City of Palo Alto
City Council Informational Report

Report Type: Special Orders of the Day
Meeting Date: 5/9/2011

Council Priority: Community Collaboration for Youth Well-Being

Title: Youth Community Service - Non-Profit Presentation

Subject: Youth Community Service (YCS) - Non-Profit Presentation

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Community Services

Attachments:
- YCS Factsheet 5-9-11 (PDF)

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Department Head: Greg Betts, Director, Community Services

City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager
Youth Community Service

Youth Community Service was founded in 1990 by City of Palo Alto, City of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto Unified School District, Ravenswood City School District, YWCA, Stanford Haas Center and Palo Alto Rotary Club – to bring the two communities closer together through youth service. Our mission: to promote the ethic of service, foster student leadership, build community and enhance education. “Service to others” connects young people to a wide range of positive experiences, values and support.

Using our 20-year experience in service-learning strategies, YCS has engaged over 17,000 young people in service opportunities to learn more about themselves and their community. They have provided over 110,000 hours of service to more than 40 local community groups.

Youth Community Service has been designated by the California Dept. of Education CalServe Initiative as the Service Learning lead for educators in our five-county region. YCS also participates in a statewide STEM training initiative (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) to use service-learning strategies to engage underrepresented students to solve real-world problems through critical thinking.

**YCS Clubs and YCS-180-Degrees Life Skills Classes**
- Jordan Middle School
- JLS Middle School
- Terman Middle School
- Gunn High School
- Palo Alto High School
- Menlo Atherton High School
- Redwood High School
- Onetta Harris Community Center
- Ronald McNair Middle School
- Cesar Chavez Academy
- Belle Haven Community School
- Egan Junior High School

**YCS Summer of Service Program**
- Based at Ventura Community Center, Palo Alto
- 150 midpeninsula middle school students in summer of service day camp

**YCS Fellows and YCS Freshmen Leadership Corps Programs**
- High school leadership training for Palo Alto and East Palo Alto students
- Middle school leadership training for Palo Alto students
- Peer-mentoring for East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City students attending Carlmont and Menlo Atherton High Schools

**Community Service Events**
- Make a Difference Day in October
- Martin Luther King Service Day in January
- Gunn High School and Palo Alto High School Service Days in March
- Family Service Day and Community Fair in April
- Celebration of Service in May

**Funding Support for Youth Community Service**
YCS is a community-based organization that expresses the commitment of local organizations and individuals to our mission of intergenerational service, learning and engagement. The annual budget is $900,000, of which 73 percent goes to salaries, 19 percent to program, and 8 percent to administration and development. Foundations provide 65 percent of funding; public agencies provide 13 percent and generous individuals contribute 10 percent.

Youth Community Service
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