

Supervisor John Gioia's Weekly eUpdate

April 19, 2010

Join me this Saturday at “Be A Kid” fundraiser for The RYSE Youth Center

There are a number of great places in West County that young people can go to engage in positive enriching activities – YMCA, Police Activities League, Boys and Girls Club, Nevin Center, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, Young Adult Empowerment Center, RYSE and more.

One of those places – the RYSE Center – is holding a unique fundraiser this coming Saturday night.

The RYSE Center in Richmond opened in the fall of 2008, emerging out of the needs expressed by local youth organizers after the tragic killing of four high school students in Richmond. The deaths galvanized youth and adult allies to address the root causes of violence in their schools and communities. Local youth articulated the need for more afternoon and evening programming including arts and culture, social activities, and resources and support for health, wellness, education and jobs.

As a response to this, I joined together with youth organizers, including Youth Together, and identified a 6,600 square foot vacant county building in Richmond near a major bus line and the County Health Center. In partnership with City, County, School District, community, and youth partners, I worked to have this building converted into a comprehensive youth center, which young people have named the RYSE Center.

RYSE's mission is to provide “a safe and welcoming center for diverse West Contra Costa youth that builds youth power and leadership towards personal and community health and transformation.”

RYSE is now offering career guidance and job placement services, media arts, technology, dance, youth leadership opportunities, referrals to health and social services and more. Approximately 1000 youth have been served by the Center and those numbers are growing all the time. The County is extremely proud to be an ongoing funder and partner of this effort which is improving the educational, health and employment outcomes of young people in West County.

If you want to see RYSE firsthand, please join me at our first ever “Be a Kid” Fundraiser this coming Saturday when the Center will be open to adults only. You'll have the opportunity to learn how to DJ, take a yoga class, participate in a hip hop dance session, and socialize while enjoying Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. For information and tickets, go to www.rysecenter.org or call (510) 374-3401.

I hope to see you there!

What: RYSE Youth Center “Be a Kid” Fundraiser
When: Saturday, April 24, 6:00 pm to 9: 30 pm
Where: RYSE Youth Center at 205 – 41st St. (Near Macdonald Ave. and Target)
Richmond