

Positive Futures Fair: Embracing Youth Potential

On March 27, 2024, the Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD) proudly welcomed approximately 245 enthusiastic youth to the "Positive Futures Fair: Embracing Youth Potential," held in partnership with over 50 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) at Hayward High School. This event aimed to introduce youth and families to the array of free services available in their communities, offering a vibrant program of fun, music, games, food, and giveaways. Attendees had the opportunity to receive swag bags with items such as 25 bikes, clothing, makeup, and assorted goodies.

For decades, the Alameda County Probation Department has prioritized prevention and intervention services. Currently, it collaborates with 29 CBOs, allocating \$15 million annually to deliver various free services to youth and families aged 8 to 21 across Alameda County. These services encompass diversion programs, life skills development, civic and social engagement, restorative justice practices, mentoring, trauma-informed therapeutic counseling, case management, and crisis intervention. Regrettably, many county residents are unaware of these accessible and free services, resulting in their underutilization.

Participating schools and service providers expressed profound appreciation for ACPD's leadership in sponsoring the event, which facilitated the establishment of new partnerships and alliances, promising fruitful collaborations in the future. This collective effort underscores the commitment to fostering a Positive Future for our youth, recognizing them as a pivotal focus for community support and investment in the future.

Dante Cercone, Deputy Chief of the Positive Youth Development Division (PYDD) at the Alameda County Probation Department, commended the exceptional efforts of ACPD staff across all divisions. Special recognition was extended to the Reentry and Human Resources teams for their remarkable booth setups and giveaways and to all staff involved in various capacities such as setup, breakdown, traffic management, ticket distribution, guiding youth to services, and providing information.

The Positive Futures Fair exemplified the dedication of Alameda County Probation Staff to offering supportive engagement with the community it serves. As the proverb goes, it takes a village to raise a child, and this event showcased how the Alameda County Probation Department mobilizes the community to demonstrate the breadth of support available to ensure the success of every child.

This event marked the second of many Positive Future Fairs to be hosted by the Alameda County Probation Department, following the successful turnout of the first event at Oakland's Lake Merritt. ACPD intends to hold these fairs semi-annually, once in the fall and once in the spring, alternating between North and South County locations.

