



EOYDC FACT SHEET

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EOYDC Celebrates 30 Years of Free Programming

Center offers educational classes focusing on job training, art and fitness

EOYDC's free, comprehensive programs are coordinated to meet the clients' emotional, physical, intellectual and economic needs. Core programs include Arts, Physical Development and Project Job Opportunities for Youth (Project JOY). Five days a week, EOYDC offers unforgettable, positive, and safe experiences for the youth of Oakland. All programs and classes are designed to reinforce EOYDC's overall mission to equip Oakland youth and young adults with the skills, training and values necessary to become dynamic leaders and responsible citizens. Educational, cultural and artistic expression, and recreational programs strive to meet the holistic needs of the individual. The 30,000-square foot multidimensional facility serves 2,000 youth and youth adults annually. The college preparatory program has a 100 percent acceptance rate and a 96 percent graduation rate, and more than 300 youth are placed in jobs each year.

ARTS

Arts programming teaches and encourages youth to explore their own creativity, to embrace their unique cultures, and to work responsibly and cooperatively with other communities. Classes are taught by professional Bay Area artists who offer beginning and advanced instruction in painting, culinary arts, music, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, West African dance, steel pan drumming and photography. A total of seven artists-in-residence teach programs annually. Special workshops include murals, stone carving and African mask making. These classes equip youth and young adults with the skills, training and values necessary to become dynamic leaders and responsible citizens by offering educational, cultural and artistic expression and recreation programs that meet the holistic needs of the individual.

EOYDC performance groups have participated in community events throughout the Bay Area, including the United Nations at 50 Celebration, Festival of the Lake, the Oakland Zoo, and the California State Fair. The Center's has also performed for the Clorox Company's African American Celebration, PG&E Diversity Day, Silicon Graphics, and Warriors games. Our Home Alone Cooking Series has catered for the Alameda County Conference of Mayors, Wells Fargo Community Partnerships and various EOYDC special events throughout the year.

PROJECT JOY

As EOYDC's core initiative, Project JOY prepares youth for leadership roles in life. Created to respond to high unemployment and dropout rates in East Oakland, Project JOY offers free educational and employment programs to youth and young adults. Each year the project enhances the short- and long-term employment of more than 1,000 clients, primarily ages 14 to 24, through educational counseling, computer literacy and job placement services.

(MORE)

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(EOYDC PROGRAMS—PAGE 2)

Serving as an industry model, Project JOY's education component promotes excellence through its Pathway to College (PTC), After School Homework Center, GED preparation and Computer Literacy programs.

- PTC is a resource program that guides students through the rigors of transitioning to college, and also provides scholarship assistance, college tours, SAT testing, review of personal statements, financial aid and individual development accounts.
- The After School Homework Center and G.E.D. programs provide personal and computer-aided instruction in basic math, language arts, individualized homework assistance and computer instruction for elementary and junior high school students.
- The computer literacy program features the only Magic Johnson/HP Inventor Center in Northern California. The computer lab offers free directed and self-paced computer skills instruction in basic office procedures, word processing, data entry, typing speed improvement, internet surfing, desktop publishing and computer graphics. Classes for beginning to advanced students are offered throughout the year.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Physical Development Department sponsors a variety of recreational activities, including basketball, track and field, hiking, seasonal baseball and rowing, volleyball and self-defense/martial arts. The Center also hosts the Pee Wee Basketball and the Black College League serving youth from 5 to 16. Physical fitness is integral to the development of sound minds and bodies, self-discipline and the ability to work well with others. These life skills and others are addressed through sports programs that will touch approximately 1,200 in 2008.

The EOYDC Track Team, which serves participants from 12 to 24, has launched the careers of many state and national champion students who now participate on college teams or compete professionally. Participation standards are high and require students to maintain a 2.5 GPA. Health Awareness clinics promote the importance of daily exercise and healthy diet, while also educating participants on the important diseases that plague our communities.

EOYDC has developed fruitful partnerships with its alumni—like football great Kirk Morrison. The Center's roster of NBA Champions and league players includes Gary Payton, Brian Shaw, Leon Powe, Jason Kidd, Antonio Davis, Greg Foster, JR Reid and Drew Gooden. Partnerships include professional teams such as the Oakland Raiders, Golden State Warriors and Oakland A's. In addition, EOYDC participants can be seen performing at half time routines, flag unfurling ceremonies and national anthems.

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