



pivotal point youth services, inc.

Right to the Point

Winter 2009 Edition

The Quarterly Newsletter of Pivotal Point Youth Services Inc.

Pivotal Point Board of Directors

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Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream

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LaTronda Lumpkins, MSW
Executive Director, PPYS



Marianna Hightower is using her creativity and love of cooking to someday open her own restaurant.



Tony Montoya is working his way into owning his own business

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

~Henry David Thoreau

A Message from the Executive Director

Greetings and Happy 2009!!

We are blessed to be a part of the amazing changes that our forefathers and mothers worked so hard for. Coming off the heels of the election and inauguration of President Obama, we are poised and ready for the changes that have already begun to occur. The first of which is our move to a location at 675 Hegenberger Rd. Along with these changes comes a revitalized plan for service delivery that improves on our ability to be

client-centered and culturally competent in order to meet the needs of the youth in our community. To this end we have a number of new programs available to our youth including a Social Empowerment Workshop for young men and young women, work experience opportunities through our partnership with Alameda County Social Services and Aramark for the "Fresh Start Café," and our entrepreneurship classes that assist young

people with turning their ideas into profitable ventures. We are looking forward to the necessary work that comes from this kind of activity because we know that it not only makes the youth more engaged, it makes us more engaged!



*LaTronda Lumpkins
Founder / Executive Director*

Spotlight on Success: Marianna Hightower / Tony Montoya

This quarter we shine our spotlight on two highly motivated Pivotal Point youth working in the culinary/food service industry, Marianna Hightower (19 years old) and Tony Montoya (19 years old).

Marianna is an exceptional young mother who has chosen the field of culinary arts as her career path. She is currently attending the Cordon Bleu Culinary Academy of San Francisco. She chose the culinary field because she really likes to cook and wanted to advance her skills, but she chose the school because she wanted to be in a program that would develop her

skills in becoming a chef. Her favorite part about the program is that she gets to taste new foods, learn techniques for international cooking and experiment with a variety of flavors and textures. She says "I get to make the kinds of things that you see on TV!" We are so proud of Marianna and know that one day we'll be eating at one of her restaurants.

Tony Montoya is a former foster youth and came to Pivotal Point two years ago as a young man with determination and drive. Although he confessed that he lacked the skills needed to gain employment, he tapped into the employment

services with great success. Working with Pivotal Point staff, Tony learned the skills needed to obtain a job. He credits Pivotal Point to teaching him how to properly write a resume, cover letter and is proud to say that he has put his skills to work and has an internship with Pivotal Point at the Fresh Start Café. Now that Tony is a student Laney College where he is studying Business Administration, he is excited about participating in the Pivotal Point Entrepreneurship Training where he wants to explore the idea of opening his own catering business. Our hats are off to these two motivated youth who live to taste the



Partnerships @ Work: Oakland Private Industry Council

This quarter it is our pleasure to highlight our partnership with the Oakland Private Industry Council (PIC). Through the Oakland Citywide Youth Jobs Initiative (OCYJI), youth ages 16-24 participate in job readiness training and have access to peer advocates in a culturally competent and safe environment. OCYJI is a peer to peer program that engages young people with other young people to see them positively reflected in a

program designed to serve them. Youth are recruited and participate in an Orientation, Job Readiness classes, Post Class Assessment, and other workshops and events. As a partner with the Oakland PIC, Pivotal Point provides the Job Readiness classes. Monday classes focus on Career Planning, Tuesday classes focus on Resume Writing & Financial Literacy, Wednesday classes focus on Job Search

using the computer lab, and Thursday classes focus on Mock Interviews. Pivotal Point additionally provides one-on-one job coaching. Once a youth completes all components of the program, they earn a \$50.00 stipend. We are so proud to serve our Oakland youth and be in partnership with the Oakland PIC who cares about their success and empowerment as much as we do.

Pivotal Point Moves Locations: Multiple Services -- One Roof

Beginning January 2009, Pivotal Point Youth Services moved its offices to the 675 Hegenberger Road location along with Alameda County Social Services – Children & Family Services - Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP), Beyond Emancipation, Foster Youth Alliance and Fred Finch. The move makes

it more convenient for foster youth to tap into the array of services that these organizations provide. From Life Skills workshops and employment services, to housing, education and counseling services, the new location is a one-stop shop for current and former foster youth seeking to increase their skills and tap into

services that will prepare them for independence and self sufficiency. The new location features a computer lab, multiple conference and training rooms. Additionally, located just upstairs in the building is the Oakland Employment Development Department and Oakland EAST One-Stop Career Center.



The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will.

~Vince Lombardi

Alameda County Youth Achieve Success with the BETA Project

Pivotal Point is a partner of B.E.T.A. (Bayfair Employment Training Academy). B.E.T.A. is a job training program targeting youth ages 14-24 in the unincorporated areas of San Leandro, Hayward, and Castro Valley. Funded through ACAP (Associated Community Action Program), B.E.T.A. was lead by Pivotal Point's

trained case managers and employment specialists: Carla "Ye" Kennedy and Umar Goodspeed. This dynamic duo walked the youth through a step-by-step process of how to be professional, how to resolve workplace conflicts, how to apply for and retain a job. Upon completion of the six week course, the

participants were given a certificate that signified their understanding of the intense training curriculum used to aid them in approaching employers in search of a job interview. Since the BETA Project began in 2007, Pivotal Point has assisted in helping train over 170 youth for employment of which 94 completed training and 50 were employed.

Former Foster Youth Run a Café at Alameda County Offices

Through a partnership developed through Alameda County Social Services, Aramark, and Pivotal Point, we are now able to offer youth an opportunity to work hands on in the food service industry through the "Fresh Start Café." The café is an innovative project that provides work experience opportunities for former foster youth in Alameda County. Pivotal Point provides Job Readiness training, and the youth who successfully complete the training are eligible to interview for a position with the café. It provides hands-on job

training and mentoring for a 10 week period. The youth comes away with a food handling certificate, and a reference from Aramark. These things can be highly valuable to a youth with no previous experience looking to break into the world of work. "It's sort of like a diploma," said Tony Montoya, one of the youth workers who recently aged out of the Alameda County foster care system. "The program is cool and it helps me to gain valuable skills."



Youth intern, Tony working at the Fresh Start Café.

New Boards / Fresh Perspectives

As Pivotal Point moves into a new year, we are proud to introduce our newest board members. All of our members are on board with our mission to promote self-sufficiency among all of our youth. The newest Board of Directors include: Majuana Martin, Global Business Operations Specialist for AT&T, and Pamela Pierre, who is an Accountant in the accounting department at Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream. We would also like to thank and acknowledge our existing board members for their outstanding support:

LaTronda Lumpkins, and Sharon Clark. As Pivotal Point's Youth Advisory Board embarks on a new year, we are excited to announce the members, lead by Pivotal Point's own Tia Sears. Dean Jones, Desiree Cain, Tevin Wilson, Lataesha Shaw, Marquis White, Emily Villa, Monique Broussard, Dyrleena Adams, Kevin Henderson, Michael Johnson, and Jonathan Everett. We are looking forward to a year of fresh ideas from these youth as they grow and develop their leadership skills and abilities. We are glad to have all of you!!!

Quote of the Quarter

If we all did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.
~Thomas Edison

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advanced Job Readiness Workshops
This is a two week course for youth who have already completed Job Readiness or who have current work experience.

Mon – Thu
March 9-19, 2009
4:30 – 6:00PM
@ PPYS

Job Readiness Workshops
This is a two week course for youth who have never worked or that have past work experience.

Mon – Thu
April 13-23, 2009
4:30 – 6:00PM
@ PPYS

Entrepreneurship Training
Are you a youth 16-24 that has a great business idea? Need to know what to do to start a business? Come to the Entrepreneurship Training:

Wednesdays & Fridays
April 15th – May 22nd
4:00 – 6:00PM
@ PPYS

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Special Thanks to Our Funders

Alameda County Children & Family Services

Oakland Private Industry Council –
Oakland Workforce Investment Board

Pottruck Family Foundation

Wells Fargo Community Investment

Fundraising: Oakland Raiders Commitment to the Community

Through a collaboration with the Oakland Raiders, Pivotal Point has an opportunity to be a part of their Commitment to the Community. We have been selected as one of the organizations to benefit from ticket sales from the 2009-2010 seasons. Pivotal Point will be selling Raider tickets and a portion of

the proceeds from the ticket sales will go directly to Pivotal Point in support of the programs and services we offer to transition age youth. Single ticket prices range from \$50-85 and include one Raiders hat and one food voucher good for a hot dog, bag of chips and a soda. You can be a part of this exciting program by purchasing your home

game tickets directly from Pivotal Point. To purchase tickets and for more information please contact 510-667-7695 or you can email raiderfundraiser@ppys.org. Team up with the Raiders and Pivotal Point to make a difference in the lives of local youth!

Thank You to the Pottruck Foundation

An important aspect of working with our youth is ensuring that they are exposed to a variety of opportunities that will lead them to life-long success in whatever path best fits them. At Pivotal Point, we try to support our youth and this vision by offering a wide range

of internships and other opportunities that foster career development. We would like to give a special thank you to the Pottruck Family Foundation for their support and dedication in helping our youth gain the necessary skills to attain self sufficiency.

Pottruck's support will allow our youth to tap into many resources that will assist them in their transition into adulthood. Thanks Pottruck!!

About Our Organization...

Pivotal Point Youth Services was founded in 2001 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing intensive employment training, education, career development,

entrepreneurship and other supportive services to high risk, under-served youth. Our mission is to promote self-sufficiency among youth for a productive and prosperous

transition into adulthood. The services are targeted to current and former foster youth seeking to upgrade their skills and utilize employment as a vehicle for personal and financial independence.

PIVOTAL POINT YOUTH SERVICES

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