



EAST OAKLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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The East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC) is a community-based nonprofit agency dedicated to developing the social and leadership capacities of youth & young adults (ages 6 – 24) so that they are prepared for employment, higher education, & leadership opportunities.

Since 1978, EOYDC has been a safe haven in Oakland's "killer corridor." EOYDC is a welcome presence for more than 2,000 at-risk young people annually in the Elmhurst district of East Oakland, a community that struggles to overcome widespread poverty, rampant crime, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and poor health outcomes.

Five days per week, EOYDC offers free, comprehensive, research-based youth development programs and services to meet the emotional, physical, intellectual, and economic needs of its participants. EOYDC's core programs include job training and leadership development (*Project JOY* – Job Opportunities for Youth), education empowerment, arts education, and physical development.

Fundamental to all of the programs and activities at EOYDC is a theory of change that emphasizes three elements of success – **character building, readiness, and access** – so that program participants may become social ambassadors of positive change in their respective communities, throughout their lives.

"The Center taught me to value my gifts and talents

and see beyond my circumstances."

– Selena Wilson
EOYDC member since 1989 and values they need to become dynamic leaders and responsible citizens.

EOYDC youth are 49% male, 51% female; and largely African-American (70%) and Latino (20%). Over 80% are age 19 and younger. Approximately 80% of EOYDC youth qualify for free lunches.

EOYDC is a community-based solution for solving social injustice and inequality, and a national model for youth development and youth-led mentoring. EOYDC nurtures youth and young adults with the skills, training

Brotherhood Across America: Youth-Led Mentoring for Developing a College-Bound Culture

A key program at EOYDC is Pathway to College (PTC). Serving an estimated 350 young people every year, PTC guides students, both re-entry and high school age, through the rigors of transitioning to college. PTC provides academic counseling, scholarship assistance, college tours, workshops and internships to introduce an array of human and social service professions and opportunities, SAT testing, personal statement reviews, and financial aid counseling. Alumni mentors are also available to work one-on-one with students to help them achieve their academic goals.

Each year, EOYDC celebrates at least 30 graduating high school seniors who effectively become part of the organization's *Brotherhood Across America* network of alumni. Imbued with a strong sense of loyalty and responsibility to contribute to their community wherever they go, these young adults provide critical role modeling and mentoring to their younger peers at EOYDC.

EOYDC's alumni mentors in *Brotherhood Across America* are undergraduate and graduate students in dozens of states, in a wide variety of fields, including business, law, social sciences, and the arts. Nearly 20% attend Historically Black Colleges, such as Morehouse and Clark Atlanta. Other EOYDC alumni are students at UC Berkeley, Harvard University, New York University, Georgetown University, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, among many other institutions.

"EOYDC taught me not to be afraid of my potential."

– Javarte Bobino
EOYDC member since 1999

Impact: 100% of young people who successfully complete EOYDC's Pathway to College program matriculate to two- and four-year colleges and universities; 96% of these students graduate from those institutions. Approximately half of these college graduates return to participate as alumni mentors in *Brotherhood Across America*. Upon graduation, many of these young people enter service-oriented careers as teachers, social workers, fire fighters, doctors, lawyers, and nonprofit professionals.