

YOUTH CONNECTIONS



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PARTNERSHIP

AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK





Program Design

EDUCATION

- High School Diploma through Credit Recovery
- GED Preparation
- Truancy Prevention with Santa Rosa City Schools

WORK READINESS

- Occupational Training w/NCCER Certification
- Work Readiness Certification
- Career E-Portfolios

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Service Learning
- Leadership Positions in Community Engagement
- Community Outreach

Program Components



- **Education:** in partnership with John Muir Charter School (JMCS), offers High School Diploma completion through direct instruction, credit recovery, tutoring, and study-skills training
- **Occupational Training:** in partnership with Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), offers off-site Occupational Training including nationally recognized NCCER certification
- **Truancy Prevention:** in partnership with Santa Rosa City Schools, a specialist offers truancy prevention support to middle and high school students
- **Leadership Development:** numerous opportunities within the program, such as our Leadership Committee that creates Program Policies & Procedures, assists in hiring staff, and participates in community outreach
- **Work Readiness Certification:** in partnership with SCOE, Youth Connections staff is trained in delivering the Work Readiness Certification

Program Components



- **Case Management**: proactive philosophy in supporting youth in overcoming life barriers and maintaining a strong referral system
- **Community Engagement**: ongoing community-based service learning projects that are linked to classroom instruction
- **Workforce Preparation Activities**: support youth attain job shadows, internships, networking and workforce opportunities
- **Post-Secondary Education Exploration**: staff from various post-secondary institutions speak to our youth about enrollment, financial aid, counseling, and host campus visits
- **Mentoring**: community members are matched to mentor our youth to serve as an additional source of support
- **Post-Program Follow-up**: program completers are tracked to continue support in employment and post-secondary fields

On-site Workshops



- **Career Exploration**: on-site monthly workshops creating e-portfolios through Kuder Navigator and off-site trips to various employers
- **Health Services & Prevention**: on-site monthly sex education & overall preventative workshops
- **Healthy Behaviors**: on-site monthly workshops on nutrition, physical fitness, and leading a healthy lifestyle
- **Financial Literacy**: on-site semi-annual workshops in money management and financial education
- **Parenting Development Classes**: on-site parenting workshops for our youth that are parenting their own children
- **Substance Abuse Support**: on-site monthly group sessions and confidential individual meetings

Co-located Agencies



- California Parenting Institute
- Drug Abuse Alternatives Center
- Northern California Center for Well-Being
- Santa Rosa Community Health Center
- Santa Rosa Junior College
- Social Advocates for Youth
- Sonoma County Office of Education

Program Highlights



- Opened our doors on August 27th, 2012 at the South Park Youth Center
- Enrollment of 25 youth out of the targeted 25, averaging 19.62 Monthly Attendance since January 2013
- Successful transition from YouthBuild Santa Rosa to Youth Connections, offering MORE programmatic services per youth
- Aligns with the Cradle to Career Initiative
- Since opening, students average 1.3 credits per week with 1.0 being the program standard
- Developing a 20-workshop Mexican-American Art History Project in collaboration with a Sonoma State University Lecturer, which ends with students delivering curriculum to local elementary and middle schools

Program Highlights



- In collaboration with the Imaginists, students will work in and around their upcoming performance, *How a Mountain Was Made*, written by Greg Sarris.
- A scholarship fund was created for Youth Connections Graduates called Oscar's Scholars, in honor of our former Executive Director, Oscar Chavez
- A student was hired to maintain the South Park Community Garden that also delivers workshops to Community Action's After School Program students in grades K-8th
- Our John Muir Teacher received Level 4 Triple P Accreditation and delivers parenting workshops alongside our California Parenting Institute Co-located Staff

Desired Program Outcomes



- Youth are prepared for post-secondary educational opportunities, including advanced training or occupational skills training
- Youth are prepared for employment, including entering the workforce and continuing their career development
- Youth continue their leadership and self-advocacy development by maintaining strong ties to our community.
- Out-of-School youth learn the value of academic and occupational learning and achieve gains in functioning levels.
- Disadvantaged young adults in Sonoma County complete post-secondary occupational training, overcome barriers to social and economic stability and secure FT living wage employment

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