

INSIDE Out

Parent Info Link

Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall

Mar. 2008

Easter Baskets to Celebrate Spring



Megan Williams, the Juvenile Hall “Flower Lady” once again brought smiles to the minors with an Easter egg decoration project to celebrate Spring. Megan, along with her many volunteers, brought eggs and baskets to the minors and helped them create a special gift for their loved ones. Megan comes on all the major holidays bringing some project

or feast to our young people to remind them that they are loved by many in the community. The minors respond in turn with enthusiasm and appreciation.



Furry Friends brought two dogs disguised as rabbits to the delight of the minors.

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PEOPLE PADDLE

For Catalyst for Youth's Juvenile Hall Garden Program
 RAISE MONEY FOR OUR GARDEN BY KAYAKING!



Calling All Probation Staff, Service Providers, Family & Friends!
Form a kayaking team or go it solo.

All pledges go directly to our JH Garden Program

Plus Catalyst for Youth will waive the \$25 registration fee and the rental fee for a single kayak or a double kayak!

Sunday June 15, 2008, Foster City -10am to 1pm

People Paddle for the Environment is designed to allow non profits like Catalyst for Youth to recruit paddlers who will "champion" their cause—in our case raise money for our Juvenile Hall Garden. The paddling "champions" register to kayak around a designated course and select Catalyst for Youth to benefit from the pledges they receive from friends and family. 100% of the pledges you receive will go to support our existing Juvenile Hall Garden and expand it to include more living units.

To register, make a pledge, reserve a rental boat, take some training or get some fundraising tips, go to: <http://www.peoplepaddle.com>.

And if you can't kayak that day, get pledges for your colleagues instead. Just a \$10 pledge from everyone at the hall will make an enormous difference in our program.

For more info contact Joanne Hobbs, Catalyst for Youth Director at 408 269-3356 or email her at joanne@catalystforyouth.org or contact Supervising Group Counselor Liz Alameda at 408 278-5961

Horticulture Therapy for Minors!



Catalyst for Youth (CFY) is a 501 c 3 public charity and educational corporation. It was created in 2002 to provide "non-traditional support"

to teens and young people. That means if you are spending your own money on the minors in your unit (e.g. like buying puzzles or treating them to pizza or even buying clothing for a just released minor) your expenses are tax deductible under the umbrella of CFY.

Just send a copy of your receipts to Liz Alameda with a note asking for acknowledgment of your donation and CFY will send you a letter verifying your 100 % tax deductible contribution. Or drop your request in the CFY mail box by the control desk. Your efforts to benefit the minors in JH are exactly what CFY was created to support. Please take advantage of it.

With appreciation,
 Joanne Hobbs, CFY Executive Director

Horticulture Therapy

Today centers throughout the country are using horticulture for educational, therapeutic and recreational purposes.

The goal of a horticulture program is the improved physical and mental health of the individual. The benefits are seen in four areas - intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development.

INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS

- Attainment of new skills such as plant propagation, gardening, and flower arranging.
- Improved vocabulary and communication skills.
- Heightened sense of curiosity because plants are fascinating. They arouse questions and opportunities to experiment.
- Increased powers of observation. Watching the interaction between plants, humans and animals helps develop deeper understanding and ability to evaluate relationships. This also leads to improved ability to plan and make decisions.
- Vocational training opportunities.
- Stimulation of sensory perceptions. And as sensitivity to one's surroundings increases the perception of details increases.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Interaction within the group. The members of a group learn to respect the rights of others, to be more cooperative, and to share responsibility. They also have an opportunity to develop leadership qualities.
- The potential to share the harvest with others.

EMOTIONAL BENEFITS

- Improved confidence and self esteem. Pride in the completed project, a sense of responsibility and accomplishment, all lead to an improved self-concept.
- Opportunities to relieve aggressive drives in a socially acceptable manner which leads to improved self control.
- Activities that promote interest and enthusiasm for the future. This is a particularly important aspect to those youth who are facing long sentences and who consequently have lost interest in the future. Interest can be rekindled as they anticipate a flower bud opening or a seed germinating.
- Opportunities for the satisfaction of creative drives and self expression.

PHYSICAL BENEFITS

- Development and improvement of basic motor skills.
- Increased exposure to sun and energy of the soil.

Juan Santana Brings a Presence of Calm and Competance to his Role as Counselor



Senior Group Counselor Juan Santana has worked in Juvenile Hall for 12 years but he has always been involved with giving youth a hand up. At times he has raised scholarship money and at other times he just steers them in a positive direction.

His reserved manner belies a strong presence, clear and determined to do his best in anything he undertakes. Those qualities emerged forcefully when he was a senior at James Lick High School.

He remembers asking his counselor how to go about getting into college, because no one in his family had attended college before.

The counselor told him to forget it, that it would be a waste of his time. He wanted him to pick a trade school instead.

“That was an eye opener,” Santana said. “So this is what value people are placing on me,” he thought.

He decided to figure it out for himself and in the fall enrolled at Evergreen Community College and entered the Enlace program. It was a special program primarily for Latinos of lower income. A close knit group

of teachers and counselors helped students in this program, monitoring their progress and helping them avoid the pitfalls of college life.

Although at James Lick high school Santana remembers himself as being very quiet and keeping his own counsel, in college under the tutelage of the Enlace community, he started to blossom. He became interested in local politics and was stimulated by the Enlace council’s speaker forum which invited different speakers, writers and others in to enrich the curriculum and inspire the students.

“I was strongly inspired by one of my teachers in this program,” says Santana. “Dr. Chavez was a dynamic speaker who made you want to do more than you were doing.”

And he did do more. He eventually became president of Enlace and that involvement in turn drove his interest in politics. In fact when he transferred to San Jose State University, he majored in political science.

“I also got the fire bug,” he admits. I thought I wanted to do something more intellectual but there was something about being a firefighter that appealed to me. I said to myself this is me. Everything that a firefighter stands for is me.”

He was in his early twenties and working at Juvenile Hall. He left that position to follow his firefighting dream. He took paramedic training and became a volunteer firefighter. In a relatively short time, however, he found that the politics of the fire department marred his enthusiasm for the work. He returned to the hall

“My high school guidance counselor told me to pick a trade school when I asked him about college. He told me not to waste my time. That was an eye opener.”

where he was readily welcomed back and over the years his skills have proven valuable in many a tense scenario.

What he loves about working at Juvenile Hall is the knowledge that he can affect the young people in a positive way. And his wife really supports him and believes that he serves an important purpose here.

Quite a few kids that Santana and his colleagues have worked with have been successful.

“You can run into a kid on the outside and he can quote you word from word — he remembers what you said. Now that feels good. In fact many of the kids are thankful for their experience....even though it is a stressful time in their lives, they let us help them pull through.” says Santana. “We’re really pulling them out of the fire.”

“We make it happen. When it comes down to it, that is why I am here. At the hall you have some genuinely good people who are dedicated to their positions and to the kids and they do a lot of good work. They go the extra mile.”

“And we are our own support group. The pats on the back that count don’t come from the higher echelon; they come from your colleagues.”

Author and Speaker Art Rodriguez Shares his Story with Minors



Rodriguez read a few passages from his book



Rodriguez showed pictures of himself as a nineteen year old and some of the friends he mentions in *East Side Dreams*.



Author and inspirational speaker Art Rodriguez visited JH on March 20th. Best known for his debut book and memoir *East Side Dreams* which was honored as one of 200 Best Teenage Books in the United States by The New York Public Library System and won first place at the Latino Literary Hall of Fame, Rodriguez shared his story with the girls in living units G1 and G2.

“When *East Side Dreams* came out, I felt like everyone saw my heart...like I opened my chest and exposed my heart,” said Rodriguez.

East Side Dreams is his personal and heartfelt story of growing up in a rough neighborhood, at odds with a dictatorial father and winding up as an inmate of the California Youth Authority for three years. Reflections on both happy and miserable times of his childhood, growing up, learning maturity and finally making a comfortable life for himself, Rodriguez’s message to the minors was to make a decision now to create a good life for themselves.

As moving as his book was his account of writing the book. Severely dyslexic, Rodriguez did not know the first thing about grammar and couldn’t spell even the simplest of words when he made a decision ten years old to write *East Side Dreams*. He decided with the support of his wife to go back to school and learn how to write. And he did.

One of the minors asked Rodriguez what made him decide to leave a life of crime and turn his life around. He shared that it was his first son.

“I saw this perfect little being and thought to myself, that baby came from me. This is my baby and I don’t want him to suffer like I did,” he said.

After *East Side Dreams*, Rodriguez wrote *The Monkey Box* a love story which starts in the 1800’s with his great grandmother, Lydia, who was sixteen years old, and Chico, who was twenty-six years old. In *Forgotten Memories* Rodriguez returns to his teenage years and delivers a powerful message to all teens that life does get better if you persevere.

Today this gentle storyteller goes around to high schools and detention centers talking to young people and we are hoping he will be back soon.

Ceramic Artist Ruben Reyes shares his love of pottery with G2 minors



Heart of Chaos guest artist Ruben Reyes has been teaching in G2 for the last six weeks. Taking a break from his work under a Smithsonian grant to recreate Navaho pottery from shards found at an ancient

pueblo site, Ruben has taught at the hall before in B7. At that time he brought in two pottery wheels and showed the boys how to build vases and bowls.

This time around he has taught the girls how to make free form figures like a pig and a snake, clay whistles, vases and a variety of bowls. His gentle, laid back style of teaching belies a vast knowledge of the ceramic field. He has loved this art form for years. He also has worked with young people in a variety of settings throughout the years.

The girls enjoy this time to "play" and create and a visitor during the Wednesday night sessions will find lots of laughter and chatter by staff and minors alike.

Thanks are due to The Clay Planet for donating clay and glazes and to Joanne Brice at Blossom Hill Pottery for letting us use their kiln to fire the pieces.



Nicole Desfosses is a Heart of Chaos artist who teaches in the B9 art program and has been assisting Ruben in the clay sessions.

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
Asian-American for Com. Involvement 975-2730
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

Table with 4 columns: Living Unit, Supervisor Name, and Phone Number. Rows include B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, G1, G2.

Inside Out Newsletter

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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.



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