



NORTHWEST ECHO PROGRAM

Primary Contact:

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Northwest Empowering Communities, Helping Others (NW ECHO) is a program to strengthen community- and faith-based organizations serving at-risk youth in Northwest Pasadena/Altadena.

We provide customized capacity-building services such as training, consulting, workshops, and other resources to a cohort of 23 grassroots nonprofit agencies. The goal of the program is to enhance the capacity of these organizations to respond to the challenges that youth face growing up in our society. In addition, participating agencies explore ways in which they can work together to maximize their impact on the community.

The NW ECHO Program is funded in large part by a three-year, \$750,000 Communities Empowering Youth grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This funding is part of a national initiative designed to reduce gang activity, youth violence, and child abuse/neglect, as well as to promote community partnerships.

THE NEED

The federal government has acknowledged that many communities in the U.S. are plagued by gang members and their violent activities. Pasadena/Altadena is no exception, hosting more than a dozen distinct gangs and hundreds of gang members. With over 20,000 vulnerable, school-aged youth in the Pasadena/Altadena community, it is imperative that children are connected to caring adults and enriching activities, which support their academic and personal development and steer them away from gang involvement.

GOALS/PURPOSE

- To develop a network of service providers that support one another in a community-wide effort to reduce violence and gang activity.
- To make sure that every child has a safe place to go after school.
- To build the capacity of program partners in the areas of program delivery, leadership skills, organizational development, and community engagement.
- To raise awareness about violence and gang issues in our area, especially among community leaders, decision-makers, and elected officials.

POPULATION SERVED

- Twenty-three nonprofit organizations of all sizes from within the communities of Northwest Pasadena and Altadena that serve children, youth, and their families.
- These organizations serve a combined 4,000 at-risk young people and their families every year.
- Many of our partner organizations provide enrichment programs on campus at local schools, while others provide parenting classes, health care, counseling, child care, violence intervention, and related activities out in the community.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Training activities are tailored to meet the specific needs of individual partner organizations and include workshops, one-on-one consulting, webinars, guest speakers, brown-bag lunch sessions, and peer learning opportunities.
- This past year, more than 70 skill-building activities were offered, representing over 200 hours of training.
- Partners collaborated with Art Center College of Design on a project to create outreach materials that would steer teens towards positive activities. The resulting media strategies include a text messaging system to inform teens about youth-oriented events in the community, giveaway trading cards featuring unconventional career choices, and other youth-accessible communications tools.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Thousands of children and youth are now involved in positive, enriching after-school programs every day provided by NW ECHO Program partners.
- Partners have improved their capacity by purchasing technology upgrades (computers, printers, copiers, etc.) with grant funds.
- Organizations have implemented new fund development plans, increased board effectiveness, and expanded or enhanced their services.
- Partners are collaborating on activities and programs that respond to the needs of teens in the community, such as the city's annual Youth Month during August and teen job fairs.

For information on how you can help,
please visit www.Flintridge.org or contact the Program Director.

NORTHWEST ECHO PARTNERS

Alkebu-lan Cultural Center
California Living Histories
Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters
Crown Cities Community Development Corporation
Day One
D'Veal Corporation
El Centro de Acción Social
F.A.S.T. Project
Hope NOW
Lake Avenue Community Foundation
Mentoring & Partnership for Youth Development
Metropolitan Community Action Services Corporation
Mustangs on the Move
NATHA
Neighbors Empowering Youth
Outward Bound Adventures
Partnership for Children, Youth & Families
Pasadena Church - Future in Focus
Pasadena Youth Center
Pasadena Youth Christian Center
Police Activities League
Teen Futures / Baby Let's Wait
YesCorp