

The Pajaro Valley Youth Collaborative invites you to...

“OUR PROMISES TO YOUTH”

A convening for youth-focused community members

March 4, 2011

What if our community made a promise to all youth that they will have the fundamental resources they need to be successful in school and into adulthood? What would that promise look like?

On March 30th the Pajaro Valley Youth Collaborative will host *Our Promises to Youth*, a convening of local stakeholders who are highly engaged in the future of youth. Members of the Pajaro Valley Youth Collaborative have identified you and/or your agency as a critical voice to include at this gathering.

Forum participants will develop a local definition of the five domains that research has shown to be critical areas in youths' development: caring adults, safe places, effective education, access to health care, and opportunities to serve others. The America's Promise Alliance expresses the five domains as promises, that if fulfilled would help ensure that all young people graduate from high school ready for college, work and life.

In 2010 the PVYC, a network of youth-development organizations serving youth in the Pajaro Valley, adopted the APA's "Five Promises" framework to guide the network's efforts to improve youth programming systems and advocacy toward a vision of a community that values, inspires, and empowers youth to realize a positive future.

The APA is a nation-wide initiative launched by General Colin Powell in 1997 to reduce dropout rates and prepare more young people for college. Says the APA, when the Five Promises are fulfilled, fewer youth participate in negative social behaviors, more youth engage in the community and achieve higher academic goals, and the disparity gap across racial and economic lines shrinks. The APA's Promises are a compilation of youth development research that represents the critical domains in a youth's life.

Our Promises to Youth Forum is open to agencies interested in crafting a local definition of the Five Promises. The Promises Forum is the first of three community-engagement objectives within the PVYC's year-long Organizational Effectiveness Project, which began in January 2011. The Project is sponsored by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and administered for the PVYC by ETR Associates. The Project is intended to guide the long-term efforts of the PVYC, with goals to strengthen the PVYC's organizational structure, expand capacity, and inform an operational direction.

TO PARTICIPATE: The Promises Forum will be held March 30, 8:30 – 12:00 in Watsonville. To participate, register by March 18 at <http://ucanr.org/pvyc>. Location and additional details regarding the forum will be provided with registration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Questions about the Promises Forum, contact PVYC Member/Project Coordinator, Carol Schimke at carol@breakawaycollegeaccess.org. With questions about the PVYC and the Organizational Effectiveness Project contact Jacob Martinez at jacobm@etr.org.

Pájaro Valley Youth Collaborative 2010-2011

Breakaway College Access Project
CASA Santa Cruz County
City of Watsonville
Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Central Coast
Early Head Start
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
ETR Associates
Health Service Agency-Maternal Child Adolescent Health and Teen Parent Program
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary/MERITO
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
PVUSD - Extended Learning
Salud Para la Gente
SC Community Counseling Center
United Way of Santa Cruz County
University of California Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz County
Watsonville Community Connections Coalition
Watsonville Wetlands Watch
Youth Now
YWCA