support the honored graduates.

The evening as a whole was a lovely and inspiration experience for everybody in attendance. After dinner, The Latino Commission Executive Director Debra Camarillo addressed the crowd as the keynote speaker. Each of the 12 graduates also spoke at the podium to share personal stories and words of gratitude.

Below from right to left: Celina, Jackie, Donna, and Nora.



# May Progress & June News

## Young Women Arise (YWAP)

After 17 strong years of providing female-specific support services to youth of San Francisco, Young Women Arise Project is coming to a close. Along with the support of Horizons staff and YWAP participants, Program Coordinator Jackie Balingit will play the bittersweet role of closing out this chapter of Horizons living history.

YWAP's 7 participants will join Peer Mentor Stephanie and Coordinator Jackie for several end-of-cycle activities commemorating the program's success. The group will take a trip to Great America on June 6th, as well as dinner and a movie the following week.

## Young Men Against Violence (YMAV)



YMAV's final cycle of the fiscal year began and ended in the blink of an eye. Eight young men were competitively selected to join a one-week intensive training, inclusive of three 3-hour sessions discussing relationship violence, gender roles/ stereotypes, and healthy habits of noble young men.

Post-training, participants set out into the community to facilitate three *teatros de foro* (forum theaters) at the following sites: Ida B. Wells HS, CHALK, and Horace Mann Middle School. The performances called upon personal experience to relate peer to peer, and to create a conscious link between the history of our people and the present challenges with which we are faced.

YMAV has set up a beautiful new website to showcase the mission of the program, inclusive of educational

information, links to resources, and video footage of past cycle performances. Check it out at: <http://youngmenagainstviolence.org/>

## Outpatient Program URBAN EXPRESSIONS

The most recent addition to our Outpatient Program After School Programming is the Urban Expressions class led by OP Senior Substance Abuse Counselor, Fernando Serrato. Urban Expressions is a semi-weekly alternative art class focusing on the techniques of street and graffiti artists of today. The class meets Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm.

Urban Expressions is the original name born to this collective, but a future project will be to design a new name and logo to distinguish the group.

Pictured below are current Urban Expressions members posing in front of local graffiti:



UE participant holds up his MUNNY doll model, a character design project aimed to test the limits of imagination with a 3D vinyl doll.



## The DJ Project

The DJ Project hit its last stop on the High School Tour this past May, performing a lunchtime event at Mission HS. This event alone reached 126 youth, totaling all HS Tour events at over 500 youth reached throughout San Francisco.

The DJ Project DJs performed at Amoeba Records SF this past May 14th as part of the Mandala DJ Series, an exhibition of local up-and-coming DJs. This is the second year in a row Instructor DJ Quest and Horizons youth DJs have been invited to perform at Amoeba. This year, close to 15 DJs accompanied Quest on stage, a mix of long-time DJ Project performers and new-school participants.



## -DJ PROJECT MURAL-

As the building retrofit project has come to a close here at the agency, we're gradually settling into our new skin. We've repainted most of the first floor rooms, and with this new paint job came opportunity for artistic growth.

In the downstairs DJ Project Youth Crew program space, Horizons participant Michael McGovern has beautifully spray painted a 10ft x 10ft mural. The artwork depicts Horizons after school programming, with images of youth performing audio production, DJing, and break-dancing skills. Atop the following page you will see Mike in full spray paint respirator gear work-

ing on an image of DJ Project promotions, most likely inspired by DJ Project Coordinator Matt Moretti.



that these young women have decided to bake on a weekly basis to raise funds for their Young Wombyn's Summit.

The Young Wombyn's Summit, subtitled "Diamonds In The Rough," is set to take place on Sat. June 12th on-site at Horizons from 11:30am-5pm. The Summit will offer speeches, performances, self-care and creative arts activities surrounding topics of DV & sexual assault education, collective healing, and community building. All young wombyn within our HU community are invited to participate.

Below: The Summit's beautiful outreach flyer designed by FAV participant Karen Olmeda.

Below you'll see Filipino Community Center youth showcasing their spirit:



## YOUNG WOMYNS BAKE SALE

This past May 12th and 13th, Young Women Arise and Females Against Violence joined forces to bake for womens empowerment. These two young women's programs, organized as Pretty Young Thangz Collective, held a two-day bake sale event to raise funds for the first ever Horizons-sponsored Young Wombyn's Summit.

This initial bake sale event took place directly outside the agency's Potrero entrance and featured treats like homemade brownies, confetti cake, and zucchini date bread. Not only did the young women sharpen their baking and salesmanship skills, they're hard work brought in a very successful \$150 to apply towards Summit expenses.



Pretty Young Thangz have continued their baking efforts in the weeks following the inaugural event. The first bake sale was so successful



## ONE MISSION/ ONE CITY: RALLY TO PROTECT YOUTH FUNDS

In line with the bi-monthly rallies that have been happening in the Mission to promote solidarity within our community, the Mission Peace Collaborative organized a march this past May 20th to defend city-funded youth services. The rally took place on the steps of of City Hall with more than 100 empowered individuals, a dozen of which publicly spoke powerful words of personal impact.

## MYEEP & NDEP GRADUATION

Horizons employment & entrepreneurship programs held a joint graduation ceremony this past May 25th to celebrate the achievements of 50+ participants of MYEEP and NDEP. The room was bursting with more than 100 supportive family members and friends, chatting with pride about their graduates while enjoying a delicious spread of pupusas and accompanying Salvadorian food.

MYEEP Coordinator Sabrina Mutukisna and NDEP Coordinator JoAnna Van Brusselen expressed individual words of praise for each student, highlighting the characteristics that made each student a unique addition to the program. And as a token of appreciation, the coordinators presented each participant with a certificate of completion, a compilation CD, and a candy necklace. Pictured below: JoAnna (left) and Sabrina (right).

