

Occupational Therapy Training Program

A Division of
Special Service for Groups

November 24, 2009

Dear Community Partner,

Thanks to the success of our Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP) a division of Special Service for Groups (SSG), is looking to employ an additional 300 youth through the winter months (December 1, 2009-March 31, 2010). The purpose of this program is to stimulate the local economy by providing *paid work experience* to youth who have difficulty obtaining employment as a result of obstacles in their lives.

Youth will receive a minimum of 120 hours of paid work experience. OTTP/SSG will pay their wages and send them to various worksites to complete their work readiness hours. *This is an exciting opportunity because many of the youth who participated in this program during the summer months were offered permanent employment.*

Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ **Must be 18-24 Out-of-School Youth** (Youth cannot be currently enrolled in high school. However, they can be a high school dropout, enrolled in post secondary i.e. college or a trade school.)
- ✓ **Must have a barrier to employment:**
 - *pregnant or parenting;
 - *offender (probation, parole, or a record of conviction or arrest);
 - *homeless, runaway, or foster child;
 - *Low self-esteem;
 - *gang involved;
 - *a substance abuser;
 - *little or no family support or direction/negative role identification;
 - * physically or mentally challenged;
 - * an emancipated minor;
 - *language or cultural barriers; or
 - *emotional problems


Promoting Possibilities

19401 South Vermont Avenue . Suite A-200 . Torrance, California 90502
Phone: (310) 323-6887 . Fax: (310) 323-1570 , web: www.ottp.org

- ✓ **Must meet income guidelines**-please see attached
- ✓ **Must live in Los Angeles County** -the funding only allows us to service Supervisorial Districts 1(east LA and contiguous cities) and 2(LA, Inglewood/Lennox, Torrance, Compton, Lynwood and contiguous cities.), **UNLESS** youth is an offender, homeless, foster youth, or receiving any public assistance. **If this is the case the youth can live anywhere in LA County**

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me at my office 310-323-6887 ext. 256. Youth can email (mpate@ottp.org) or fax (310-817-1135; 310-323-1570) their applications directly to my attention. I really encourage all youth are eligible and even those who are not sure if they meet the eligibility criteria to submit an application.

Sincerely,



Marion Pate, MPA
SYEP Coordinator
Special Service for Groups/Occupational Therapy Training Program
310-323-6887 ext. 256
mpate@ottp.org

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - LA Success Stories

Summer Youth Employment Program

Thanks to the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), OTTP was able to put 162 youth to work this summer and the door was opened for 20 youth to receive permanent employment with Kmart, Marshalls and Party City. For others it was a second chance.

"If it were not for this program, I would be in jail" said Joseph regarding the SYEP. This seemed to be the general consensus among the majority of the youth employed at Toberman Neighborhood Center. They were hired to work in various departments, such as gang prevention, maintenance, child care, and for many this was their first job. Because of their previous history as juvenile/adult offenders and gang affiliation, it is a job they would not have been given the opportunity to obtain without the ARRA.

Ricardo was first incarcerated at the age of 14 and has since been in and out of jail. Now 20 years old, he expressed that SYEP provided him his first real job and that one of the most important things he learned was communication skills. Ricardo is now motivated to get his gang related tattoos removed from his face in an effort to obtain permanent employment.

Silas said he had been receiving assistance in preparing his resume, from Mayra Martinez, Unit Supervisor for the Family Development Network at Toberman, when SYEP came along. Going to work everyday, Silas said, "gave me something to wake up to".

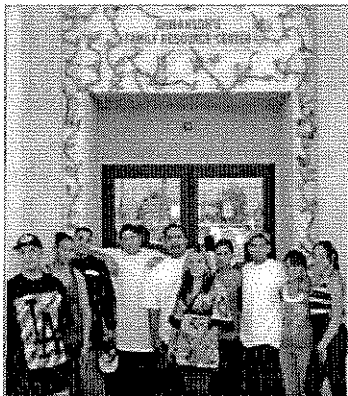
Jessica a current student at Los Angeles Harbor College was able to gain hands on experience working in Toberman's child care program. Jessica is majoring in Child Development and is a parent herself.

Many youth employed at Toberman are homeless and parenting. They expressed enthusiasm about being able to buy their children clothes and shoes, things they had to go without for so long. Some were able to pay past due bills and tickets so that they could obtain their drivers license.

Mayra Martinez the Work Site Supervisor for Toberman Neighborhood Center expressed that she was very proud to see these youth mature. She stated that they have so many barriers to employment tempting them to sell drugs to make ends meet. Mayra stated that she always explains to them that it is easy to sell drugs but, you can not put that on a resume. Now that they have participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program, they have something positive to put on their resume.

By Marion Pate, SYEP
Coordinator

SYEP participants and Site
Supervisor in front of the
Toberman Neighborhood Center



Anyone who sits with Angel will describe him as a warm person who really knows what others are feeling and makes it a point to create comfort for those he encounters. Born to Salvadorian parents who came to America as refugees during the civil war, his parents taught him that friends and family are the most valuable things in life. Along with relationships, a strong work ethic was inexorably built into Angel's character.

As Angel grew up, he tried to find ways to express the strengths taught to him, but his community lacked the resources to allow him to connect. Instead of attributing his lack of work to the slump of the economy, he internalized it as something that he was missing; Angel began to question his self-worth. Struggling to remain positive was a daily, sometimes hourly battle. He describes these periods in his life as "hitting bottom," where he struggled with personal identity and meaning in life, yet he still found strength to look for work, unfortunately without success.

The SYEP came at the perfect time for Angel. Within days of starting work, his managers identified him as a great worker, who could be relied upon. He started to get daily feedback from his supervisors about being a hard worker and as a result, Angel started to feel good inside and stated "I'm very happy that everyone says I am a hard worker, but the truth is I don't feel I am doing anything special, I'm only working hard like everyone should do".

Angel has completed the SYEP successfully and is in the process of being hired on permanently because of his hard work. The Program has helped Angel recognize his strengths and increased his confidence; which has been very positive for his personal relationships. All Angel needed was an opportunity and SYEP gave him that opportunity. Angel states "I feel very positive about my future".

By Scotty Enyart, M.S.W.



Adriana graduated from high school with honors with no idea of what her plans were after high school. She lacked the motivation to obtain employment on her own and felt that college was not an option because she was denied financial aid. When I suggested the SYEP she was skeptical at first but agreed to give it a try. Adriana was placed at the Challengers Boys and Girls Club in LA and really enjoyed working there. Almost immediately, I saw a change in her attitude and level of confidence. She got along well with co-workers, her supervisor, and the children. Adriana's supervisor had many positive things to say about her work performance and wanted to hire her permanently. Unfortunately, Adriana's age prevented her from being hired permanently at this time.

Nevertheless, Adriana did not get discouraged and is very motivated to seek employment. After completing SYEP, she applied at K-Mart, Big Lots, and AJ Wright. In addition, she will be attending community college in the fall. I have seen a powerful change in Adriana's attitude and outlook on life. I credit the SYEP for building her confidence and motivating her to obtain a job and attend college.

By Corintha Resendez, Case Manager

WIA/ARRA
Summer Youth Employment Program(SYEP)
2009 Universal Application

**Applicants must be at least age 14 and less than age 25 at the time of application*

Applicant Information					
Social Security Number			Employment Status Employed _____ Unemployed _____		
Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial	
Address		Apt #	City	Zip Code	
Home Phone	Cell Phone		Emergency Phone #1	Emergency Phone #2	
Email Address (if applicable)		Facebook or MySpace Address			
Date of Birth Mo. Day Year		Current Age	Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No		If you are not a U.S. Citizen, are you authorized to work in the U.S? Yes No
If you are a male age 18 or older, are you registered with Selective Service*? (You must be registered with Selective Service in order to work in this program). Males under 18 and females skip this question Yes No Selective Service: #			Gender Male _____ Female _____	Married Yes _____ No _____	
			Limited English: Yes _____ No _____		
Have you ever been convicted of a Felony? Yes _____ No _____			Are you on Probation? Yes _____ No _____		
Education Status					
Are you currently attending school? Yes _____ No _____		Name of School:			
If so, will you be attending Summer School? Yes _____ No _____					
If no, did you: <input type="checkbox"/> already graduate/get a GED? <input type="checkbox"/> drop-out of high school?			What is the highest grade you completed? _____		
If yes, what is your current grade? (circle one) Grade: 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 Or: Transition Program _____					
Family Information					
What is your family size? _____			Monthly Income \$ _____	Income Source(s):	
Do you or your family receive Food Stamps and/or Cash Aid (TANF, CalWorks, GR, etc)?			Yes	No	
Are you Pregnant or Parenting?			Yes	No	
Are you Homeless?			Yes	No	
Are you a Runaway?			Yes	No	
Are you currently or have been in Foster Care?			Yes	No	
To the best of my knowledge and belief, the above information is true and complete. I understand that the information on the Application for Employment is used to determine eligibility for public funds, and it will be treated with confidentiality, while being subject to verification.					
Signature _____			Date _____		
PARENTAL CONSENT (REQUIRED FOR APPLICANTS BETWEEN 14 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE)					
My son/ daughter/ ward has my permission to participate in all activities of the County of Los Angeles SYEP. I hereby authorize and request emergency medical treatment to be performed as required.					
Parents Signature (if under 18 years old) _____			Date _____		
This project is funded by Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board. Equal Opportunity Employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD/TTY					

2008-2009 Income Guidelines

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$10,400.00
2	\$16,017.00
3	\$21,991.00
4	\$27,148.00
5	\$32,036.00
6	<u>\$37,470.00</u>
each additional	\$5,434.00