



EAST  
PALO  
ALTO

## ONE EAST PALO ALTO (OEPA) NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

*...working to help East Palo Alto become one community where residents are celebrated for their diversity and are engaged, informed and empowered to attain and maintain a good quality of life.*



OEPA staff and community youth pause for a "photo op" at the 2007 East Palo Alto Health Expo & Cultural Fest featuring the 17th Annual Children's Day, held on September 27, 2007 at Costaño Elementary School

OEPA raised over \$150,000 in support of Summer 2008 Sponsored Employment Program operations, including a lead sponsor grant from the City of East Palo Alto, which enabled SEP to provide summer jobs to nearly 100 EPA youth and young adults.




**One East Palo Alto (OEPA)  
Neighborhood Improvement  
Initiative**

One East Palo Alto is a youth-focused, community-based intermediary whose mission is to develop resident leaders, broker resources and services, build the capacity of individuals and organizations, and advocate for change, leading to the improved social, physical, spiritual, educational and economic well-being of East Palo Alto, CA.

**In 2008, OEPA achieved numerous accomplishments resulting from its overall community organizing and convening work. Below are some notable examples.**

- Convened the East Palo Alto Crime Reduction Task Force's (EPACRTF) quarterly meetings in partnership with the Office of Rose Jacobs Gibson, San Mateo County Supervisor, 4<sup>th</sup> District
- Administered Community Interact!, an East Palo Alto Digital Village signature project, which provided subsidized high speed Internet connectivity for over 50 East of Bayshore nonprofits & faith organizations
- Convened the East Palo Alto Mental Health Advisory Group (EPAMHAG) as contract work for and in collaboration with San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (SMCBHRS)
- Coordinated planning and implementation of EPAMHAG's highly successful 2<sup>nd</sup> annual family awareness night, "Healthy Minds: Healthy Choices: Healthy Community – Physical, Mental, Spiritual," held on November 20, 2008



Sponsored Employment Program participants are given opportunities to engage in many community activities, including convenings like OEPA's March 2007 quarterly membership meeting.



- Provided fiscal sponsorship and coordination of the East Palo Alto Partnership for Mental Health Outreach, a collaboration with El Concilio of San Mateo County, Free At Last and For Youth By Youth as implementing/direct service partners, as SMCBHRs contract work

- Secured a new SMCBHRs contract to develop and operate The Barbara A. Mouton Multicultural Wellness Center in East Palo Alto as a drop-in, self-help center for individuals dealing with mental illness

- Convened and coordinated the East Palo Alto Alcohol Tobacco and other Drugs Steering Committee & Comprehensive Community-wide Prevention Planning Process as contract work for SMCBHRs' Alcohol and Other Drugs division

- Held OEPA's 1st 2008 Quarterly Membership Meeting (4/1/08), "Alcohol and Other Drugs in Our Community: Impact on You and Your Family," which attracted over 100 participants

- Held OEPA's 2nd 2008 Quarterly Membership Meeting (6/24/08), "Do Immigrant Students Have the Right to Go to College", which attracted over 100 participants

- Held community convening for San Mateo County's Human Services Agency on August 7, 2008, "Wanted: Input On What Should Be Done To Help East Palo Alto's Homeless/Unhoused Population", which attracted over 100 local nonprofit and public sector leaders, homeless/unhoused clients and residents at large

- Planned and implemented the highly successful February 19, 2008 "Embracing East Palo Alto Youth: Fundraising Luncheon underwritten by the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley at East Palo Alto and co-sponsored by the Black Economic Council, which attracted over 200 attendees

- Provided critical support to grassroots efforts of the East Palo Alto African American Leadership Summit and Coalition for Change to plan and implement the "March on Palo Alto: A Rally to End Racial Profiling," held on November 9, 2008

**OEPA achieved additional accomplishments through work conducted as part of its core programmatic initiatives (PI).**

**Highlights of OEPA's programmatic accomplishments are listed below by PI area.**

### **PI/1 – Improve Educational Outcomes**

- Managed the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB)@One After School Program at Cesar Chavez Academy, 2007-2008 school year, which served over 300 students and their families

- Implemented the May 21st WEB@One After School Program Spring Festival at Cesar Chavez Academy

### **PI/2 – Take the Sponsored Employment Project to Scale**

- Led the East Palo Alto Crime Reduction Task Force's Prevention and Alternatives Committee, which oversaw year long planning and implementation of the Sponsored Employment Program (SEP) in partnership with JobTrain and El Concilio of San Mateo County as implementing partners, and served as the vehicle through which OEPA spearheaded ongoing efforts to take SEP to scale

- Raised over \$150,000 in support of SEP's summer 2008 operations, including a lead sponsor grant from the City of East Palo Alto (\$51K), as well as other major grants from San Mateo County Human Services Agency (\$30K), the East Palo Alto Fund (\$30K), Sequoia Union High School District (\$25K) and OEPA's February 19th "Embracing East Palo Alto Youth" Fundraising Luncheon (\$20K)

- Recruited Sequoia Union High School District as a new and the largest SEP Employer-Sponsor (host of 20 SEP summer jobs)

### **PI/3 – Build Youth Resilience**

- Planned and implemented the May 10, 2008 "Rising Above Violence Everyday (R.A.V.E.)" Youth and Young Adult Summit in partnership with the EPA Police Department's Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative and several local organizations

- Served as fiscal sponsor of the East Palo Alto Youth & Young Adults Serving Agencies Consortium and convened monthly meetings of the Consortium and/or its Steering Committee

- Launched the East Palo Alto Youth and Young Adults Service Agency Consortium's "Continuum of Care Network" initiative

## 2008 OEPA Board of Directors

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### 2008 OEPA Staff/Personal de OEPA 2008

Faye McNair-Knox, Ph.D., Executive Director

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Jacqueline Greely, Special Projects Consultant

Nadine Watson, Project Coordinator, Community Interact!

Khabral Muhammad, Youth Summit Consultant

During the 2007-2008 school year, OEPA managed the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB)@One After School Program at Cesar Chavez Academy, which provide quality services to over 300 students and their families in partnership with five agencies (City of East Palo Alto & For Youth By Youth Band Program; Mura;, Music and Arts Project; New Perspectives East Palo Alto; Pacific Islander Community Center & Youth Community Service).



Web@One After School Program students take a special field trip to Menlo-Atherton High School, February 2008.



As a youth-focused intermediary and community organizing agency, OEPA performs many different roles, including resident advocate, broker of resources and services, organizational and individual capacity builder, developer of resident leadership, and more ...



An impressive mix of EPA residents and stakeholders participate in OEPA's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual family awareness night, "Healthy Minds: Healthy Choices: Healthy Community – Physical, Mental, Spiritual", held November 20, 2008 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in EPA.