









The first annual Community Mentor Summit 2018 brings together individuals who represent the mentoring movement: grassroots mentors with lived experience in the juvenile and criminal justice system, key juvenile justice leaders, government and civic leaders. This conference will highlight the long-standing work and legitimacy of community mentors with lived experience – past, present and future.

A community mentor is someone that is able to authentically connect with youth, make a true difference, and create real change in a young person's life by strengthening their attachments to education, work, family and community. Community mentors are engaging at-risk, gang-involved youth at multiple points along the alternative to incarceration (ATI) continuum. In 2017, the community mentors with the assistance of Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) convened with juvenile justice systems stakeholders, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Central Region and Public Safety Group, social services and community organizations during a Community Mentor Training Institute to define community mentors, their work and impact on the community. The evidence-based and trauma informed strategies of community mentors to improve measurable health outcomes and promote health and wellness, equity and social interaction, has garnered respect as a viable community resource. They have collaborated with juvenile justice systems stakeholders, social services and community organizations to reduce reliance on youth incarceration in San Diego.

The 1st Annual Community Mentor Summit is being convened with representatives from six local community mentor organizations: Project A.W.A.R.E., Youth Voice, Youth Empowerment, Paving Great Futures, Epiphany Women in Focus, and Community Wraparound; as well as with representatives from SAY San Diego, National Conflict Resolution Center, and HHSA Central and East Regions. Through a grant received from the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge, HHSA provided funding in support of the Community Mentor Summit 2018.

Participants will gain:

- An understanding about community mentors and their role with systems.
- An understanding of current practices in trauma informed resilience building in San Diego.
- An understanding of the value and importance for professionalization of community mentors.
- An understanding of available resources.

From Quicksand to Solid Ground



Artist: Joshua Alcala

A life impacted by conflict or trauma, reflected in the arm reaching up out of the quicksand, may only began to transform over time with a helping hand out to solid round.

Community Mentor Summit Agenda



Time	Activity
8:00-9:00 am	Registration and Networking; light refreshments provided
9:00-9:10 am	Opening Prayer and Remarks • Pastor Jesus Sandoval and Adam Braverman, US Attorney
9:10-9:35 am	 Community Mentoring in San Diego County Reginald Washington, Arthur Soriano, Chief Adolfo Gonzales, and Assistant Chief Rueben Littlejohn
9:35-10:00 am	Community Mentoring on a National Level • Keynote Speaker: Clinton Lacey, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
10:00-10:10 am	BREAK
10:15-11:30 am	 Round 1: Workshops Workshop A: Breaking Barriers: Life after Prison, Community Leadership, Room 201 Workshop B: Helping Others Identify Their True Self, Room 217 Workshop C: From Trauma to Triumph, Room 218
11:30-12:15 pm	Lunch catered by Paving Great Futures
12:20-1:35 pm	 Round 2: Workshops Workshop A: Breaking Barriers: Life after Prison, Community Leadership, Room 201 Workshop B: Helping Others Identify Their True Self, Room 217 Workshop C: From Trauma to Triumph, Room 218
1:40-2:30 pm	ACEs Science Healing Historical Trauma Dana Brown, ACEs Connection
2:30-2:40 pm	BREAK
2:45-3:30 pm	Community Mentee Panel
3:30-3:45 pm	Professionalizing Community Mentors • Lynn Sharpe-Underwood, Alliant University and Bishop Cornelius Bowser, (CAST) Community Assistance Support Team
3:45-4:15 pm	Change from Within: Transforming Juvenile Justice through Community Mentors Rev. Ruben Austria, (CCFY) Community Connections for Youth
4:15-4:30 pm	Call to Action Rev. Ruben Austria and a special performance by Dairrick Hodges

Workshop Descriptions



Choose from three timely and relevant workshops, which will provide you with insight into the mission and vision that motivates the work of community mentors to do their work each day, even when it often goes unrecognized. Their work has been shown to have long-lasting effects in the reduction of youth crimes, delinquency, arrest, incarceration and recidivism, and improve life outcomes.

- Workshop A: Breaking Barriers: Life after Prison, Community Leadership
- Workshop B: Helping Others Identify Their True Self
- Workshop C: From Trauma to Triumph

Workshop A: Breaking Barriers: Life after Prison, Community Leadership (Room 201)

In this workshop, participants will learn how former gang members changed a community as they transformed their lives, became community mentors, and are now funded to run programming. Participants will get an inside look as to how these partnerships were developed and funded; as well as the impact to youth, families, and communities when members of the community play an integral role in the healing and transformation. Specific topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to Youth Empowerment and Project A.W.A.R.E.
- County contracts: How to work with individuals with lived experience
- Building contractual capacity for community leadership for grassroots organizations
- The power of community engagement

Panel Members/Facilitators:

- Reginald Washington, CEO / Founder, Project A.W.A.R.E.
- Arthur Soriano, CEO / Founder, Youth Empowerment
- Richard Ramos, CEO / Founder, Latino Coalition For Community Leadership
- Anthony Ceja, Senior Manager, Student Support Services, San Diego County Office of Education
- Greg Matthews, Senior Vice President, CRA Pacific Western Bank

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop B: Helping Others Identify Their True Self (Room 217)

Listen and learn from two groups that have a connection to San Diego's disenfranchised community through their upbringing in the community. These groups will show you how their lived experiences give them an edge in engaging with a harsher population that many cannot reach. Specific topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to Paving Great Futures and Epiphany Women's Group
- Creative solutions: Entrepreneurship, healing circles, and advocacy
- · Value of Community Mentors

Panel Members/Facilitators:

- Armand King, CEO / Founder, Paving Great Futures
- Rashida Hameed, CEO / Founder, Epiphany Women In Focus

Workshop C: From Trauma to Triumph (Room 218)

In this workshop, participants will learn how to engage youth and families who have been impacted by the gang culture and community violence. The understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) science (impact of trauma on the brain, body, toxic stress, epigenetics, and resilience) is integral in the transformation within individuals, families, and communities. Participants will get an inside look at the pivotal role positive, trusted relationships with service providers and law enforcement strengthens the fabric of communities through building resilience and empathy. Specific topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to Youth Voice and Community Wraparound
- Gang culture and effective interventions for healing
- Creating safe places and triumphant communities
- Building bridges and healing relationships

Panel Members/Facilitators:

- Dana Brown, Executive Director, Youth Voice
- Pastor Jesus Sandoval, Community Wraparound and New Harvest Church
- Jessica Rivera, Youth Voice Leader
- Officer Laura Pickel, Juvenile Services Team Officer, Mid-City Division, San Diego Police Department
- Robert Ontiveros, Mentor Coordinator, National Conflict Resolution Center
- Jason M. Rasch, Supervising Probation Officer, Special Operations Division
- Gang Intervention and Intensive Supervision Unit
- David Nisleit, Chief of San Diego Police Department
- Jason Druxman, Division Chief of San Diego County Probation Department

Community Mentee Panel

A mentee panel will share their experience with community mentor programs and restorative justice practices.



Riana Hill; Project A.W.A.R.E.

"Being a part of Project A.W.A.R.E. has helped me to reach my full potential and grow in ways I never thought I could."



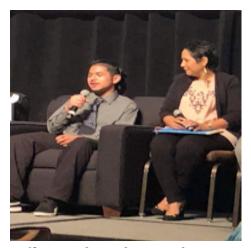
Jessica Rivera, Youth Voice

"Youth Voice is a second home to me where I've found healing and trusted adults. I can express my thoughts and feelings knowing I'll be heard."



Gregory Mendoza; Youth Empowerment

"Community mentorship helped my life, my brain belongs to me and not to an institution."



Jeffrey and Jocelyn Escobar, Community Wraparound

"My mentors listened, I felt understood and they never gave up on me." - Jeffrey Escobar

"They treated us like family and never felt judged, but accepted and loved." - Jocelyn Escobar



Antoinette Simmons; Epiphany Women In Focus

"Having a community mentor allowed me to create a special bond with women who looked like me, who overcame similar obstacles that I faced which made it feel natural to relate to them as well as be encouraged to be my best self while creating meaningful relationships."



Vincent Stalcup, Paving Great Futures

"Paving great futures has helped me transition from being a pimp to becoming a professional. They have provided me with love, support, education, knowledge, and resources that have changed me into a whole new person. Without Paving Great Futures, I would still be a lost cause."

Keynote Speaker, Clinton Lacey



Clinton Lacey is the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), which serves as the cabinet-level juvenile justice agency for all District residents. Mayor Muriel Bowser appointed Director Lacey to lead DYRS in 2015.

Throughout his tenure at DYRS, Clinton made it a point to oversee and manage the development of several notable agency-wide initiatives, which aim to tackle some of the current issues within the juvenile justice field at the national level. Most notably, Clinton spearheaded the establishment and implementation of the Credible Messenger Program, a program that serves to curb recidivism and violence through empowering key community members to engaged youth during their post-commitment period. These community members focus specifically on assisting

youth with the transition from DYRS facilities back home to their respective neighborhoods. Clinton also directed the establishment of the agency's first all-female residential housing unit at New Beginnings Youth Development Center. The state of the art unit - called "Journey" - functions with gender-specific programming, and is managed by staff that are trained in this modality. Clinton continues to expand care to various demographics.

Before joining DYRS, Clinton had more than 25 years of experience working with youth and families, 19 of which focused on the fields of juvenile and criminal justice.

Clinton joined the New York City Department of Probation as the Deputy Commissioner for Adult Operations in 2011. In this capacity, he oversaw a division that supervises approximately 24,000 clients on probation. He also led a series of innovative initiatives designed to reform key policies while building a host of new relationships with system and community partners.

In June of 2006, Clinton held a project manager position at the W. Haywood Burns Institute, working in several jurisdictions around the nation with stakeholders engaged in the Institute's process of addressing racial disparities in local juvenile justice jurisdictions. In this capacity, Clinton had the opportunity to train and collaborate with a cross section of stakeholders, including judges, probation officials, prosecutors, public defenders, educators, advocates, community organizers and court involved youth and families themselves. Clinton also served as the director of the Youth Justice Program at Vera Institute of Justice, where he oversaw a technical assistance project focused on the reform of New York State's juvenile justice policies. At Vera, he led an initiative to develop and improve collaborative relationships between community-based youth advocates and system based juvenile justice officials from various jurisdictions around the nation.

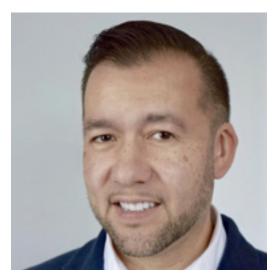
From 1992 to 2004, Clinton operated as the Associate Executive Director of Friends of Island Academy, developing and managing services for 16 to 24-year-olds involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems of New York City.

Clinton is an experienced trainer, facilitator and keynote speaker on such issues as disproportionate minority contact (DMC), racial and ethnic disparity, transitional discharge planning, comprehensive reentry services, gang intervention strategies and overall youth and human development. He conducted training workshops and delivered lectures around the nation, as well as in Brazil and Barbados. Most recently, Clinton spoke at the Carnegie Hall Create Justice: A National Discussion on Arts and Justice Forums in New York and Los

Keynote Speaker, Clinton Lacey

Angeles, as well as the Youth First Plenary Session in Richmond, VA. Clinton uses a collective approach as he partners with other youth advocacy agencies both inside and outside of the beltway. Organizations such as Community Connections for Youth in New York, the Annie E. Casey Foundation - Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council all developed collaborative relationships with DYRS under Clinton's leadership.

Clinton holds a B.A. in Latin American and Caribbean History from Herbert H. Lehman College (City University of New York), and is a graduate of the Institute for Not-for-Profit Management at Columbia University. He is married and the father of two sons and a daughter.



Rev. Rubén S. Austria is the Founder & Executive Director of Community Connections for Youth (CCFY), a Bronx-based non-profit organization dedicated to empowering grassroots faith and neighborhood organizations to develop effective community-driven alternative to incarceration programs for youth. CCFY's work focuses on building community capacity for juvenile justice reform by training neighborhood organizations in effective practice with court-involved youth, and facilitating system-community partnerships that reduce reliance on incarceration.

In 2007, after working for 9 years developing alternatives to incarceration for youth at a grassroots faith-based organization in the South Bronx, Rev. Austria was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship by the Open Society Foundations. As a Soros Fellow,

he advocated for the closure of youth prisons in New York and the reinvestment of the funding into community-based alternatives. While he saw multiple juvenile prisons closed, he was disturbed by the lack of genuine community reinvestment and the absence of meaningful community engagement in the juvenile justice reform process. In 2009, he incorporated Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) as a vehicle to pursue the vision of eliminating youth prisons and reinvesting resources into building community capacity building for juvenile justice reform.

In 2010, CCFY was awarded a Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) Formula Grant under the category "Breakthrough Research-Based Strategies" to implement a game-changing intervention to address youth crime and delinquency. Rev. Austria led a team that developed South Bronx Community Connections (SBCC), a positive youth justice intervention built entirely on the strengths of grassroots faith and neighborhood organizations. The initiative, implemented under independent evaluation from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, produced statistically significant reductions in recidivism, but more importantly demonstrated the efficacy of building the capacity of the community to engage youth in the justice system. Now recognized as a model for positive youth justice and community engagement, the SBCC project has inspired multiple replications around the country. The SBCC model has given birth to numerous other strengths-based interventions that rely on local community members to engage youth and families, especially those who have been directly impacted by the justice system.

Rev. Austria continues to be a vigorous advocate for youth of color in the juvenile justice system. He sits on the national Advisory Council of the Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY), and served on the Steering Committee of the New York City Juvenile Justice Coalition. He is a founding member of the New York City Task Force on Racial Disparity and served on New York City's Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) working group. Rev. Austria has received numerous awards for his work with youth, including the Mentoring Award from the National Mentoring Partnership in 2002, and the Esther House Prison Ministries Award from Rev. Alfonso Wyatt in 2004. He was invited to the White House in 2005 in honor of his work with young people and awarded the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Child Advocacy Award in 2012. He was presented with the Courageous Leadership Award from James Bell of the W. Haywood Burns Institute in 2013, and the Youth Justice Award from Rev. Harold Dean Trulear of Healing Communities in 2014.

Rev. Austria earned both his B.S. in Human Development in 1996, and his M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies in 2002, from Cornell University. He completed the Institute for Non Profit Management at Columbia University

Business School's Executive Education program. He also completed training from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services and Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC to become a Certified Mentoring Program Supervisor. In 2004, he was selected as a Research Fellow by the Robert Bowne Foundation to conduct qualitative research on the youth development and juvenile justice. His article: "Towards a movement: uniting direct service providers and community organizers for juvenile justice reform" was published in the Spring 2006 edition of the journal Afterschool Matters. He is a regular Op-Ed contributor to the newspaper Youth Today.

A lifelong New Yorker, Rev. Austria was born to a Filipino father and Anglo mother in Manhattan, where he was raised. He now resides in the South Bronx with his wife, Ivelyse, and their son Jaaziah. Rev. Austria was ordained as a minister in 2010 by Rev. Michael Carrión at the Promised Land Evangelical Covenant Church, and currently serves under Rev. José Humphreys at Metro Hope Fellowship in East Harlem. In his spare time he enjoys playing Latin Jazz guitar and bass with his siblings in a family orchestra.



Lynn Sharpe-Underwood is the former Executive Director of the Commission on Gang Prevention and intervention for the City of San Diego and currently is Principal Lecturer in the Criminal Justice Department at Alliant International University. While with the Commission, she focused on facilitating strategic collaborations to impact gang violence within the City. Mrs. Sharpe-Underwood worked to implement or facilitate Commission and Community initiatives such as the Safe Passage Program, collaborative curfew sweeps, and the San Diego Compassion Project, which supported families of victims of gang violence. It is while at the Commission that she facilitated creating the Community Mentors Course. Dr. Dawn Griffin and other Alliant International University staff welcomed this focused community course and the involvement of community facilitators. Mrs. Sharpe-Underwood is a long time

resident of San Diego and has spent much of her career helping in a variety of roles: Director of Door of Hope, Program Director at Episcopal Community Services, Marketing director for the San Diego Job Corps, and Community Affairs Director for Mayor Maureen O'Conner.



Bishop Cornelius Bowser is a Gang Interventionist, mentor, drug prevention specialist, peacemaker, and violence preventionist, and Pastor of Charity Apostolic Church. He is a former West Coast Crip-who now leads the volunteer-based Community Assistance Support Team (CAST). Bishop Bowser found religion in 1984, and now runs the Charity Apostolic Church in San Diego. As a member of the City's Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission, Bishop Bowser was instrumental in moving community initiatives forward to more directly impact gang violence. He is well respected nationally and speaks to groups all across the country. It would be his perceptive involvement with the Commission that would inspire and help create with a collaborative community group to design the Community Mentors course now offered at Alliant International University.



Adolfo Gonzales was appointed as the Chief Probation Officer of the San Diego County Probation Department in March 2016. Chief Gonzales leads the Probation Department with over 1100 Sworn Officers and Professional staff combined. Chief Gonzales's law enforcement career began in 1978 as a San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Reserve Officer. He then became the Chief of National City Police Department and the Chief Investigator for the District Attorney's Office. Dr. Gonzales earned his Doctorate degree from the University of San Diego (USD), his Master's degree from SDSU and his BA from National University. Dr. Gonzales is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and an FBI Executive Fellow at Headquarters in 1996.



Assistant Chief Probation Officer Rueben Littlejohn started in San Diego County Probation Department on December 2016. He came to Probation from the San Diego Unified School District Police Department, where he served as the Chief of Police for nearly 5 years. Assistant Chief Littlejohn possesses a diverse background as a 22-year law enforcement veteran; he holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the Trident University International, where he graduated with highest honors. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and possesses an Executive POST Certificate. Prior to joining School Police, in 2001, Chief Littlejohn worked for the San Diego Sheriff's Department and the La Mesa Police Department.



Adam L. Braverman joined the United States Attorney's Office as an AUSA in 2008. From 2010 to 2017, Mr. Braverman worked in the Criminal Enterprise Section, where he prosecuted large-scale drug trafficking cartels. During his tenure, Mr. Braverman led one of the Department of Justice's most successful investigations and prosecutions of the Sinaloa Cartel. From 2014 until his appointment, he was a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Section, supervising AUSAs prosecuting drug trafficking and money laundering organizations, as well as local gangs. Mr. Braverman was appointed U.S. Attorney in November 2017.

Community Mentors and Workshop Facilitators



Armand King is the co-founder of Paving Great Futures, a local non-profit with a focus on economic justice and cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit. Fueled by his experience in the streets, Mr. King serves as a shepherd to guide others out of the prison pipeline he knows all too well. He is rewriting the past and helping others pave a greater future by drawing on his own personal experience with the criminal justice system to guide others to a more positive path. In addition to his work with Paving Great Futures, he also serves as a Credible Messenger and mentor to youth and young adults on probation, an active member of San Diego's Citizens Advisory Board on Police and Community Relations, as well as committees dealing with human sex trafficking and victim advocacy issues and conducts community outreach for at-risk individuals.



Arthur Soriano, was raised in City Heights, San Diego. Growing up he fell into the pitfalls of gangs and went on a personal destructive path that led him to prison. It is Mr. Soriano's passion for his community that brought him back to engage youth and families in a positive way. The key to his success has been strengthening his family first; with Community Therapy playing a pivotal role in his personal healing. Mr. Soriano is the CEO and founder of Youth Empowerment, a local non-profit that is leading a grassroots effort to engage at-risk youth and adult gang-members by providing a positive environment and support in their journey to end destructive pathways. Mr. Soriano continually mentors and provides life coaching for juveniles, families, and adults to help bring about a lifestyle of transformation.



Dana Brown is the Executive Director, Youth Voice, Organizational Liaison with ACEs Connection, and ACEs Science Statewide Facilitator with Learn4Life. A social entrepreneur, Dana founded numerous character development and youth leadership programs at schools throughout San Diego County. Grounded in traumainformed and resilience building, Ms. Brown is an advocate and champion for community and individual healing. She also serves as a Commissioner on the City of San Diego's Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention, chair of the Youth Committee, co-chair of the San Diego Trauma-Informed Guide Team, as well as a member of the Advisory Council of University of San Diego's Character Development Center and leadership team of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative.

Community Mentors and Workshop Facilitators



In 2003, Jesus Sandoval became the pastor of New Harvest church. A former gang member himself, he began mentoring other gang members who witnessed his personal transformation and wanted it for themselves. As a community leader he continually encourages positive change and advocates for reunification for reformed gang members and their families. In 2010, Pastor Sandoval became a Gang Mentoring Trainer at Fred Finch Youth Center, and learned the Wraparound Model and implementation. He used this knowledge to launch and lead a Grassroots Community Wraparound program in San Diego. In collaboration with the Gang Suppression Unit of San Diego, they provide community wraparound services to youth on probation and their families. This model has become so successful it has expanded to Escondido, CA. He is currently developing additional programming to continue his support of healing and transformation for people's whose lives have been impacted by the juvenile justice system.



Reginald Washington is the founder of Project A.W.A.R.E. with over a decade of experience working with youth in San Diego County. As a young man, he found himself involved with gangs with no awareness of alternative ways to cope with his anger. He founded Project A.W.A.R.E. to teach young people the emotional literacy skills he lacked as a youth. Mr. Washington is a certified trainer in Restorative Practices and a certified Community Mentor. He has been trained by recognized agencies such as National Institute of Corrections, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, and the National Conflict Resolution Center. Mr. Washington is also a certified gang expert.



Rashida Hameed, a lifelong resident of Southeast San Diego, is the founder of Epiphany Women In Focus. Ms. Hameed's purpose is to continue to learn, grow, and teach others so they can reach their full potential. She does this through facilitating restorative healing circles with women; recognizing a key to strengthen families is a healed woman and mother. Her lived experience makes her relatable to the women she serves. Ms. Hameed is a graduate of the San Diego Community Mentor Collaborative Training Program at Alliant International University as well as the RISE Urban Leadership academy at the University of San Diego. She is certified in Restorative practice, Trauma Informed Care, Mental Health First Aid, Domestic Violence Awareness and Financial literacy. In addition to her work with Epiphany, she serves on several community boards and actively advocates for women and children in the community.

Community Mentors Summit 2018 Planning Team

This event and the release of Community Mentor report "Change from Within: Transforming Juvenile Justice through Community Mentors," has been a labor of love for Community Mentors with the assistance of Community Connections for Youth (CCFY), juvenile justice system stakeholders, HHSA Central Region and Public Safety Group, social services and community organizations in San Diego. Each were instrumental in demonstrating their commitment and value of this process in bringing attention to the viability of the work Community Mentors in engaging and empowering youth to make positive connections to education, work, family, and the community. The call to action by CCFY is instrumental is assuring that this work continues with greater reach and impact.

Thank you to the following people and organizations who helped make the 2018 Community Mentor Summit possible:

- Armand King, Paving Great Futures
- Arthur Soriano, Youth Empowerment
- Dana Brown, Youth Voice
- Jesus Sandoval, Community Wraparound
- Reginald Washington, Project A.W.A.R.E.
- Rashida Hameed, Epiphany Women In Focus
- Robert Ontiveros, National Conflict Resolution Center
- Jessica Rathbun, SAY San Diego
- Joshlyn Turner, Project A.W.A.R.E. and Youth Empowerment
- KellyAnne Rodriguez, County of San Diego HHSA, East and North Central Regions
- Shlyn Guarian, County of San Diego, HHSA Central Region

Special Thanks and Recognition to Sponsors and Contributors

There are so many great organizations that are doing the work and have been in support of the Community Mentor movement in San Diego. We would like to honor those organizations. The Planning Committee would also like to give special recognition and thanks to Paving Great Futures for catering the event; Joshua Alcala for designing the Summit's logo; Urban Beats for DJing the event; Dairrick Hodges for his live performance; Bayview Baptist Church for being gracious hosts; and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Central and East Regions for sponsoring the event through a grant received from the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge.





