

# Community Needs Assessment Project - 2007

## Voices from the Community – Youth

The goal is a good quality of life for those who live and work in the Northwest Pasadena and Altadena community. In what ways does this currently exist?

### Safe Neighborhoods/ Connectedness

Parks  
Quiet, nice neighborhood  
Friends close by  
Know neighbors  
Peaceful city  
Safe streets  
Fewer gangs  
Having friends  
Spending time with family; family close by

### Activities/Opportunities for Youth

Sports programs offered  
Opportunities to provide community service  
After-school programs for dance, theater, etc.  
Boys & Girls Club  
Swimming, soccer, walking at the Rose Bowl, tennis, basketball  
Jobs for youth  
Finding new experiences  
Rose Bowl and Rose Parade

### Services/Programs

Day care programs for small children  
Caring adults who help youth  
Mental health services (e.g., D'Veal)

In what ways does the community fall short of this goal?

### Drugs/Violence

Gangs; gang bangers  
Dangerous to go outside; can't just roam around outside; parents afraid kids will get hurt  
Graffiti; tagging  
Perverts on the street  
Violence around schools  
Afraid of getting jumped or beat-up

Drug dealers  
Small kids exposed to violence  
Kids looking to make easy money by selling drugs  
Kids that smoke and drink  
Youth that hang out after curfew

Lack of Access

Crowded busses (don't always stop)  
Hard to find "better" jobs  
Housing unaffordable  
Homelessness  
People don't take advantage of resources

Schools

Schools run down and teachers are bad  
Athletic equipment is "run down"

Other

People not following through on what they say they will do

**On a scale from 1-10 (1 = little; > 10 = great), how much does financial stress impact households in the Northwest Pasadena community?**

Parents get stressed out about finances and take it out on their kids  
Not enough money for kids, e.g. for field trips  
Neighborhoods don't look nice  
People moving out of Pasadena because it's too expensive  
A lot of temptations to spend/waste money  
A lot of concern and worry about wasting money and how best to spend it  
"Everything costs so much"  
Housing and health insurance are expensive; some families can't afford health care if they get sick  
People spend money on stuff they want (e.g., new technology), but then can't afford to pay their bills  
People are one paycheck away from homelessness  
People use money orders to pay for things, indicating that they haven't been able to establish a checking account

**How are youth perceived in the Northwest Pasadena Community? How would you complete the following sentences:**

**Youth in this community are interested in ...**

Negative/Potentially Negative

Money  
Using alcohol and drugs  
Gangs  
Not being stuck at home with parents  
Sex  
Parties

Clothes and how they are dressed  
Gambling  
Television  
Internet  
Computers

Positive

Sports  
Music  
Activities that offer variety  
School work  
College  
Getting higher grades; doing well in school  
Having future goals  
Taking on responsibility  
Advocating for other youth  
Maintaining employment  
Acting as role models

**Youth behaviors I see in this community on a regular basis are ...**

Negative/Potentially Negative

Fighting, bullying  
Gossiping  
Making fun of people and what they wear  
Talking back to teachers  
Racism  
Drug use  
Gang involvement  
Ignorance  
Lack of respect for teachers  
Sneaking out  
Stealing  
Disrespect  
Immaturity

Positive

Friendliness  
Volunteering  
Active in sports  
Active in arts/theater  
Respect  
Role modeling  
Maturity  
Going to tutoring  
Working to improve grades; being good students  
Helping each other with class work  
Not disrupting class; listening to teachers

**Youth in this community need ...**

Opportunities to Develop

Job opportunities

More opportunities, such as summer programs and opportunities to go places  
Opportunities to get their opinions heard  
Opportunity to be a "big brother"

#### Physical Activity Opportunities

Physical activity  
Sports activities for 18-24 year olds

#### Support from Family/Others

To be treated respectfully  
Family, more involved parents  
Better values from parents  
Therapy/counseling  
Adult role models, people that care  
Friendship, love  
Guidance to get on the right track  
Attention

#### Services/Resources

Housing for the homeless  
Better health care for the uninsured

#### Other

To study more  
Car

### **What types of things prevent youth involvement in gangs?**

#### Parents, Friends, Caring Relationships

Parental attention  
Good circle of friends

#### Access to Sports, Arts, and Other Activities

Sports

#### Self-Esteem/Sense of Belonging

High self-esteem  
Not bowing to peer pressure  
Staying away from bad influences, not getting tattoos

#### Role Models/Mentors

Role models in schools

#### Law Enforcement

Police

#### Other

Move to different neighborhood  
Losing a loved one to gang violence

### **What would it take for a young person to end his/her gang involvement?**

### Negative Consequences

Getting shot  
Threats to self or family  
Seeing consequences of what could happen  
A traumatic experience

### Positive Support

Adult role model  
Spending time with family (more family involvement)  
Someone willing to help (friend, teacher, relative)  
Being around the right group of friends  
Relationship with God  
Mentoring programs

### Change Behavior

Change who you associate with  
Moving away  
Becoming a parent  
Finding alternative activities

### Other

It's hard to get out when family members pull you in  
Get jumped  
Random checks done in the schools; they check the wrong people and it makes people uncomfortable  
Detention (loses its sting after a while)  
In-school suspension  
Required, structured programs  
After-school programs that are no different from regular day school  
Summer school (cuts into vacation time)

## **What else is needed?**

More parenting classes  
Mental health services for children  
Counseling for younger children  
Support groups for married couples  
Drug prevention classes for children  
More parental involvement  
Conflict resolution classes  
Planned parenthood classes for young couples  
Sessions on how to talk to children about difficult things such as sex  
Classes to teach parents how to help children when they need help  
More volunteer programs to get children involved

## **In providing support and resources to the community, in your opinion, what does NOT work, or is NOT helpful?**

- Random checks done in the schools; they check the wrong people and it makes people uncomfortable
- Detention (loses its sting after a while)

- In-school suspension
- Required, structured programs
- After-school programs that are no different from regular day school
- Summer school (cuts into vacation time)