

# INSIDE *Out*

Parent Info Link

Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall

Sept. 2008

## The One Voice Band Brings Hope Through Music



On September 28th, many of the youth at Juvenile Hall were able to enjoy the beautiful, soulful music of the One Voice Band who were brought in by the Chaplaincy department to lead worship for a special church service in the gym.

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Heart of Chaos Art program brings mask making to G2. Read the story on page 4

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**One Voice Band leads Service of Hope** (continued from page 1)



The One Voice Band led by Kenny Brown (see lower right pic), is made up of ten talented musicians who take great joy in bringing encouragement to those who are incarcerated. Through the saxophone, trombone, guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums and vocals, their message of hope rings out. "Take the shackles off my feet so I can dance. I just want to praise Him. I just want to praise Him," the Gospel group sang with enthusiasm. At another point in the service, Kenny rapped for the kids and he asked the kids to join in with him on the chorus.

After the One Voice Band took their seats, the Juvenile Hall choir made its way onto the stage to sing a wonderful rendition of Amazing Grace. "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me," the youth sang in unison. "I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see." The end of the song was met with great applause as the other youth gave the choir recognition for their beautiful contribution. Next, one of the boys (see small pic on left) sang a gospel solo entitled, "Jesus Loves to Hear the Sound of Praise." His courage and willingness to share his talent with the group was met with applause and encouragement from the crowd as well. Chaplain Peggy Bingham's sermon highlighted the story of



John Newton, the former slave-ship captain in England who had an experience with God that changed his life. John went on to become a crucial figure in the movement to end slavery in England and wrote the song Amazing Grace. The Chaplain also told the story of a young rebel who was offered forgiveness and new life because of his faith. "That was a beautiful service," one of the young people said as they left the gym on Sunday. "I came in here upset, worried and discouraged. Now I am walking away with peace and love in my heart." "If only for that one comment," the Chaplain said, "Our worship service would be considered a huge success!"

**Proposition 6 or The Safe Neighborhood Act Is Not the Answer!** by Lupe Garcia.

*The opinions expressed by Ms. Garcia are hers alone and not necessarily the opinions of the SCC Juvenile Probation Department. To read the full article with sources, please visit [www.catalystforyouth.org](http://www.catalystforyouth.org) or email [joanne@catalystforyouth.org](mailto:joanne@catalystforyouth.org)*

In November Californians will vote on an anti-crime measure sponsored by State Senator George Runner called Proposition 6 or The Safe Neighborhood Act which proposes to bring gang activity under control and punish individual gang members severely. It is the opinion of this writer that the new proposition is more of the same “tough on crime” policies that have burdened California’s budget and contributed to the socio-economic disparities represented in the prison industrial system. In short it represents a step back in juvenile justice because it facilitates the channeling of youth into the adult system. This adult system has proven defected and non-rehabilitative with recidivism rates as high as 70% despite ever-increasing monetary investments.

Prop. 6 was written by Mike Reynolds, the same author of the “3 Strikes and Your Out” passed by voters back in 1994. With strong financial backing from special interest groups including real estate developers, bail agents, manufacturers of GPS monitoring devices and surveillance services, Prop 6 promises to make our neighborhoods safer and carries specific implications for youths entering the juvenile system.

Under the proposed measure:

- Any 14 year old who is convicted of a “gang-related” felony would be found unfit for Juvenile court and thus be prosecuted as an adult.
- Removing or disabling a monitoring device that was issued as part of sentencing will become a criminal act.
- Recipients of subsidized housing must submit an annual criminal background check for every member of the household, including youths. If anyone in the home is found to have a recent drug or violent criminal conviction the housing subsidies would be withdrawn and the entire family loses

their housing.

Cristina Gomez of the Burns Institute/The Community Justice Network for Youth calls the initiative “predatory legislation” because it applies specifically to the young and lower income communities of color. “We feel like this is just one more initiative that is going to put the state into a state of bankruptcy...[and] it isn’t a move in a positive way to provide our communities or our youth who need intervention and prevention programs... We know that the implications of this will result in more youth being funneled into the prison industrial complex system.”

Youths as young as 14 may already be found unfit for Juvenile court and prosecuted as adults under Prop. 21 which California voters passed in 2000. A youth must fit a five point criteria before he/she is found unfit for juvenile court. Some of the criteria are the degree of criminal sophistication, previous delinquent history and the circumstances and gravity of the offense.

In the event that Prop. 6 passes a youth as young as 14 need not fit the five criteria of Prop 21 but need only be found guilty of a “gang-related” felony. Once in the adult system the youth is now subjected to the harsh gang enhancement laws that were put into affect during the late 1980’s.

Michael Kresser, executive director of the 6th District Appellate Program, says, “Prosecutors are bringing in gang experts who say that any criminal activity increases the reputation of the gang, thus meeting the ‘benefit’ standard. This turns any crime done by someone labeled as a gang member into a 186.22 (CA penal code defining longer sentences due to the gang nature of the charge) even if the crime had nothing to do with a gang.”

The ease in which offenders could be labeled as gang members provides unfair increases in sentences which in turn creates unfair burdens on Californian’s who must pay more for the rising costs housing prisoners for longer periods of time.

*Heart of Chaos Teacher Sue Tapella Brings the Art of Mask Making to G2 minors*



The girls in G2 had a fun couple of weeks making plaster of paris masks and decorating them with an assortment of paint, beads, feathers and yarn. The project was brought to them by a new art teacher Sue Tapella in the Catalyst for Youth's Heart of Chaos Visual Art outreach program currently offered in B9, B2 and G2.





**Harvest time in the Catalyst for Youth JH Garden!**

Produce included peppers galore, tomatoes, grapes, Japanese eggplant, lettuce, squash, corn and pumpkins. Volunteer Russell Waite and a minor from B9 finished installing the last of the sprinklers so now the entire garden receives water. Our three hens have frequent activity time in the garden and a new coop is in the making. Just outside the fence are giant pumpkins and a dwarf Mandarin Orange fruit tree.



The garden is maintained by the boys from B2, B3 and B9. A new section that will be worked by minors in B8 will open real soon. Staff and minors alike take pride in the garden and freely partake of its bountiful harvest.



*Proposition 6 Not the Answer continued from page 3*

By passing Prop. 6 a younger crop of offenders will be funneled into a legal system already categorizing them as career criminals due to their “gang participation” despite being as young as 14.

Plus since the majority of the labeled gang members come almost exclusively from lower income communities of color, further lowering the standard for being found unfit for juvenile court the newer crop will only increase the documented racial disparities in the prison industrial system.

Prop. 6 has further implications in that if a youth is found guilty of a drug or violent crime his/her family may lose their subsidized housing. Presently if the youth in the household does not attend school or gets in trouble, per Section 8 the rent is raised. If the youth is incarcerated but is attending school in juvenile hall then the family’s housing is not necessarily threatened but if the youth is found to be an adult and convicted of a drug or violent crime then per Prop 6 the entire family lose their housing. The family of the youth offender will now find themselves in further economic strife. If the youth serves his sentence and after release attempts to return home, his return may not be convenient due to his criminal background. There is then the possibility of the youth becoming homeless.

If the socio-economic disparities do not manage to raise concern with the voters of California then perhaps the economical projections of the proposal will raise a red flag.

The nonpartisan California Legislative Analyst’s Office has determined that the net state cost for implementing the initiative is a half billion dollars annually for increased costs of criminal justice programs, prison and parole operations. Can Californian’s realistically pay such a high price tag especially when previous investments in “tough on crime” laws have proven to yield such poor results in a rehabilitative sense? What’s more early intervention programs risk being put on the back burner as monetary priority is allotted to incarceration.

We can all concur that the gang’s within are communities present a problem we need to address. The choice in November is whether Californians choose to continue with heavy-handed policies and pass Prop 6 or opt for a more restorative justice approach. Under the restorative justice model the emphasis on punishment does not exceed the needs and concerns of the victims, the wrongdoer and the community at large.

The “tough on crime” approach carries an expensive price tag while failing to rehabilitate our young people. It also harms our lower income communities by continuing to drain resources for preventative programs and carries on the practice of labeling our young offenders as violent and unredeemable beings.

G2 Minor’s Crocheting Takes Off!



## SCC Probation Department's Volunteer Programs in JH

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Group meetings for minors with alcohol abuse problems.

**Alateen Alannon:** Group meetings for minors who are related to people with alcohol abuse issues.

**The Beat Within:** A weekly publication of writings and artworks by minors in local JHs.

**Catalyst for Youth Garden:** A horticulture therapy program that revolves around planting and tending a garden within the compound of buildings that comprise the Juvenile Hall Facility.

**Fashion Design:** A design and sewing class for female minors implemented by Catalyst for Youth volunteers.

**Flower and Feast Programs:** Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Thanksgiving volunteers under the direction of Megan Williams come into assist minors with making flower arrangement for family members. On Xmas, again under Ms. Williams program, volunteers create and serve a buffet dinner in every living unit.

**Foster Grandparent Programs:** Volunteers over the age of 60 who provide supportive care, training, companionship and social contact with minors.

**Furry Friends:** Pet assisted therapy services where volunteers bring in animals for minors to interact with.

**Girl Scouts:** Program that targets gang prevention for females.

**Hair Care:** Hair cut services are provided for all minors on a rotating schedule.

**Health Realization (HR):** a teaching model that is used in prevention, intervention and treatment. HR teaches about how the human mind works, how an individual's experience of life is created and how much each person uses or misuses his/her ability to think. HR is taught on a weekly basis to designated living units.

**Heart of Chaos Expressive Arts Program:** Teaches a variety of mediums to several living units.

**Narcotics Anonymous:** Group meetings for minors with drug abuse problems.

**Next Door Solutions:** Program that raises awareness about domestic violence and dating violence.

**Planned Parenthood:** Program that targets teens who are at risk for teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and violence. Week long workshop educates minors about family life and issues surrounding intercourse.

**Religious Services:** An assigned Chaplain oversees all religious services provided for minors.

**Santa:** During the Christmas holiday, Mr. Wallau assisted by several volunteer elves pass out Christmas presents to all the minors in custody.

**Zohar Dance Company:** Internationally acclaimed dancer/teacher Ehud Krauss instructs minors on various forms of high energy dance.

### Contacts (all numbers are in the 408 area code)

Asian American Recovery Services 271-3900

CYO: California Youth Outreach 280-0203

Catalyst for Youth/Heart of Chaos 269-3356

FLY: Fresh Lifelines for Youth 299-7789

Friends Outside 295-6033

Gardner Family Care Corp. 287-6200

MACSA 928-5820

Next Door Solutions 279-2962

Juvenile Hall Visiting 278-5810

Juvenile Hall Main 278-5820

### Living Unit Supervisors

B2, B3 Omar Ventura 278-5869

B4 William Moore 278-5877

B5, B6 Jim Tarshis 278-5863

B7 Dwight Richardson 278-5860

B8, B9 Alicia Garcia 278-5861

G1, G2 Kris Leisten 278-5862

B11, B12 Elsa Jennings 278-5859

### Inside Out Newsletter

Editor/Photographer: Joanne Hobbs 269-3356

Contributing Editor Lupe Garcia

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## Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall Mission Statement

*The Mission of Juvenile Hall as a detention facility is to provide an environment where the safety and security of the minors is our highest priority. We ensure that our youth receive the nutritional, educational, medical and mental health services as mandated by the state. While upholding the orders of the Court, we thereby contribute to the common effort of protecting the community. Further, we are committed to a standard of excellence in humane treatment.*

### *Goals and Aspirations—With Dedication We Pledge to Strive For:*

*Professionalism – We act with fairness, consistency and without bias, while facing the daily challenges of working with delinquent behavior.*

*Positive Role Modeling – We believe it is through our actions and guidance that we make the greatest impact.*

*Integrity – We strive to maintain honest, ethical and moral behavior within and outside of our profession of working with delinquent behavior.*

*Individual Worth – We value the importance of the individual while respecting cultural diversity.*

*Professional Development – We recognize that continuous education and training create the most effective staff.*

*Enrichment in Programming – We extend our positive influence throughout the community and within our institution through the development of socially beneficial programs.*

*Community Involvement – We recognize the value of and utilize the community resources to side in our effort to effect positive change in our youth.*



**Juvenile Hall  
840 Guadalupe Parkway  
San Jose, CA 95110  
408-278-5820**