

# The Summer Xpress

L.A. County WIB SYEP  
 Goal: 5,000  
 Our Success...  
 Goal Reached!!!  
 Currently over 5,400 youth are enrolled

- Over 441 probation/felony youth
- Over 384 foster youth



Yvette, writer

## Notes From Our Youth

Erika is a typical 18 year old girl growing up in Huntington Park. Erika graduated from Huntington Park High School in June of this year. She is employed as a Summer Youth Worker at Roosevelt Park, through the Archdiocesan Youth Employment Program. Erika heard about the program through a friend who had previously worked at the park. This is Erika's first job and she enjoys working at Roosevelt Park very much: "I love working at the park, because it makes me feel like I'm making a difference," says Erika. During the day, Erika assists the seniors with their activities. In the afternoon she helps the after-school program children with their homework. She is enthusiastic about her job: "It's helping me to gain a better appreciation of the children and seniors, and how to interact with them," she says. It's also helping Erika to see if this is the type of work she could do as a career, because she has realized that she does enjoy working with the kids. Her supervisors at Roosevelt Park helps her with a lot of things that she didn't realize she needed to learn: "Their doors are always open to me and whenever I need my supervisors they are there for me," says Erika. The opportunity to go through this work experience is great for Erika and she hopes she'll be able to do it again. After the program is over, she plans to continue working for about a year. She wants to help her mom pay bills and to contribute to the household income. Eventually, after a year of working, Erika plans to go back to school and pursue a career.



Erika, 18

## Roosevelt Park Supervisor talks about her experience with Florence Firestone Youth enrolled in the Summer Youth Program

**Interview with:** Charlotte R. Perkins, Recreation Services Supervisor, East County Community Services Agency has worked with Parks and Recreation for 15 years. The Department has been working with AYE and WIA on and off for 6 years.

**What are your thoughts about the program?**

I think this is a wonderful program to help the youth learn about being professional, dressing for work, customer service, and overall job skills. It gives youth the opportunity to train, while on the job making money, which is especially needed in this economy.

**What are the successes of the program?**

One of the participants of the Summer Youth Program is now a County employee for Parks and Recreation. Ninety percent of the youth who finish their allotted hours come back regularly to volunteer. From January 2009 to present day there have been over 70 youth participating at Roosevelt Park. There is excellent communication between youth and the staff. It is definitely a learning experience for everyone which helps improve the staff as well as the youth.

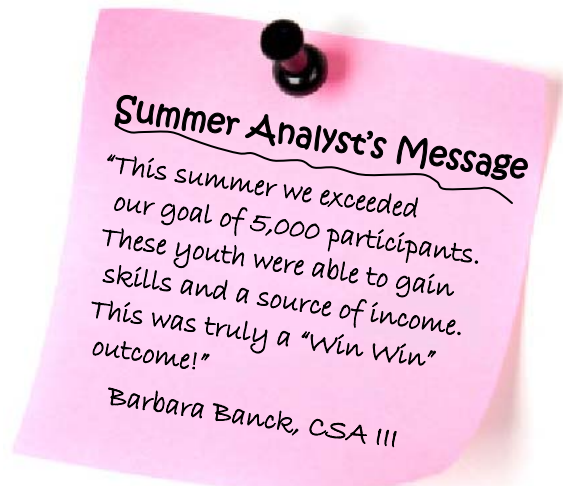
**What are some of the challenges?**

There are groups of kids that do not take advantage of the program and see it as only a work experience component they need to complete. Some youth come in with a bad attitude and unfortunately they do not take advantage of all the resources provided to them through these programs.

**Would you implement this program again?**

I would 100% do this program again. This program should definitely continue.

Parks and Recreation has "after-school workers" who are a group of kids ages 7-13. These groups of kids look up to the youth in the Summer Youth Program. They are waiting in line to be part of the program. The youth workers are role models to the younger kids in the community. They show others that you can go to school, work and be successful in life. These kids are choosing to be part of this program instead of being involved in gangs or drugs; it pushes kids to want to do positive things for the community.



**Summer Analyst's Message**

"This summer we exceeded our goal of 5,000 participants. These youth were able to gain skills and a source of income. This was truly a "Win Win" outcome!"

Barbara Banck, CSA III

Diana Bulnes, CSS



Los Angeles County Summer Youth Employment Program is operated by Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services and Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board with funding from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

