



PRESS RELEASE

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**EOYDC's Youth Researchers present at the American Public Health Association (APHA)-140th Annual Meeting
From Data to action: Youth and adult co-researchers take their findings on the road, followed by reception at**

**the Museum of the African Diaspora
Tuesday, October 30, 2012**

430 pm-600pm

Moscone Convention Center West, 800 Howard Street San Francisco, CA

South Esplanade Ballroom 307

MOAD Reception 6pm-8pm

685 Mission Street San Francisco CA

Y U GOTTA CALL IT GHETTO? Book Release

East Oakland youth challenge stereotypes of their generation and their neighborhoods and offer their eye witness opinions in new poetry anthology

Oakland, CA– “Successful,” “smart,” “blessed,” “caring,” and “helping the community,” are some of the top responses that nearly 30 middle school, high school, and college-aged youth from East Oakland answered in response to the question “describe who or what you want to be in the future.” These youth, hailing from the East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC), took part in the *Routes to Resilience* research project, spearheaded by LeConté Dill, doctoral candidate at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. These youth live, go to school, and work in the “killer corridor” of East Oakland. Confronted by risks and stressors in their homes and communities on a daily basis, they still have a huge sense of hope for their lives.

In addition to participating in interviews, and data analysis, the young people participated in a poetry workshop series that resulted in 95-page book entitled “Y U Gotta Call It Ghetto?” Their poems center around the themes of coping with violence, seeking refuge at EOYDC, and relying on their faith. In the poetry anthology, as the title suggests, they ask the reader ‘why do you gotta call it ghetto?’ The ‘it,’ up for interpretation, can refer to East Oakland, or Black or Latino youth, often relegated to negative stereotypes.

Y U Gotta Call It Ghetto, can be purchased by contacting EOYDC directly, Marcus Book Stores, or borrowed from the Oakland Public Library.

YU Gotta Call it Ghetto website EOYDC has been serving youth and families in East Oakland since 1978. For more information call (510) 569-8088 or visit www.eoydc.org.

“The spirit of the young people of EOYDC is felt deeply on the pages of this book of poetry. *Y U Gotta Call It Ghetto?* is the testimony of the life that is theirs now, their longing for what they know it should be, and their conviction that they will not be trapped by circumstances they did not create. I'm very proud of these young people and the honesty they express on these pages—some profound and hopeful; others basic and raw, but never defeated. This book is an example of the opportunity for good that is just waiting to be cultivated in our young. And it should get the attention of us all.”

-Pam Moore, Anchor, KRON 4

I Come From
I come from God
I come from my wonderful family and friends
I come from my ancestors
I come from East Oakland
I come from poverty
I come from dirty streets

I come from violence
I come from independence
I come from false advertisement
I come from EAST OAKLAND!!

-Sha'Quea Pratt

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They assume that
every teen
from Oakland
is gang affiliated
a criminal
a dropout
But that's not the case
-Genesis Preciado

