

yIN THE KNOW

The Youth Intervention Network Monthly Newsletter

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Moving Forward...

Since our last issue of yIN THE KNOW, there have been a lot of changes. We have made new connections and partnerships, we have found new avenues to service our youth and their families. We have also had some changes to our Executive Committee.

We hope you enjoy this issue of yIN THE KNOW. It is always a great pleasure sharing good news with our friends and supporters. Hopefully you find these changes as exciting as we do!

Dorian Archuleta
Director of Communications



Partnering with Choppin' It Up

As a community, it is a good idea to always be looking for better ways to serve our members. Communities are diverse, even beyond what we readily imagine. We come across unique challenges all the time and it is great to have fresh new ways to handle these. One of the areas that we are always looking for ways to innovate in is empowering our youth. In my opinion, nowhere else is it more important to try and "meet them where they are".

I have no doubt that anyone reading this newsletter has our youth's best interest in mind. We all want what is best, and we all have great ideas on how to help them achieve their goals. Sometimes the best way to help is to teach someone to help themselves.

That's why it's important to The YIN to listen to what our youth are saying, and to listen to others with the tools for helping us hear what they are saying even better. That is why we are happy to be working with Kristin Bodiford and Families Thrive on a new project called Choppin' It Up.

What is Choppin' It Up?

"Choppin' It Up is an invitation for new conversations through dialogue. Choppin' it Up – means 'talking it out. It's where youth learn how to conduct and participate in dialogues in their school. Youth will help us look at what we take for granted about them, their relationships, their experiences and what they need from each other,

adults in their lives, and their community. The aim is to create a safe space for dialogue – talking it out and exchanging ideas or opinions. Choppin' it Up is an important step in developing our leaders of tomorrow and for us to learn how we can better support them." - *Kristin Bodiford*

Working together with the Principals from Deer Valley, Antioch High and Live Oak High Schools, and Vernon Williams with the Williams Group, and Johnny Rodriguez with One Day at A Time, a group of 24 students have been selected to go through training in "Choppin' It Up". All of the students were chosen because of their natural leadership skills, their desire to make a difference and their willingness to sacrifice their own time to that end. Also they are all looked upon highly by the folks who referred them.

The students will be taught effective ways to listen to others and in turn tell their own stories. They will be taught the art of dialogue, which is one of, if not the most effective tool in conflict resolution and in getting their thoughts and opinions out.

Choppin' It Up not only gives these youth new tools for communicating with adults, but it takes it one step further. It teaches them how to hold dialogue with each other. That is where the real empowerment comes in. This training gives youth the support, tools and most importantly the "permission" to handle their own conflicts in the right way. It gives them a forum to voice their complaints and concerns in an


organized way. A non-violent way. An adult way. And hopefully in time and with enough success, we can begin to treat our youth like the leaders they are growing to be.

It's no secret that sometimes young people feel most at ease sharing their feelings with their peers. Choppin' It Up gives them a great avenue to do this in a constructive manner. It gives them a place to feel comfortable sharing what's most important to them, and it actually provides training for the youth to hold these dialogues.

For more info call:

Dorian Archuleta
(925) 303-7295





Patience

I am learning patience. The more I learn about patience, the more I am convinced that I have very little. I mean I've mastered waiting at the Redbox without huffing and puffing. That I will say I'm proud of. I've got the patience that you naturally develop when you have a 3 year old who wants to see, smell, touch, taste and know everything right now. I've got that one down. I had to, I love her and didn't want to have to put her out. I can wait for a hotdog to boil instead of putting it in the microwave... And bursting it as usual.

Where it gets shaky in the patience department for me is when it comes to issues surrounding our youth. I want to rush in and do everything right now. I want to tell this one to pull up his pants, and that one to watch his mouth, while tutoring another.

It doesn't seem like that kind of impatience would be a problem. Where I get into trouble though is when I have to involve myself with the youth. They have to get to know me. They need to get to know you too. To a kid on the street who doesn't know me, I'm just that "crazy dude" who's always griping about something. But if that same kid sees me volunteering here and there, or up on his campus, I become Mr. Archuleta.

Be patient and get to know the kids in your community. It pays off. Now go check that hotdog before it bursts.

Dorian Archuleta

IWrite URead

Announcements

Educational Advocate Professional Training Day

On Saturday, April 1, 2011, we held our Educational Advocates training class at Antioch Police Department. We had approximately 37 attendees including speakers. It was a very full day with a lot of great information for our YIN volunteers. We covered several topic areas such as the roles and partnerships of Antioch Unified School District and Antioch Police Department with YIN. We want to give special thanks to Interim-Police Chief Allan Cantando for providing a wonderful lunch for us all.

Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC) Training Class

Once again we are very lucky to have Colin Craig, the founder of Tides Training and the Dialogue for Peaceful Change Methodology from Belfast, Ireland to lead this training class along with Jaap van der Sar of the Netherlands. We are so proud to announce that this will be our 10th Training Class held here in Antioch. The class is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31st, thru Saturday, June 4, 2011 at St. John's Lutheran Church. As always our YIN/DPC Certified Alumni are invited to drop by the training class. We will set up a

couple of tables in the back of the training room in case you would like to come by for a refresher on the DPC training – or just stop by to say hello!

Dineen Burdick
Project Director
Youth Intervention Network



New Co-Chairs

We have been lucky from the beginning. We have always had dedicated and prominent people from the community that have wanted to be a part of what the Youth Intervention Network has been doing.

Recently we were honored to make two new changes in our Executive Committee.

YIN is proud to announce our new Co-Chairs, Interim-Police Chief Alan Cantando of the Antioch Police Department and Dr. Donald Gill, Superintendent of the Antioch Unified School District.

Both men are deeply connected to the community and both have their fingers on the pulse of this city. It is great having them on board. Two men from two different fields of work, working together towards the same goal. They both bring a different take to the table on the same issues.

Don Gill works closely with school executives to make sure he has a firm grasp of what is going on in our schools. He has first hand knowledge of what our kids need, what is working and what hasn't. That type of guidance and information is key to what the Y.I.N. is trying to do.

Chief Cantando has a genuine interest in helping youth in this community. His job with the police department puts him front and center for what our youth face in the streets without guidance and help.

Seeing where these youth can end up gives him motivation and insight that can rarely be found elsewhere.

Welcome guys and we look forward to seeing what strides you can help us make in the fight for our youth and our community.

Dorian Archuleta



Partner / Volunteer Announcements

Got a relevant announcement you want sent out in a weekly e-blast? Please get your entries in to Dorian at Dorian@emeraldconsulting.com by the prior Sunday at 5:00 PM and we will include it. Of course please send only items that will be relevant to our goals and objectives, or that will support partner or volunteer activities.

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:

- More Funders

And As Always:

- More Family Advocates
- Transitional Advocates for youth at the Byron Boy's Ranch
- Tutors
- Mentors
- Mediators