

CELEBRATING

50  
YEARS



 Project Youth OC

# Commit To Youth



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# Commit to Youth



<https://projectyouthocbf.org/support-us/comprehensive-campaign/>

Barriers.

That's what many youth see when they look ahead. Barriers to progress and new possibilities. What young people often don't see is a way forward, a way to grow, a way to find personal success and a fulfilling life.

But we are changing this story and creating a new path ahead, by making a commitment:

We commit to finding insightful solutions that make a true impact.

We commit to being the spark that fuels inspiration and ambition.

We commit to overcoming and overachieving.

We commit to big, audacious dreams whose ripple effects empower youth, families, and entire communities.

We commit to developing real, honest opportunities that last a lifetime.

We commit to youth.



 Project  
Youth OC

## Roots in Santa Ana, services beyond.

Orange County has become iconic for its wealth and upscale beach communities. Yet, at its heart is the city of Santa Ana – an area challenged by high poverty, crime and gang activity. It's here that Project Youth OC has made its home.

Each year, Project Youth OC serves thousands of at-risk Orange County youth, ages 12-22, and their families.

Built upon a legacy deep within the local legal community, Project Youth OC was established as the philanthropic arm of the Orange County Bar Association. Due to the success and growth of our work supporting at-risk youth, Project Youth OC became an independent non-profit organization in 1981. Services have expanded beyond Santa Ana to other Orange County communities with youth in need. Our goal has been constant: to connect with at-risk youth and provide long-term solutions to the obstacles they face, all across Orange County.



**Elevate**



**Educate**



**Empower**

# Our Formula for Success

In all that we do, each pursuit is governed by three factors. As we commit to better solutions and improving the lives of those we serve, we ask, “does this elevate, educate and empower?”

Elevation reflects the increased trajectory of the lives we serve, but also the ever-increasing standard of excellence we set for our organization.

Education is embodied in the real-world, practical, insightful solutions we provide youth and their families. We eliminate barriers that might impede their ability to succeed academically and professionally.

Empowerment is how we help youth and their families make positive choices that will serve as the foundation for a lifetime of opportunity and success.

It is one vision, grown from over 50 years of experience, that will serve our community for generations to come.

# How We Serve

**We commit to being  
the spark that fuels  
inspiration and ambition.**

Our holistic approach to solving youth academic, health and behavioral challenges has proven to successfully work. It's how we make a real impact. We address ALL aspects of life: educational, psychological, developmental, and financial.



From my 35 plus years of service as a lawyer, judge and arbitrator, I have seen firsthand the challenges that face the youth in the heart of Orange County, and also the real difference that Project Youth OC makes in their lives."

**(Ret.) Honorable Judith Ryan,  
Past President, Campaign Co-Chair**

When youth use alcohol and drugs, they are much more likely to engage in delinquent behavior. Once youth have come in contact with the juvenile justice system, they have a significantly greater chance of being incarcerated as adults. In Orange County, 69% of juvenile probationers go on to break the law

again. Experts from sociologists to economists agree that poverty, crime, health disparities and low educational attainment are intimately connected. Project Youth OC aggressively confronts these issues. In doing so, we not only strengthen local youth and their families, but the fabric of our community.

## **We tackle juvenile delinquency, substance use, teen pregnancy, HIV/STIs, and dropping out of school.**

At Project Youth OC, we recognize that there are often multiple challenges facing our youth. This is why our approach is multi-faceted. Skilled case managers work one-on-one with the youth we serve to identify challenges they face and assist in removing obstacles, from basic needs to socio-emotional barriers. In the process, we establish trusting relationships, facilitate connections, create new opportunities, and develop a path to success.





**We commit  
to developing  
real, honest  
opportunities that  
last a lifetime.**



**We couple the power of  
belief with opportunity.**



I just needed someone to tell me that I could make it. That's what SHORTSTOP did...it gave me confidence."

## **We give youth a second chance.**

Mateo called to inquire about internship openings in our SHORTSTOP program. Seven months earlier, he'd gone through the program after being arrested for vandalism. He explained to our staff why an internship would mean so much to him. "I know that if I hadn't got caught, I would still be kickin' it with the wrong group. Some of my closest friends are now in the gang that was recruiting us."

Since completing SHORTSTOP, Mateo graduated from high school, enrolled in college and is working towards a career in criminal justice.

## **We commit to finding insightful solutions that make a true impact.**

**We develop programs to meet current and future challenges and that evolve to match the needs of our youth.**

At Project Youth OC, our work centers on using education and empowerment to elevate the behavior, goals and potential of the youth we serve. We are fortunate as a non-profit to have a strong 50-year history and a bright future, which is made possible through volunteer board members, donors and supporters, many of whom have stayed with us for decades. At the core of our organization is our service model: comprehensive programs tailored specifically for at-risk youth that are culturally, linguistically and age appropriate for our target population.

# Education and Professional Development Programs

## Higher Education Mentoring Program

The Higher Education Mentoring Program offers at-risk youth the academic, social and financial support needed to finish high school and graduate from college. This six-year program offers eighteen months of intensive services during high school and continued support throughout college. High school juniors and seniors receive one-on-one mentoring, group sessions focused on financial literacy, workshops for students and parents, summer internship and scholarship opportunities, college campus tours, and career events. College students receive assistance with financial aid, resume and interview skills, and career development support.

## ICAN! Program

**NEW**

ICAN! assists at-risk, transition-age youth (ages 17-22) to identify their vocational interests and complete career training at a designated trade school, technical institute, or community college vocational program. Intensive case management services are provided to support youth in overcoming barriers and reaching their goal of financial independence.

## Project SELF

Project SELF helps high school seniors set educational and career goals and gain access to professional work environments through paid internships at law firms and other businesses for eight weeks during the summer.

# Health Programs

## Madres Unidas

Madres Unidas is a culturally relevant program that provides mothers with communication techniques that prepare them to talk with their children and partners to address alcohol and drug use, as well early sexual activity, STI's and HIV infection. Mothers are empowered to lead conversations in their home to ensure safe and open discussions on sexual behaviors.

## Youth Making Proud Choices

Youth Making Proud Choices offers culturally relevant programming that focuses on preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Sessions are engaging, nonjudgmental, medically-accurate, and tailored to the unique needs of youth.



# Diversion Programs

## SHORTSTOP

SHORTSTOP is one of the oldest and most successful juvenile diversion programs in Orange County. For over 40 years, it has set youth offenders back on the right path by giving them the chance to learn from their mistakes and move forward without serving jail time or having a criminal

record. SHORTSTOP reaches far beyond scared straight programs. The program begins by giving youth a realistic view of the criminal justice system. With that as the backdrop, the focus shifts towards helping youth set goals, explore their future, rebuild family communication, and develop effective peer-refusal skills.

## STOP SHORT of Addiction

Based on our successful SHORTSTOP model, STOP SHORT of Addiction provides an alternative to detention and state-certified substance abuse treatment for youth drug users in Orange County. This program can be the first step in a life-changing turnaround for its participants.



**Our campaign  
commitment  
is to secure  
investments  
totaling more  
than **\$5 million.****

This will give us the ability to: enhance and grow our programs; expand our scholarship funds; and provide a safe place for those we serve to receive our services.

Through our campaign's success, we will be in a stronger position to empower youth to make positive choices, building the foundation for a lifetime of opportunity and success. It is not a new course, but an intensified focus on our mission at an unprecedented level. It is a vision that emerges from 50 years of experience and one vision that will serve our community for generations to come.

# Campaign Targets



## Program Support

Program support funds are the lifeblood of our organization. On top of current fundraising, we seek to raise additional philanthropic support to expand our programs and their reach while achieving even greater efficacy. Specifically:

1. Expand our clinical department to provide additional emotional and behavioral support services.
2. Build upon our newly implemented vocational assistance program to reach more transition age youth to ensure they have an education and active place in our local workforce.
3. Sustain our youth and family health programs in schools and the community.



## Scholarship Endowment

We prepare at-risk youth to enter and successfully complete college, yet these students are often the least able to afford tuition and living expenses while attending college. Our goal is to create a meaningful endowed scholarship fund to keep our students from going deeper into debt as they pursue their dream of higher education.



## Our Building

By investing in a permanent home in Santa Ana, we solidify our roots in serving at-risk youth and their families and provide a safe place for them to receive our life-changing services. All of our educational, health and diversion programs and classes take place at Project Youth OC. The impact of a stable and secure environment on our youth cannot be overstated.



Will you  
**Commit to Youth?**

Our campaign is the single biggest fundraising initiative in our history and it sits at the heart of our identity and vision. Your partnership with Project Youth OC will help bridge inequities and give at-risk youth access to all the resources needed to open doors for future success.

Visit the Project Youth OC website donate page (<https://projectyouthocbf.org/give/>) or contact Marisol Parand ([mparand@pyocbf.org](mailto:mparand@pyocbf.org) or 714-480-1925 ext. 104)

## Donor Giving Levels

Champion of Empowerment: \$1,000,000+

Guardian of Success: \$500,000+

Advocate of Healthy Lives: \$200,000+

Provider of Opportunities: \$100,000+

Beacon of Strength: \$50,000+

Source of Positivity: \$30,000+

Supporter of Change: \$20,000+

Keeper of Hope: \$10,000+

Mentor of Progress: \$5,000+

Ambassador of Positive Choices: \$500+



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