

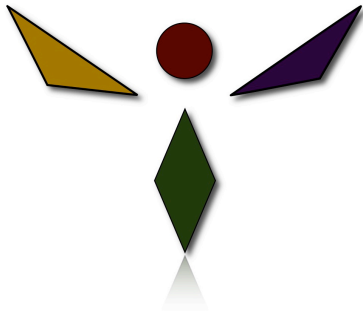
yIN THE KNOW

The Youth Intervention Network Weekly Newsletter

www.uratwork.com

A Project of UrAtWork

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YOUTH AND FAMILY

From the Desk of Lesia Bell:

Time sure has passed quickly! Summer vacation has come to an end for our youth and school is now back in session.

Our YIN families have been busy over the summer break participating in the 6 stage process of mediative dialogue.

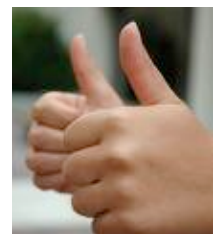
Families who have completed the mediation process have transitioned to working with their assigned Family Advocate(s). The transition process went really well and families had nothing but praise for their mediators and stated that they would recommend the mediation process to any family facing conflict. Family Agreements were signed by all involved family members and copies were given to their Family Advocate(s).

We are cheering for the families who are still in the mediation process and looking forward to their transition period.

Two thumbs up to all of our Family Advocates who have started advocating for their family; you guys are awesome!

Also two thumbs up for two of our YIN parents who have agreed to take classes at LMC with their youth to help them earn needed credits. What great role models you are!

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Thinking about being a YIN mediator?

Lately we've had a number of people ask what we look for in our mediator volunteers, so we decided to publish the list of attributes we look for. If you see yourself in this list, consider joining our team. You will never regret it!

The next training class starts September 28th. Contact Iris Archuleta at 925-755-9291 for more information.

Mediators Attributes:

- A strong sense of professionalism, including accountability, confidentiality, resourcefulness, critical thinking, and good judgment
- Able to recognize the strengths of different experiences and perspectives
- Affective listener
- Must be able to observe and analyze
- Be a resource and ask non-threatening questions
- Respectful of all people regardless of socio-economic background, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.
- Be non-judgmental
- Must be a team player
- Understanding of one's own culture and respect for differences between cultures.
- Must have strong verbal and written communication skills
- Have good reading comprehension
- Must have reliable transportation
- Must have an average of 2 to 3 hours per week available for briefing with your mediation partner prior to meeting with the family and after the meeting.
- Bilingual is a plus but not required
- Cannot be currently receiving YIN services
- Must be a resident of East Contra Costa County (Antioch preferred but not required)

Iris Archuleta, J.D.

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Updates From Dineen:

We still have a couple of seats available in the Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC) Training class this Fall!! The class will be held September 28th thru October 2nd, 2009. If you have someone in mind that you think would be interested in taking the DPC training and that you feel might be a potential family advocate or mediator please encourage them to consider this training class or to contact me for additional information ASAP.

It is not too late toPurchase your tickets to our Fundraising Event 'A Taste of Antioch', Saturday, September 26th.

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Event Reminder

“This will be a magical evening hosted by Channel 7 News Anchor, Dan Ashley! Local restaurants will present a sampling of their signature dishes. For your sipping pleasure, enjoy wine, beer and the Taste of Antioch’s exclusive specialty drink “The A Drink”. Guests will stroll through the restaurant stations, listen to live jazz by “Chocolate Rice”, and participate in an exciting live auction with the much sought after auctioneer, Dennis McCormac.”

Restaurants include:

Bases Loaded, Carpaccio, New Mecca, Qin’s and Schooners to name a few. Wineries include but are not limited to, Bloomfield, Viano and Barefoot.

Tickets are going fast and we expect to sell out so visit the event website, atasteofantioch.com and get your tickets.

See you there!



Tutors Needed

Know anybody that wants to tutor high school students in the YIN? Please contact Lesia Bell at Lesia@emeraldconsulting.com or 925-301-5893 with names and contact information, or for more information.



YIN WISH LIST

We are praying and wishing for:

- Office Space
- More Event Sponsors
- And As Always:**
- More Family Advocates
- Tutors
- Mentors
- Mediators

I Write U Read

Excuses

When I was younger and things went wrong I always had an excuse. If my homework wasn't done it was because I didn't get it, or I forgot. Or if I didn't clean my room it was because I was going to but I got caught up doing that homework I didn't do the day before. The list goes on and on. I was late getting home from that party because I got attacked! (totally untrue and an excuse) When I got older it was more of the same just with different people and places. I was late to work because of traffic or the power went out or I WAS ATTACKED! (again totally untrue) Excuses, excuses, excuses.

My mother used to tell me all the time "you have an excuse for everything!" I'm pretty sure it wasn't a compliment either. But I sure made myself believe it was once or twice though. I really had a hard time understanding what the big deal was. I know now what my problem was. I was telling myself, "These aren't excuses, they are reasons." I had an issue with the distinction between the two. The lesson my mother was trying to teach was being lost on me because I wasn't allowing myself to see it. Mainly because the direction she was trying to point me in was down the hard road of manhood and responsibility.

Excuses can be one of the most crippling things we can use as a crutch. You may be thinking "How can a crutch cripple you?", "I thought crutches helped." Think of it this way. If you have two healthy legs, but you choose to only use one and tie the other up behind you and use crutches, eventually that leg will weaken. Over enough time the muscles will atrophy, thus crippling you.

Let me explain. When you make excuses, you are not learning anything from your mistakes. You are putting the blame on anyone or anything to avoid taking responsibility for your actions. Traffic isn't an excuse, why because you should always leave with enough time to make it somewhere in case there is. Not doing your homework because you didn't understand isn't an excuse, because that's what teachers, parents and friends are for (as long as you're not copying). If we stop making excuses and face these things we can change these things. Those muscles of responsibility and accountability will be getting exercised and over time you learn enough from your mistakes to have far less of them occur. Face your mistakes and take note of your missteps and I guarantee you'll build yourself a map that will lead you away from future pitfalls.

Of course there are real excuses and real reasons, but I'm not looking for them. They'll find me, because we all know in life sometimes STUFF HAPPENS. That's why you prepare yourself by strengthening yourself, not by passing the buck.

I Write Uread that's my dream thanks for making it happen.

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Editors Note

yIn THE KNOW has been switched to a Bi-Monthly newsletter.

Make sure to check out the next issue Sept. 8, 2009