



NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County
JOHN GIOIA (joy-a)
District One
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2008

FIRST OF ITS KIND YOUNG ADULT EMPOWERMENT CENTER OPENS IN NORTH RICHMOND

What: Grand Opening of North Richmond Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC)
Where: 50 Silver Avenue, Richmond, CA
Who: John Gioia - County Supervisor; Loni Hancock – Assemblywoman; Gayle McLaughlin - Richmond Mayor; representatives from Senator Barbara Boxer and State Senators Tom Torlakson and Don Perata's offices; Joe Valentine – Director, Employment & Human Services; Rudy Tamayo – Deputy Director, Housing Authority; Derek Lott – N. Richmond YAEC Coordinator; Lee Jones – Chair, N. Richmond Municipal Advisory Council; YAEC Advisory Council Members; community residents
When: **Saturday, June 14**
12 noon to 2 p.m.

NORTH RICHMOND, Calif., Dozens of residents, young adults, and community leaders are expected to attend this Saturday's grand opening of the Young Adult Empowerment Center in North Richmond (YAEC).

The first of its kind youth center in the North Richmond community, YAEC is the result of years of hard work and collaboration to create a safe place where young people can participate in recreational activities and receive services that will help them become successful. In 2006, local youth voiced concerns for more social and career resources to the Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa. In response, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia teamed-up with the Housing Authority and the county's Workforce Development Board to turn the needs of young people into reality.

"Our young people have done a lot of hard work and have told us they want a safe place they can call their own and feel empowered," said Supervisor John Gioia. "We've listened, built a system to keep the center open, and created a place to help our young adults become successful."

Housed in a 2200 square foot building owned by the Housing Authority, YAEC will provide young adults over the age of 16 with the resources they need to become contributing members of the community and will offer employment, and career services, linkages to training and education, referrals to social services, life-skills and mentoring programs, a computer center, Contra Costa County Library services, and opportunities for recreation.

YAEC has been a unique partnership that includes Contra Costa County government agencies such as the Workforce Development Board, Housing Authority, Redevelopment Agency, Employment and Human Services, Health Services, Board of Supervisors; Contra Costa College; and community-based organizations including North Richmond Youth Build (of Community Housing Development Corporation), Bay Area Peacekeepers and Street Tech.

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