



Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Albert Balagso

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 05-26-05

Approved

Date

SUBJECT: IMPACT ON SCHOOLS ASSOCIATED WITH MULTI-SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM AND KIDS AT HOPE PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the All Children Achieve (ACA) Committee on the impact associated with Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) multi-service delivery system, and an exciting new program entitled “Kids at Hope” at Solari Community Center, which we hope to duplicate at other Community Centers throughout the City.

BACKGROUND

For the past two years, the Department of PRNS has implemented its multi-service delivery system or “hub” model. This approach recognizes the long-standing interconnectivity of community resources such as schools, Santa Clara County, non-profit community based-organizations and the City of San José in the delivery of a wide array of parks, recreation and neighborhood services.

A key stakeholder in this strategy is our schools. PRNS recognizes that we cannot provide services independent of our school partners, especially during these times of diminishing resources. The Department’s “hub” strategy has facilitated successful coordination with local schools. Current School/City partnerships have resulted in:

- Serving over 29,000 unduplicated clients (children) this past year through the San José After School program
- Implementation of the Safe School Campus Initiative which is coordinated with 19 School Districts
- Construction of several City/School Joint Use facilities
- Coordination of Youth Sports Activities offered in coordination with local schools

Kids at Hope

This report will highlight one of our most recent City/School partnerships. In June 2005, PRNS in coordination with the Franklin McKinley School District and the Severtrees Neighborhood Association received a one-year \$25,000 in-kind services grant from Kids at Hope, Inc. Kids at Hope (KAH) is a national initiative designed to change the paradigm from youth and children “at risk” to kids at “hope” by demonstrating that all children can succeed, No Exceptions! Kids at Hope is not a stand-alone system, rather it is a belief system intended to complement existing efforts by creating a culture where all children are capable of success.

Through more than a decade of research, KAH has emerged as a well-defined and effective youth development initiative designed to bring out the talents and potential in all school-aged children. Kids at Hope is a belief system that is reinforced and enhanced by programs. These programs include training sessions and material for teachers and others who interact frequently with youth, and a report card for teachers to use that focuses on attitude, kindness, values and efforts.

The Kids at Hope community initiative is a strategy that rallies agencies serving the same children around a common set of principles and practices in an effort to maximize all resources. Hope Square is being piloted in San José, CA; Houston, TX; Pittsburg, KS; Herndon, VA; and Springfield, IL. Joining the first five Hope Square pilots will be Albion, MI. Two other communities will also be selected this year to participate. In total, 15 communities from across the country are eligible to participate in a five-year funding cycle, thanks to the support of the National Recreation Foundation.

ANALYSIS

The KAH Program is being piloted in San José in partnership with the City’s Solari Community Center, Los Arboles Elementary School (Franklin McKinley School District), the Severtrees Neighborhood Association, the Tobacco Prevention and Education Project, and the Santa Clara County Health Hospital Services. The KAH Program is consistent with the developmental assets approach advocated by Project Cornerstone and used by the City. The one-year, \$25,000 in-kind services grant provides for three KAH-sponsored trainings throughout the year, KAH brochures, booklets, and KAH imprinted lanyards and other give-away supplies for the service partners, teachers and children/youth who attend schools and programs/activities within the Solari Community Center service area. Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff is pursuing additional years of in-kind grants. Kids at Hope is encouraged by the local support shown for the program, which is a key factor for continued in-kind grants.

The in-kind grant funds contributed to the following accomplishments:

- October 20, 2005: KAH Belief System Training provided to over 21 service partners at Solari Community Center by Rick Miller, President and Chief Treasure Hunter, of Kids at Hope.

- January 26, 2006: KAH Elements of Success and Four Aces training provided by Mr. Miller to all Los Arboles Elementary school teachers, Library staff, community partners, recreation staff, and members of the San José Police Department. Kids at Hope require Four Aces which are the backbone of the Kids at Hope Belief System.
- April 20 and 21, 2006: Mr. Miller provided Four Aces Training to 15 partners and staff at the Solari Community Center. Mr. Miller discussed the pillars of success: Home and Family; Community and Service; Education and Contributions; and Hobbies and Recreation. Attendees had an opportunity to role play and exchange ideas on how to work with children/youth using the Elements of Success.
- April 30-May 5, 2006: Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff members, Adrienne Braddock, Recreation Specialist, and Luz Amaton, Youth Outreach Worker I, attended the five-day KAH National Youth Development Masters Training Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. Staff was certified as Masters in KAH, and was taught the concepts of success for children and youth using the KAH program techniques.
- Monthly meetings are being held with community center staff, library and school staff to discuss programs and activities; and improve relationships between the three facilities and staff. As a result of these monthly meetings, an area protocol was developed for working together on community/park concerns and issues, and maintaining a successful and meaningful working relationship.

It is PRNS staff's hope that the successes achieved in the Solari service area, can be expanded to other service areas in the City. PRNS staff hopes to follow the lead of other agencies who've adopted the national KAH youth initiative, a comprehensive, city-wide program that mobilizes teachers, police officers, coaches, parents and indeed, the entire community to identify, celebrate and strengthen each child's unique gifts. By partnering with area universities, elementary schools, non-profit organizations, businesses, churches and after-school programs, KAH strives to reach every child in a city, empowering each one to succeed.

NEXT STEPS

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff will:

- Conduct a summer 2006 Recreation Leader Training in Council District 7 to include KAH programs and activities to be provided by staff that attended the KAH Masters training.
- Expand the KAH program to include youth who attend the Tracy Wilson Youth Center, the Fair Youth Center, and the Alma Youth programs.
- Develop KAH-flavored programs and activities with the Seventrees Branch Library, the Los Arboles Elementary School, the Seventrees Neighborhood Association, STAND, and Safe School Campus Initiative and related partners for summer 2006 and 2006-2007 school years. The programs and activities will include school events, reading activities, seasonal activities, Gang Awareness Training, and community events for children/youth and their families.

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- Expand the program to include the Severtrees Elementary School, principal and staff.
- Continue to work with Kids at Hope, Inc. and explore opportunities to expand this project to other Community Centers.
- Encourage children, parents and local service providers to adopt the KAH pledge: “I am a Kid at Hope, I am talented, smart and capable of success. I have dreams for the future and will climb to reach those goals and dreams everyday.”

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and Neighborhood Services