

Human Dignity Program

Youth and Gang Violence Prevention, Diversity Education, Hate Crime Education and Response, Inter-Group Conflict Resolution, Community Harmony, Peace and Nonviolence



Resident Volunteer Hate Crime Responders Training

On September 9, 2009, at the **South Division Police Substation**, a celebration was held to honor thirteen dedicated community volunteers who recently completed seventeen hours of training by the **California Conference for Equality (CCEJ) and Justice** to assist victims of hate crime and bias incidents in the City of Long Beach. The effort is part of the City's **Human Dignity Program**, founded in 1999 to ensure that all residents in the City of Long Beach are treated with courtesy and respect, regardless of their racial background, their nation of origin, the religion they practice, their sexual orientation, gender, or disability status. Volunteers learned such valuable skills as: empathic listening, resource referral, crisis response, and community mediation. California law defines a hate crime as those crimes in which the facts indicate that bias against the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability or gender is a substantial motivating factor in the commission of an offense.



According to **Rene Castro, Vice-President** and lead trainer for programs with **CCEJ**, "Unfortunately in these tough economic times, incidents of intolerance, bias and even hate crimes tend to increase." This team is there to demonstrate to all the residents of Long Beach that they are valued and deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect regardless of their identity. Graduates include: **Cyndi Soto, Patricia Lee, Maria Boecker, Sandy Horowitz, Anita Romero, Autrilla Scott, Flora Easter, Geoff Maddox, Robert Navarro, Leticia Espinoza-Vopyan, Tonja Muhammad, Olenka Krupa, and Leonard Madkins. Congratulations to all.**

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Washington Neighborhood Parents In Parenting Series

The City of Long Beach **Department of Health and Human Services, Weed and Seed Program** has partnered up with the **Long Beach Police Department, Neighborhood Services Bureau (LBGRIP)** and **Help-line Youth Counseling, Inc.** to offer **FREE Parenting Workshops** in English and Spanish. The parenting workshop is a 10-week long series offered to parents in **Central Long Beach**. Free childcare and dinner is provided.

Topics discussed during the English series are: Parenting For Hard to Deal With Teens, The Foundation of Love and Affection, Recognizing Drug Use and Gang Violence. Spanish topics are: Strong Families Build Stronger Communities, How To Improve the Relationships at Home, and Improving the Health, Security and Building a Better Environment at Home.

The first series in English ended October 19, 2009 with a total of eight parents completing the series and receiving a certificate of completion. The Spanish series ended September 24, 2009 with a total of sixteen parents completing the series and receiving a certificate of completion as well. The second series for both English and Spanish are from October to December 2009 is already filled. The third series in English and Spanish will begin January 2010.

Space is limited, for more information please contact the **Weed and Seed Community Resource** line at **(562) 570-4400**.

The parents in the Spanish class have participated in several community events like the **First Latino Parade, Dia de Los Muertos** at **MOLAA** and similar event at **14th Street Park** on November 2, 2009. These residents have expressed their desire for improving their family relationships as well as improving their community.

