

August 3, 2014



Upcoming Events

08.22.14 Career Expo

09.18.14 OCCHC/SteppingUP
Board Meeting

09.20.14 P.A.D.R.E.
Conference at Chapman
University

10.07.14 OCCHC/SteppingUP
Advisory Board Meeting

10.11.14 CAP Career Day

10.23.14 Annual Resident
Advisory Committee Meeting

Quick Links

[Check out our website!](#)

[Contact us for more info!](#)

[Click here to donate!](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Dear Friend,

After a week long tour of colleges and historical landmarks in Northern California, our students and chaperones will be returning in a few hours. Last Monday, students were excited but nervous for this golden opportunity. Family members, staff, and supporters woke up bright and early to send them off on their journey. In case you missed the celebratory sendoff, we're excited to share a wonderful account written by Jennifer Delson. The story, featured in the OC Register, explains why the trip has a great impact on our students.



I rolled down Broadway on Monday morning so early that I didn't have to contend with the traffic caused by all the recent construction on this thoroughfare. But even at 5:15 a.m., there was this darn bus in my way.

As it ambled, I realized, the bus and I had the same destination: the office of the Orange County Community Housing Corporation.

Work starts early at this nonprofit group, in part, because its mission is quite formidable. The corporation provides 225 units of subsidized housing and education for low-income Orange County residents. But Monday was about more than a board meeting or even an activity with the dozens of youth that participate in the college preparatory program called SteppingUP.

On this day, for the fourth time in seven years, this nonprofit was taking dozens of low-income students on a college bus tour of Northern California. The bus tour is a labor of love that demands raising \$50,000. There's no benefactor to simply write a check for that amount. About one-third of the money comes from the students' parents, who collected small sums and sold home-

cooked food at homespun events. Another part comes from funds raised at the organization's annual dinner gala.

The Northern tour, once called the Barrio to the Board Room trip, is a focal point for the big-hearted employees of Orange County Community Housing, including newly-appointed executive director Nora Mendez. I've had the honor of accompanying her, Community Housing's Allen Baldwin and community fathers like Amin David and Sam Romero on each of these send offs over the years.

Once again, 40 students ages 12 to 17 and 10 chaperones streamed onto Broadway with backpacks, pillows and stuffed animals as their teary-eyed parents said goodbye. The group will tour 10 colleges in seven days, among them Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, San Jose State and Santa Clara University.

It's not that these students haven't visited campuses closer to home, but trip organizers feel the intensity of the trip has a great impact on the students who hail from families without the resources to take trips, much less college tours.

Please click [here](#) to continue reading or you may view the article on the OC Register's website by clicking [here](#).



ATTENTION EMPLOYERS!

Is your company in need of an employee who is highly motivated
with the right skills and a great work ethic?

If so, we invite you to join our Career Expo on
Friday, August 22, 2014!



For more information, please contact Viri Serrano
at 714.558.8161 ext. 10 or viri@occhc.org

OCCHC/SteppingUP | 714-558-8161 | nora@occhc.org | <http://www.occhc.org>
2024 N. Broadway, 3rd Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92706-2623

to transition extremely low-income families toward greater self-sufficiency by assisting
them with housing and education

