Pasadena/Altadena Vision 20/20 Initiative

Coordinated by

Flintridge Center

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Building Community *Together*

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Pasadena-Altadena Vision 20/20 Initiative is a coalition of community-based, faith-based, philanthropic, business, civic, and educational organizations working to stop gang and community violence. The broad based, grassroots collaborative develops and implements strategic action solutions for violence prevention and intervention that focus on the highest risk, highest need and gang-impacted youth, young adults and families.

The Need

"The violence, inter-ethnic conflict, youth issues, and safety in our neighborhoods are not simply a District 1 problem, nor should they be referred to as an African American, Latino, poor or rich person's problems. These are community-wide problems that require all of our commitment to solve. I'm calling on people of faith and people of goodwill to join together to transform our community, making it safe, healthy and beneficial to all of our residents, especially our young people. The Pasadena Mayor and City Council are deeply concerned and strongly committed to addressing these issues in the days ahead." (Pasadena First District Councilmember Jacque Robinson, September 2007)

The initiative was launched by Councilmember Robinson in response to an alarming rise in violence in 2007 when homicides and gang activity spiked. The violence shocked the community and brought to the attention of the city's leaders the reality that Pasadena is home to hundreds of gang members, their affiliates, and individuals with former gang ties and/or criminal histories. In response, representatives from various sectors of the city joined forces to identify possible solutions to the gang problem. Spearheaded by Councilmember Robinson, with technical support from the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations and coordination by Flintridge Center, Vision 20/20 seeks to engage all members of the community, including youth and young adults, in creating and supporting practical solutions to prevent and reduce community, gang and other forms of violence.

Goals/Purpose

- Link public health, family health and mental health practitioners and services to high-need, gang-involved youth and gang-impacted youth, young adults and their families.
- Establish a working group composed of community-based programs, organizations and gang violence interventionists to identify gang and violence intervention/prevention best practices and techniques.
- Educate gang-impacted individuals to conduct outreach, intervention and mediation to prevent gang violence and to support City programs, as well as faith- and community-based organizations currently engaged in this work.
- Develop and implement services for young adults in employment preparation, vocational skills training and mentoring resources.
- Link high-need, gang-involved and impacted youth and families with support programs, services and activities.
- Engage in resource development and policy formation to ensure a multiyear public/private/community investment in the implementation and formal evaluation of the Vision 20/20 Initiative programs, projects and services.

Population Served

- Children, youth and families of Pasadena and Altadena.
- Former gang members, ex-offenders, long-term unemployed, and significantly under-employed adults.

Program Details

- The 15-member Organizing Team meets three times monthly for strategic planning.
- A Core Team of nearly 40 key community stakeholders meets monthly to develop plans and discuss critical issues.
- Work groups and caucuses meet to discuss issues of violence and violence prevention.
- Community convenings increase awareness of gang violence as a public health issue.

Accomplishments

- Developed the Apprenticeship Preparation Program, which prepares participants for apprenticeships with construction trade unions.
- Launched the Community Violence Intervention/Prevention Institute & Network. The Institute provides gang intervention and violence prevention education to service providers and outreach workers working with gang-impacted youth, young adults and their families.
- Advocated for acceptance of the Gap Analysis Report, which led to the designation of Flintridge as the Institutional Home for all gang and community violence prevention and intervention programs in Pasadena.
- Advocated for the further development of and funding for the Neighborhood Outreach Worker (NOW) Program, which supports the transformation of participants through life-changing workshops and employment as outreach workers who serve as positive role models for gang-impacted young adults.

- Provided a community platform to discuss and take action against gang and community violence.
- Created a network of agencies and individuals who are working collaboratively to reduce violence in our community.
- Convened the Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council, which is designed to help formerly incarcerated individuals make a successful transition back into the community.

Community Partners

Flintridge coordinates the Vision 20/20 coalition at Councilmember Robinson's request.

Organizing Team

- Amer-I-Can
- City of Pasadena
- Councilmember Jacque Robinson's Office
- Day One
- Flintridge Center
- Harambee Christian Family Center
- Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California
- L.A. County Commission on Human Relations
- NOW Program
- Pasadena Church
- PDD Consulting
- Western Justice Center
- Community Volunteers

Core Group

- Sonya Amos, City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission
- Horacio Arroyo, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
- Mikala Benford, Pasadena Church
- Brian Biery, Flintridge Center
- Myra Martin Booker, Ph.D., Dispute Resolution Mediator/Consultant
- Pixie Boyden, Women at Work
- David Campt, Western Justice Center
- Dominick Correy, Learning Works Charter School
- Lark Crable, Western Justice Center
- Prentice Deadrick, PDD Consulting
- Rosanna Del Rio, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
- Randy Ertll, El Centro de Acción Social
- Karen Evans, Five Acres
- Porfirio Frausto, Outward Bound Adventures
- Florence Haraway, Harambee Christian Family Center
- Cheryl Hubbard, Moms on the Move
- Pastor Eric Johnson, Lake Avenue Foundation
- Jade Lockhart, Eco Tribe
- Pastor Kerwin Manning, Pasadena Church

Core Group (Cont)

- Tony Massengale, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations
- Ron Matthews, Alta/Pasa Community Improvement Center
- Yvette McDowell
- Pastor Anthony McFarland, Abundant Harvest Christian Center
- Lorna Miller
- Gary L. Moody, Crown Cities Community Development Corporation
- Jaylene Moseley, Flintridge Center
- Angela Oh, Western Justice Center
- Victor Perez, Flintridge Center
- Nelson Pichardo
- Ricky Pickens, Flintridge Center
- Mikala I. Rahn, Ph.D., Learning Works Charter School
- Christa Reiff, Fuller Theological Seminary
- Tim Rhambo, Asian Youth Center
- Commander Lisa Rosales, Pasadena Police Department
- Tarik Ross, Amer-I-Can
- Angelica M. Salas, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
- Pastor Byron Smith
- Trina Smith, Teen Futures
- Robin Sohmer
- Wynne D. Thompson, NOW Program
- Yoland Trevino, Transformative Collaborations International
- Abraham Valencia, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
- Tina Williams, Field Representative for Councilmember Jacque Robinson
- Lisa Wilson, Flintridge Center
- Horace Wormely, City of Pasadena
- Christy Zamani, Day One
- Susana Zamorano, Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California

For information on how you can help,
please contact Jaylene Moseley or Councilmember Jacque Robinson.