

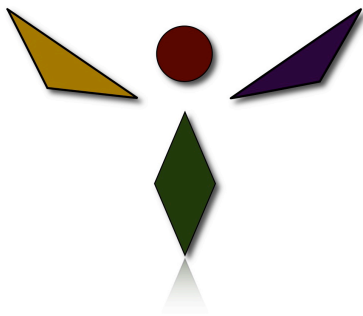
yIN THE KNOW

The Youth Intervention Network Bi-Monthly Newsletter

www.uratwork.com

A Project of UrAtWork

Issue #4 - 9/8/2009



YOUTH AND FAMILY

This Issue Is For You!

This issue is for you, about you and in your words. Executive Director , Iris Archuleta gives us a chance to hear how the Youth Intervention Network is changing your lives in your own words.

Read on to hear some of the great things that are happening with our youth, parents and mediators.

Congratulations to all the youth and families who are trying so hard to make a change in themselves and their community.

We Want To Hear What You
Have To Say



Hello Everyone!

As we prepare to begin the 2009/2010 Youth Intervention Network Referral Cycle, we thought you might enjoy some sections from the 2008/2009 UrAtWork/YIN Comprehensive Report. The sections below are comments by some of our youth, families and volunteers. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did!

Iris

Note: The complete report can be found at the uratwork.com homepage or by clicking on the YIN tab.

So exactly what does success sound like?

The youth who have participated in our two pilot cycles have been white, black, asian and hispanic. They have come from two family homes and single family homes. Their parents represent every socio - economic category from high six figure incomes to public assistance. Yet, the one consistent fact is that each of these kids was failing socially and academically. All had committed a violent act, some more sever than others. The average GPA coming into the network was .085, and every one of them had given up on having dreams and had slipped into apathy.

Now that many of these kids and their parents have completed the five stage mediative process, which by the way takes between 3 to 5 months to complete, (yes, the mediators are volunteers), we have collected a significant amount of qualitative and quantitative data.

We asked each youth and parent(s) to describe their mediation experience, (Note: Youth & Parent(s) are identified by their YIN assigned number for confidentiality purposes).

Youth:

"This was really cool for me. It has opened my eyes to see that my parents care and want the best for me. It showed me better ways to communicate with my parents and it helped me look at myself. Now I'm challenging myself to do better and make better choices in school, at home and in choosing who my true friends are. I see the importance of doing my chores on time and the rewards/benefits that comes with it when I'm obedient to my parents is a plus. It helped me see how cool it is to follow rules and stay out of trouble. Now my goal is to raise my GPA to 3.0 or higher and to graduate on time and pursue higher education in Law Enforcement." (YIN 09-005)"

"It was good! My dad and I have a better relationship now. He listens to me more and we argue less. It's been fun. I've set a goal to graduate on time with a 3.0+ GPA and possibly go to CAL Berkley where I can pursue an education in Business and Law. The mediators were cool, easy to talk to and they helped make the process comfortable." (YIN 09-002)

"Mediation was very helpful. It led me to come up with goals and ways to keep peace in the house and have less conflict with my grandmother. Now we have a DRAMA FREE house or NO MORE DRAMA! One of my goals is to graduate on time and keep my GPA at a 3.0 or higher (right now, it's a 3.0!). I would like to go to UC Davis and one day become a Forensic Detective!" (YIN 09-007)

"YIN has helped me a lot! I now have people who are real! They care about me and I can talk to them. I loved my mediators. We didn't hit it off the first day I met them. I tested them to see how long they will last, but when I realized they were here for me and to help me communicate with my parents what was going on with me, we connected! They encouraged me to reach for the sky! I hope that they can all come to my graduation next year. I used to think that there was no hope for me and that I was not going to graduate, but now with YIN in my life, I have structure and I know now that I am going to make it! I've always wanted someone to listen to me and hear me out. I was glad that the mediators did that and did not judge me. This experience or process has brought my family closer. I now trust my parents with everything and I hope things will never change. Believe it or not, YIN has made a big impact in my life. I have stopped hanging out with the wrong crew and am now keeping my head in the books and staying focused. I'm living a DRAMA FREE life! I truly appreciate the guidance I received through this process." (YIN 09-006)

Parents:

“Mediation was just what we needed! At one point we just couldn’t communicate as a family. We were all falling apart. Mediation opened up a better way or positive communication method for us. We’ve each had to check ourselves and take responsibility for the conflicts that were eating us up. My husband and I sat down and came up with much needed household rules and a chore list. We thank YIN for this opportunity! The benefit of going through and completing the mediation process is now we have less household stress; my daughter is focusing on getting better grades and succeeding in school; my younger daughter will follow her sister’s lead; a better family life, we are happier to come home after work/school to calmness and a positive attitude/better mood; and there is peace and harmony in the family.” (YIN 09-005)

“Mediation has allowed me to see my son as a growing young man. It has challenged us to have a two-way positive communication. It brought us closer together. My son is now ready to accept my involvement in his education. We’ve agreed to spend more family time together. The weekends will be our family time. My son will be playing football this year and I will be there to support him. I’m proud of the goals he has set before him and have no doubt that he will achieve them all. Thank you YIN for this opportunity.” (YIN 09-002)

“I appreciated the mediation process and the mediators. They did an excellent job facilitating. I’ve seen some positive changes in my granddaughter since we started the process. If she does what she’s asked to do, we’ll be fine! The process has helped me to see that kids today aren’t growing up the way we did when we were their age. They are being taught to express themselves, and I need to understand that (we didn’t talk back or question our parents when I was growing up). I understand that it’s important to allow her to communicate and express herself to me. She’s a good girl.” (Note: This is coming from a grandmother who rarely compliments her granddaughter.) (YIN 09-007)

“I greatly appreciate the support and assistance we got through the YIN mediators. We made it through! We know we still have a lot to work on, but we are now going in the right direction. I have seen a great change in my daughter’s life. She now has a positive attitude and has made wonderful goals for herself. There’s less stress in our house now and we are all getting along. Thank you for all your help.” (YIN 09-006)

“I love how my daughter has changed her attitude since the mediation process. She’s more positive now. I’m relieve and at peace to know that my family is doing better. It’s a blessing to have my daughter wanting to stay home now and staying out of trouble. She’s cooking, cleaning and being nice! The YIN team has become like family to us. We thank you!” (YIN 09-006)

Some of our mediators had this to say:

(Youth 09-005) was very transparent with us. That is a BIG step in reconciliation and restoration. Her willingness to move in a new direction and make changes in her life is the center of what we do. But that would never happen unless her parents were also willing to see their role as important to all of this working. Parents or caregivers also need to take a step back and see their part in what has happened and how they can contribute to their child’s success. It is a team effort! Last, the Family Advocates are taking the baton and helping to “flesh out” real actions that the family came up with through mediation. The fact that it is the family’s plan is critical to how real change occurs. We are hopeful. This has been the best experience of my life this last year.”

-Gary

“I had a tremendous experience as a YIN mediator. It was amazing to be a tool for a family as they utilized the DPC mediation model to be able to open up their communication skills and begin to rebuild relationships. We were able to watch a young adult improve her decision making skills and gain hope and power in her own life by listening and helping her better communicate her feelings. I felt blessed to be with a youth that wanted to improve and a family that was willing to go through the process and work together. Ultimately going through mediation with this family was a fulfilling and heartwarming experience that helped my life and the life of those that chose to change. Thank you YIN.”

-Dr. Sean Wright

"It has been an amazing experience for me. The DPC model really works for those who truly stay committed to it! To see a family that was falling apart and not communicating come together in agreement to bring positive changes into their lives is priceless! The family is now in a stable place and their relationships have been restored. The parents have come together and are working hard to help their son reach his academic goals. The son is showing improvement academically, socially and emotionally. To hear that his mother has agreed to take a class with him at LMC (Los Medanos College) to help him make up some of his needed credit is remarkable! What great role models these parents have become. Thank you YIN for this wonderful experience"

-Michael

One of our Family Advocates said:

"It is encouraging for me to see youth and families wanting to do positive things with their lives. Of course I see it other places but it is just that I see too much destruction all around us. This feels rewarding."

-Terry

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D I D Y O U K N O W


TEAMWORK MAKES LIFE EASIER FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED



Updates From Dineen:

Purchase your tickets today !!
....only 18 days to the Event

You and your guests are cordially invited to our
1st Annual Fund Raising Event!



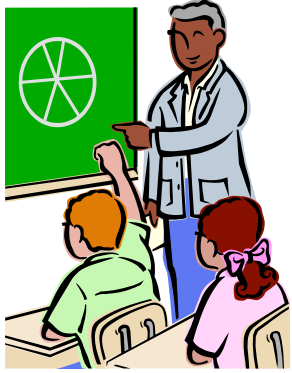
A Benefit to Support the Youth Intervention Network

Saturday, September 26, 2009
7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Roddy Ranch Golf Course
 1 Tour Way, Antioch, CA 94531

visit our event website: www.AtasteOfAntioch.com

Event Reminder



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

“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!



IWrite URead

Families

Is there anything more confusing? I mean, you take people with different personalities, attitudes toward life, beliefs, incomes, sexualities, looks and upbringings and you bring them all together. There is bound to be an explosion. We are not talking about society as a whole here, or some experiment on Discovery Channel. We are talking about Thanksgiving or Christmas. We are talking about everyday relations within our own families.

Does blood really bind? Who knows. I have an idea though. Maybe our sense of family isn't something you can put a definition on because it differs from family to family and maybe even person to person. To some people family means being related and following the family tree to the root. For others they might pass out cousin credentials to anyone they happen to like more than a little.

Families are complex things. They are also beautiful things. They are an opportunity to do what you might not be able to do otherwise. They allow you to get past yourself. The love you have for family can override any prejudice you may have. If you can love your uncle who is so different than you, then why can't you love your neighbor?

Our family is our practice ground for how we will deal with the world. Or at least I think so. If we can take that same attitude that allows for all those differences I listed above to coexist in one family, and apply it in the world, what a wonderful place this world would be.

Does blood really bind? Love does. That's the ingredient that makes family, family. Whether you follow the genetic tree or just want to take in everybody, make sure it's all built on love and nothing but good can come of it. With enough love and a big enough heart you just might find your family is a lot bigger than you thought.

IWrite URead that's my dream thanks for making it come true.

I would also like to give a special thanks to all foster and adoptive parents, volunteers and anyone else who is helping create healthy whole families

Dorian Archuleta

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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. 22, 2009