

## ACT Meadowview Partnership Community Leaders in Their Own Words

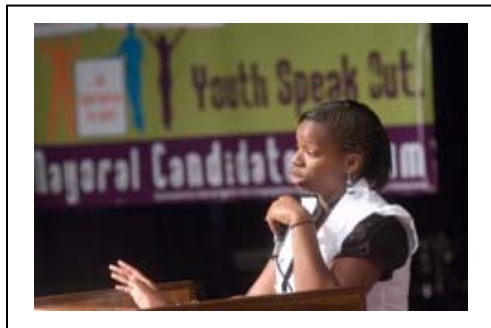
*"[My work as a part of AMP] made me understand that there are different levels of youth development and ways to help youth, i.e. direct services vs. the policy level. ACT has opened my view about who has the means to truly fund youth programs and how to push for a stronger youth focus within the political system."*

**Pastor Donald Leeper, Pastor of Sacrifice of Praise Church**

*"Being able to play a major role in the organizing of the conference gave me the opportunity to share my thoughts and opinions on youth issues and solutions. In that experience I personally have grown so much. The staff made me feel comfortable, accepted and that how I felt and thought really meant something. I gained tons of confidence and I truly enjoyed the complete experience (even though at times it was stressful and frustrating). The best part of it all is the proud feeling I have after being a part of something great. Being a part of an event that may of played a role in young people's success and making a difference in the community."*

*"It's just the beginning, I look forward to working with such great people like the ACT staff and other people from the community on planning the 2nd Annual Meadowview Leadership Conference!"*

**Sheilah Garcia, Youth Leader**



*"Since I have become involved in the ACT/Meadowview Partnership, I feel more connected to my community. Now I care about my community. [I know that when something happens] it not only affects one person, but the whole community."*

**Leslie Granciano, Youth Leader**

*"My work with AMP has been energizing and prevented some burnout [in my work as] a teacher. [I've] seen actual change in lives of youth which is inspiring. [It also] motivates me to be involved when youth are excited about being active agents of change."*

**Sayuri Sakamoto, AMP Adult Leader**

*"My increased understanding of youth development has expanded my enthusiasm and vision about effective ways to support youth leadership development, access to resources and success."*

**Carrie Rose, AMP Leader and Executive Director of the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project**

*"I feel I'm doing a lot to help out my community, like going around getting people to vote, trying to help stop gang violence, trying to get students to learn more."*

**Rashea Allen, Youth Leader**



*"I wasn't really involved [in my community] and didn't know much. Now I see that I am a leader."*

**Sequoia Thurman, Youth Leader**

# Sacramento ACT Meadowview Partnership

**A Community Action Coalition of Sierra Health Foundation's REACH Youth Program**



**Using grassroots community organizing, we are creating leadership opportunities and making long-term, meaningful change for Meadowview youth.**

## Annual Report 2007-2008



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## Who We Are

The Sacramento ACT Meadowview Partnership is a coalition of youth and adult community leaders from Meadowview churches, schools, neighborhoods and community-based organizations. The ACT Meadowview Partnership Board, made up of about 20 of these local leaders, meets monthly to discuss strategies to improve resources and opportunities for youth in Meadowview.

Sacramento ACT is a nonprofit, grassroots community organization that empowers everyday people to create a more just community through community organizing and represents more than 35,000 families in Sacramento County. Each year, ACT trains hundreds of adult and youth volunteer leaders in congregations, schools and neighborhoods to have substantive conversations with their neighbors and others in their community in order to determine common problems, conduct research to identify the causes of these problems and negotiate their solutions with elected officials. Through this process, long-term accountability is established between community members and local public officials, leading to positive community change, more resources and a more vital democracy.



## Our Vision for Youth

The goal of the Sacramento ACT Meadowview Partnership is to unlock the power of youth in Meadowview. We strive to guide young people into adulthood with a broad set of tools and opportunities. By involving Meadowview youth in a process of community organizing and leadership development, we believe they will learn important leadership skills, develop a lifelong commitment to community involvement and activism, and take greater ownership of their community and their own lives. Through organizing with both youth and adults, we seek to have a long-term impact on how major youth-serving institutions—particularly schools, congregations and city government—help prepare youth for lifelong success.



**Workforce Readiness Goal: Hire a researcher to examine existing workforce readiness and job opportunities for youth in the Meadowview area and develop a plan to increase such opportunities.**

### Younger youth (10-15 years)

We designed a four-day job boot camp at Rosa Parks Middle School where youth learned “soft skills” for employment. Older youth interviewed participants on the final day and selected 50 youth to work at the Multicultural Parade for a \$50 stipend.

### Older youth (16-21 years)

Building off of work from 2007, ACT community youth and adult leaders worked with the Sacramento Employment Training Agency (SETA), Office of Youth Development\*, Assemblymember Dave Jones, Mayor Heather Fargo\* and Sierra Health Foundation to expand the Sacramento Works for Youth Jobs Initiative. (\*New partners this year)

*Pre-Employment Training:* SETA increased weeklong pre-employment trainings (soft skills) for youth from three to seven locations, giving 189 youth job readiness skills, as opposed to just 95 trained last year.

*Increase Youth Jobs:* We held an employer recruitment breakfast (April 2008) with 40+ businesses and elected officials, asking them to hire a youth who graduates from the pre-employment training in Spring 2008. This year we also offered an option where they could sponsor a youth (pay their wages) and SETA would place them in a job. We also put an ad in The Sacramento Bee thanking employers who hired youth in Summer 2007.

**Graduation and Beyond Goal: Strengthen the relationships between families and schools to increase the number of Meadowview youth who will transition successfully from elementary school to middle school to high school, resulting in more youth graduating from high school prepared for college. Focus on building relationships between schools in a feeder pattern.**

Teachers and staff at Luther Burbank High School (LBHS) completed 200 home visits in Summer 2007 with students who were falling behind, had low attendance or poor behavior. This is the first year that home visits were implemented for students transitioning in from Rosa Parks Middle School. Teachers at LBHS completed 400 home visits during Summer 2008.

A research evaluation conducted by Paul Tuss of the Sacramento County Office of Education on visits done in 2006 showed that as a result of the home visit, parents are more likely to understand high school graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, the exit exam and the resources available to support their child at school. Tuss also found that students whose family had received the home visit were more likely to have a “C” or better in the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) support class, and showed improved performance on the English/language arts section of the CAHSEE.

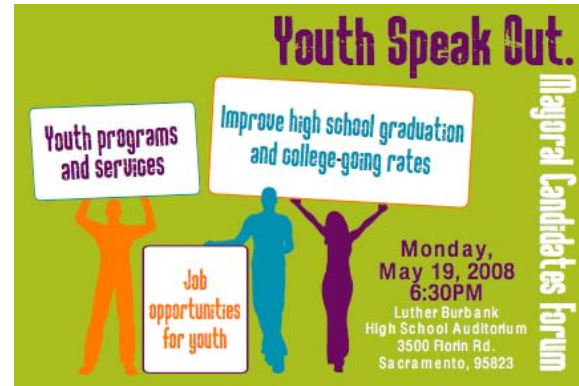


# Highlights from Year One

**Youth Leadership and Social Action Goal:** Youth staff will organize youth into committees to network, identify issues, conduct research with public officials and take action.

## Youth Speak Out: Mayoral Candidates Forum (May 2008)

Youth and adults designed and led a citywide Mayoral Candidates Forum at Luther Burbank High School with more than 1,100 people in attendance and four of the five mayoral candidates. This was the largest candidates forum in Sacramento and the only forum focused on youth issues, specifically increasing youth resources, youth jobs, high school graduation and college going rates, and affordable housing for youth aging out of foster care. Twelve middle and high school youth played a lead role in the forum, giving testimonies about how these issues affect them and their community, then asking the candidates for clear commitments on action steps. All candidates agreed that if elected mayor, he or she would increase youth jobs by 10% each year in the city of Sacramento, as well as vote to support raising new revenue



The Meadowview Partnership engages approximately 80 youth on a regular basis through six leadership bodies. These youth are making decisions and taking an active role in shaping the Meadowview Partnership, their programs and/or surrounding community by:

- Surveying their peers
- Providing feedback and suggestions for how to make their programs better
- Learning how to apply for grants to improve their programs
- Building power in Meadowview through Get-Out-the-Vote efforts, even though they are unable to vote themselves
- Designing youth-oriented events, such as the Youth Leadership Conference and gatherings for youth ministries
- Conducting outreach and seeking sponsors for the Youth Leadership Conference

**Youth Leadership Conference Goal:** Create a team of youth and adults who will design a Meadowview youth-led leadership conference in Spring 2008 for at least 100 young people.

## “Changing the View” Youth Leadership Conference (April 2008)

After eight months of planning, a team of 15 to 18 youth and adults led a two-day youth leadership conference for more than 250 middle and high school students (age 12-19) focused on Meadowview at the Sam Pannell Center. The first evening set the stage with testimonials of the challenges young people in the Meadowview community face and overcome, as well as a talent show featuring more than 30 local performers. The second day, youth participated in workshops including workforce readiness, gang involvement, art and social change, and communication. Workshop evaluations showed that students were



**Youth Enrichment Goal:** Increase the number of youth in Meadowview applying for and receiving a Youth HOPE grant.

## Youth HOPE Grant Workshop

A team of nine Meadowview youth designed a workshop to help youth apply for a Youth HOPE grant and help adults understand how to be supporting partners. Following the workshop, youth organizers put on mini-workshops at Samuel Jackman Middle

