

Sacramento ACT Meadowview Partnership

A Community Action coalition of
Sierra Health Foundation's REACH youth program



The Meadowview Partnership

The Meadowview Partnership is a grassroots, community-led endeavor. Using community organizing, we are creating leadership opportunities and making long-term, meaningful change for Meadowview youth.

We are comprised of an exciting variety of community stakeholders that actively support youth development principles. Our partnership consists of schools, congregations, community groups, neighborhood groups, after-school programming and local government.

Meadowview is an ethnically diverse community of more than 37,000 residents located in the south area of Sacramento. The community is bordered by Interstate 5, Franklin Boulevard, Florin Road and the neighborhoods south of Meadowview Road.

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 youth and adult organizing, we also 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.

Youth Action 2007-2008

Following is our first-year Youth Action Plan:

Youth Leadership and Social Action

>> Youth staff will organize 10- to 15-year-old youth into committees to network, identify issues, conduct research with public officials and take action.

Graduation and Beyond

>> We will strengthen 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.

Youth Leadership Conference

>> Youth and adults will plan and conduct the first Meadowview Youth Leadership Conference.

Youth Enrichment

>> We will increase the number and quality of youth activities by supporting youth-led ideas and projects. We will identify youth who want to create projects and connect them to resources to support their ideas.

Youth Workforce Readiness

>> We will find ways to help youth in Meadowview prepare themselves for work by connecting them with opportunities to develop and practice leadership and job skills.



A PROGRAM OF SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION

What We've Learned About Meadowview Youth

In August 2006, coalition members began conducting a community assessment, including focus groups, one-to-one listening campaigns, surveys, and research meetings with public officials.

After looking at all of the information collected, we identified these issues young people face, as well as what youth need to grow and thrive in Meadowview.

» **Young people in Meadowview want to be involved and have ideas on how to improve their community.**

» **Most young people are not involved in a youth leadership effort.**

» **A large majority of youth indicated that their parents are involved in their lives.**

» **Fewer young people have positive relationships with adults other than their parents.**

» **Young people expressed a desire for more enrichment activities, including dance, sports, arts and cooking classes.**

» **92 percent of youth expressed a desire to go to college; however, young people were unclear about what it takes to gain college entrance. Moreover, test-score data shows that very few young people are likely to have the grades and SAT scores to go to a four-year college.**

» **African-American and Latino students score considerably lower than the school average.**

» **Like many California schools, Rosa Parks Middle School and Luther Burbank High School struggle with how to meet the needs of students who have fallen behind.**

» **Youth gangs in Meadowview was a "top-of-the-mind" issue. Youth are very aware of "colors" and clothing, and fear becoming a victim of gang-related violence.**

» **The faith community plays an important supportive role for the social development of youth.**

» **Youth organizing will be most effective when it is embedded in apartment complexes and youth-serving institutions.**

We witnessed the power and potential of youth-led change and the added value of youth-to-youth organizing.

Sacramento ACT Meadowview Partnership Member Organizations

Antioch Progressive Baptist Church
Center for Fathers and Families
Florin Road Home Depot
Freeport Elementary
Genesis Church
Hmong Organizing for Change
John Bidwell Elementary
Juveniles at Risk
Luther Burbank High School
Mark Hopkins Elementary
Meadowview Development Committee
Neighborhood Services
New Covenant Christian Ministries
New Hope Community Church
Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project
Phoenix Park
Prince of Peace
Rosa Parks Middle School

Sacramento Area Congregations Together
Sacramento City Council
Sacramento City Unified School District
Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency
Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department
Sacramento Police Department
Sacrifice of Praise
Sam Pannell Meadowview Community Center
Sojourner Truth Multicultural Center
Southside Tennis Academy
St. Anne's Catholic Church
St. Anne's School
Team Success
Youth ACTing Together
Youth in Focus

To get involved with the Meadowview Partnership, call Austin Aslan at (916) 447-7959 x16 or e-mail austin.act@gmail.com

Learn more about Sierra Health Foundation and its REACH youth program at www.reachyouthprogram.org and www.sierrahealth.org



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