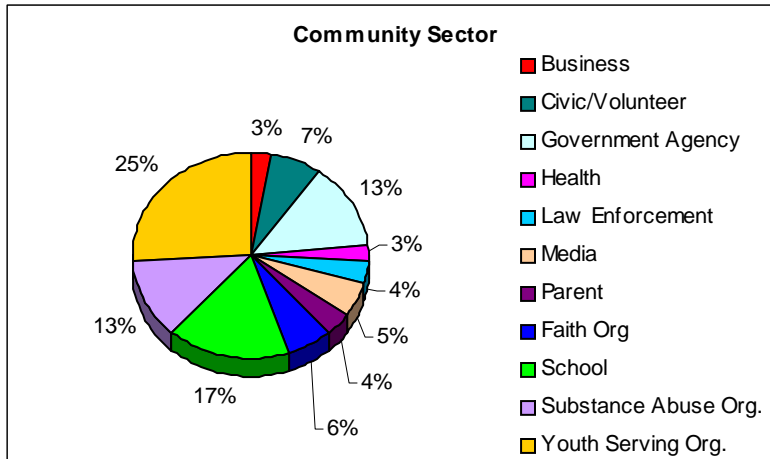
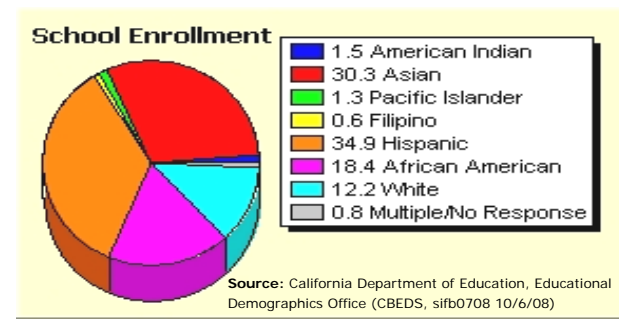
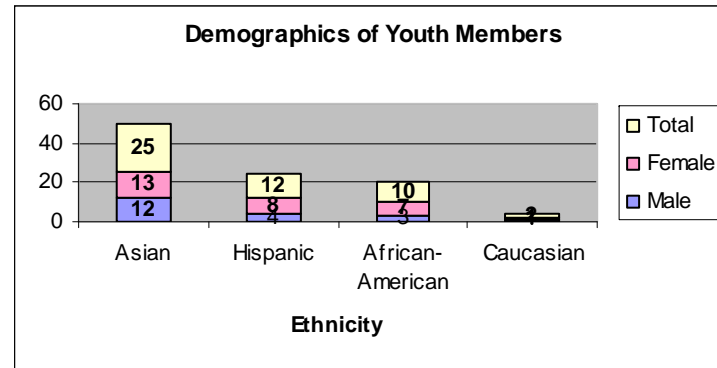


Building the Coalition

- Approximately 160 adult and youth members make up the coalition. They represent more than 70 agencies and organizations.
- On average, 20 to 30 youth members meet weekly to discuss ways to increase job and art opportunities, while also planning social and service events for their community. These meetings are led by Youth Coordinator Alona Jennings.
- The Youth Leadership Council is very diverse. The graph on the right shows the breakdown of top ethnicities. Youth involved in the council come from multiple schools including: Hiram Johnson High, Will C. Wood Middle, West Campus High, Health Professions High and other local schools.
- In comparison to the target school, Hiram Johnson High, the youth demographics are quite similar (see graph on the right). Asian and Hispanic youth together represent more than 65% of the student population.



- The graph on the left shows the sectors members represent. The coalition is mostly comprised of leaders in youth-serving agencies (25%), schools (17%) and substance-abuse organizations (13%).
- The coalition continues to grow as it becomes more involved with community events, youth-planned activities and city policy changes.
- In October 2008, the coalition was awarded the SAMHSA Drug-free Communities Grant for five years.
- The California Endowment chose the South Sacramento area for its 10-year initiative, Building Healthy Communities, beginning in 2010. The coalition and SMHA are actively involved in this initiative.

Sponsoring Organizations



www.mutualhousing.com



SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION
An Endowment for Northern California

www.sierrahealth.org



www.ondcp.gov

"The numerous opportunities the YLC has provided has allowed me to find and successfully complete an internship with Assembly-member Dave Jones. I felt honored in being invited to participate at a city council meeting, regarding a citywide proposal to raise city sales tax for gang prevention and intervention programs."

- Julian, age 16

Will C. Wood Middle School

HIRAM JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL

To learn more or to get involved, call 916.388.9522
or e-mail emily@mutualhousing.com

South Sacramento Coalition for Future Leaders



Our Vision for Youth

We strive to create a drug-free community where youth are valued and are given the opportunity to grow, be safe and realize their full potential. We envision a community where youth are able to not only create a positive vision for their future, but also to be actively engaged as leaders in their community.

Our Mission for Youth

To affect the lives of young people by creating a network of assets and resources, promote a positive image of youth, and garner community power to influence broad, sustainable youth development and substance abuse policies.



2008-2009 Annual Report

Goals and Accomplishments



SSCFL is a Community Action Coalition of
Sierra Health Foundation's REACH Youth Program

REACH
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH
FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE™
A PROGRAM OF SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Increasing Youth Safety

Peer Mediation Program

- Twenty-two students participate at Earl Warren Elementary School. During a six-month period, 54 students avoided being sent to the principal's office and conflicts were resolved. Because of the effectiveness of this program, the school site has once again voted to include it as part of its discipline policy and it's also written in the school site plan.
- The program at Joseph Bonnheim Elementary is in its first year; 16 students have been trained. During a six-month period, 18 disputes were resolved and no disciplinary action had to be taken.
- Twenty-four students have been recruited to participate at Tahoe Elementary.
- Among the 12 peer mediators at Hiram Johnson High School, the group planned and implemented a school-wide "Stop the Violence" campaign for more than 1,300 students. More than 100 students participated in conflict resolution and disputes were successfully resolved. The peer mediators made outreach presentations to more than 150 school staff and faculty members.



School & Gang Violence

- The coalition was involved with the Preventing Youth Violence Collaborative to review data on suspensions, expulsions and violence and to analyze possible causes.
- The coalition also partnered with the Hmong, Mien Laos Gang Task-force to promote more policies, practices and strategies to prevent violence.

Substance Abuse

- The coalition continues to strengthen alliances with city, county and other governmental agencies that play a role in substance abuse prevention and education.
- The coalition has partnered with Safety Center, Panacea Services and other agencies to provide classes and workshops for youth in the south area.

"Before I knew about the mediation program, I was in a lot of trouble and my anger was outrageous. After participating in peer mediation, I haven't had one fight. Without the program, I would have continued fighting because that's the only way I knew how to deal with my anger. Now I can talk to someone when I'm upset. It really helps a lot. They make you feel like family."
- 11th-grade student

Supporting Youth Opportunities

Art Opportunities

- In May 2009, the coalition hosted the 2nd Annual Art & Talent Show. Nearly 300 people attended this showcase of local youth talent. The event raised awareness of the coalition's work and recruited new youth to the Youth Leadership Council.
- In June 2009, a one-day art gallery was hosted at a former retail liquor store to promote the upcoming monthly art walk.
- Third Thursdays Art Walk began in July 2009. Live music, hands-on workshops, local artists and more are showcased every month. Publicity and interviews were done with Univision 19, KCRA 3 and The Sacramento Bee.



Dance Opportunities

- Newly hired dance choreographer Brady Sisenglath is regrouping youth for dance classes. The Hiram Johnson High School dance class topped off at 28 students and the Will C. Wood Middle School dance class attendance reached 16 students.

Media Projects

- In March 2009, the coalition helped support the California Voices Film Premiere event showcasing anti-tobacco PSAs created by youth. Participants won up to \$1,000 in gift certificate prizes and had the top submission played before feature films at a local movie theater.
- A yearlong documentary project funded by Sierra Health Foundation was completed in May 2009. Developed by youth, this 15-minute documentary focused on school reform and how poorly funded schools affect the level of education and preparation of youth in the community. The documentary is posted on YouTube and on the Sacramento Mutual Housing Association web site.



"I have learned multiple skills such as leadership, responsibility and organization. YLC has given me opportunities to continue helping out my community while having a blast! I believe it is awesome how we have an Art & Talent Show. This event surely will engage many youth in the community to participate." -Kiki, age 17

Increasing Youth Decision Making

Youth Leadership Council (YLC)

- In January 2009, the Youth Leadership Council met for a retreat to focus on a strategic plan. The purpose of this retreat was for YLC leaders to move to a higher level of functioning according to the Ladder of Youth Development. Through team-building exercises, new recruitment planning and defining core strategies, the group became more cohesive and it led to a strong year for the youth council.
- In August 2008, the youth planned and hosted a successful end-of-summer carnival at one of the Mutual Housing properties. The event was well attended with more than 70 youth and 30 adults. Free games, food and a magic show were some highlights.
- The youth raised funds to have T-shirts made and for field trips to nearby locations. Thanks to Councilmember Kevin McCarty, a generous donation was made to provide for these activities. The coalition will match funds.
- Youth have volunteered to update the YLC's Facebook, MySpace and Wiki pages.



Mentoring Opportunities

- Coalition partners from the Sacramento Mentoring Partnership, the Sacramento Unified School District and Healthy Start coordinators collaborated in assembling a resource guide for schools and organizations to implement successful mentoring programs. Technical assistance will be provided by coalition partners with funding from the coalition.

Job Development Academy

- The coalition led two weeklong job training classes for 45 youth above the age of 15. These classes were held during spring break and summer 2009. Youth learned how to prepare for employment and learned about job retention and soft skills.

Mutual Housing Leadership Institute

- In August 2009, Sacramento Mutual Housing Association and the coalition hosted a one-day conference on the campus of UC Davis for youth and adults. Topics included Grassroots Advocacy, Intro to Community Organizing, Asset-based Community Development, Leadership Development and more.

"I've been able to do a newspaper article, I was part of the Job Development Academy, I'm on the Leadership Council and the Talent Show Committee. I feel I have a role in making decisions in the coalition because the YLC has made it possible for me to speak my mind more openly so I make sure my ideas are heard."
- Alicia, age 17

"Since joining the coalition, I feel more confident. I learned what it means to be a leader and what it means to help others. At the YLC meetings, I like the fact that we discuss about topics that concern young teenagers these days."
- Nini, age 15

Supporting Policy Change

City Policies

- Youth have built relationships with city elected officials, including Mayor Kevin Johnson. Youth are becoming aware of the importance of city policies and how they can be modified.
- The coalition has partnered with specific agencies and organizations that recruit, train and support youth advocacy. Members have:
 - Collaborated with the Sacramento Youth & Alcohol Coalition to help in efforts of passing a social host city ordinance.
 - Assisted with collecting parent pledges in which parents promised not to provide youth with access to alcohol.
 - Supported Sacramento ACT in efforts to teach and organize youth about policy-changing activities.
 - Supported the Valley Hi Coalition in its efforts to make changes in the environment and physical design of the south area.
 - Advocated for resources and opportunities for youth job training/employment, art, school safety and education.
- The coalition strives to find resources and support in having the Peer Mediation Program a part of the school district's curriculum.

"Drug abuse is a communitywide problem and should be addressed by the community," said Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento. "The collaborative work being done in Sacramento serves as an example for many communities across the country."
- January 2009 article referring to the coalition

