

End of summer 2021

Here is to a fresh
start. A story of
resilience.



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A story of hard work and
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25th Annual John C.
Herklotz - SHORTSTOP
Golf Classic

BREWFEST at THE MET
in Costa Mesa

Project Youth OCBF

KEEPING AT-RISK YOUTH IN SCHOOL, HEALTHY AND DRUG-FREE THROUGH EDUCATION, COUNSELING, MENTORING, AND FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

ELEVATE

EDUCATE

EMPOWER

END OF SUMMER

HIGHER EDUCATION MENTORING PROGRAM (HEM)

Meet Jose

As a 15 year old young man, Jose (*name changed for confidentiality*) struggled with family relationships, his academic grades were constantly fluctuating, social isolation, and mild depression.

Jose is the oldest of four and lived with his mother who struggled financially, was overwhelmed with family needs, and had an absent husband. As Jose's mother tried to make ends meet, he was in charge of the younger siblings. He had good relationships at school but started to drift apart when he witnessed domestic violence multiple times and the constant stress of the threat of being displaced from their home due to late rent payments and the intermittent pop-up of his dad, an addicted parent. Embarrassed by his situation he became quiet and would not participate in school activities or gatherings, he would sometimes have outbursts of anger especially towards his mother and his irritability made friends keep their distance from him.

Once a Junior in high school, a teacher who had met him before, noticed his lack of interest in academics and his brash behavior, mentioned, "Jose was losing interest for his future as if nothing mattered...he stopped dreaming, stopped being a kid...I was afraid he would be another at-risk youth...." Jose was constantly in detention and his teacher talked to him and suggested he meet a mentor to get his grades up again and plan his high school graduation.

That is how Jose established a relationship with our mentor at the HEM Program. This new connection in his life soon became a safe place to share his struggles and fears. PY OCBF's building was a safe place for him to associate with others, find guidance and counseling and work on the areas he was

challenged with at school and in his personal life.

After only a few months, Jose started to plan his future. Once a senior, his mentor, and program coordinators provided answers to any concerns and walked him through the college application process. His grades and social life improved tremendously, he was ready to graduate and the involvement of his mother helped him to have a supportive home. During his selection of colleges, he remembered always admiring military life and was

vocal about how much he would love to be part of it. At 17, Jose graduated from High School with strong grades and he was very excited about his future. He was accepted into a prestigious Military Academy and is pursuing a degree in engineering and a career in the US Airforce! As he continues to connect with us, he reports that his wildest dreams fell short compared to his life experience today.

An average of 120
scholarships are
given to our youth
every year.
THANK YOU!

This is what you have made possible. Your support to the HEM program helps provide mentors, counseling, and multi-year scholarships to assist with the needs that are beyond academic budgets; books, weather appropriate clothing, cleaning supplies, dorm needs, bus transportation, etc. all that is needed in their new life-changing journey.

Like Jose, there are many hard-working, bright students faced with economic and social-emotional challenges. Together we are eliminating challenges that might keep them away from focusing on a healthy future.



Join us today as we fill the gap that school closures caused in their educational journey and their lives.



Project SELF -

Summer Employment in Law Firms

Every summer Law Firms empower young qualifying high school juniors to intern at a law firm for 8 weeks while exposing them to a professional work setting. Since 1995 our interns have learned a variety of tasks while at their firms, from learning how to file cases, to admin tasks, and other law-related tasks. This paid internship provides interns with a productive and experienced summer while networking and making connections with their employers. For many interns, this is their first job and a great introduction into being successful in a professional setting.



ELEVATE EDUCATE EMPOWER

The entire social sector continues to learn that even the most rigorous planning can't insulate us from the need to be flexible and adapt to the changing world around us. With over 50 years of service, we have walked with many like Jose, bright students that need the support of a village to change their trajectory of life. The demand for our programs is the constant reminder of why we exist as an organization and how important your gifts are to impact the lives of at-risk youth.

Our campaign sits at the heart of our identity and vision, "to empower at-risk youth to make positive choices, building the foundation for a lifetime of opportunity and success."

With all the changes experienced in 2020, we have become more aware of how school closures and online learning have widened the education gap and increased anxiety and isolation. We have also learned that when the road gets rough, the PY OCBF family paves new ways. Together we ensure our youth and their families will graduate from high school, will complete their applications to college, will learn about their vocational aptitudes, their basic needs such as food will be covered, and they will have a safe space where someone is independently guiding their steps with the support you provide.

Be a part of this everlasting impactful campaign. Please contact Marisol Parand at mparand@pyocbf.org or call 714.480-1925 ext 104.



Jane Mills Martin

Jane Mills Martin, Project Youth OCBF Executive Director 1987-2004, passed on April 21, 2021.



John B. Hurlbut

Long time Board Member & Attorney at Rutan & Tucker, LLP. He passed on June 15, 2021.

They believed deeply in our mission and in the power of education.

Their legacy, love, service and commitment to PY OCBF will forever live with us.

Rest in peace Jane and John. Know you were loved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Project Youth OCBF
25th Annual *John C. Herklotz* SHORTSTOP Golf Classic
Strawberry Farms Golf Club - Irvine
Friday, September 24th

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 | 5:30PM TO 8:30PM
THE MET | 535 ANTON BLVD. - COSTA MESA
PROCEEDS BENEFIT PROJECT YOUTH OCBF
9th Annual Associate Board
BREW FEST AT THE MET
Friday, October 8, 2021

THE OC marathon
Orange County Marathon
Sat. Nov. 6th - 5k Marathon
Sun. Nov. 7th - 1/2 Marathon
Newport Beach
Newport Beach, CA

NEEDS:

- Youth mentors - commitment of 9 months.
- Gift cards. A great way to help us reward our students, celebrate their graduations, give them a birthday treat, or let them choose their own gifts.
- Add Project Youth OCBF to your AmazonSmile account. Every time you make a purchase on your AmazonSmile, a percentage is donated to Orange County Bar Foundation.

iCAN!
INDEPENDENCIA, COMPETENCIA Y
APTITUDES, ¡AHORA!

Project Youth OCBF
<https://smile.amazon.com/>



Learn about our new program, iCAN! in our next issue.