

Collaborative Communities Foundation

Mission

Collaborative Communities Foundation (CCF) is a nonprofit organization focused on addressing specific community concerns by forging inclusive collaborations to provide timely, results-oriented, and sustainable solutions.

Current Project

Peaceful Neighborhoods

Purpose

The purpose is to minimize and eventually extinguish youth violence in Santa Barbara by creating a project that coordinates and collaborates all pertinent sectors of the community, to provide action-oriented planning, support strategies and sustainable programs for long-term solutions.

Who Does This Involve?

Our grassroots approach will specifically tap those with hands-on experience and front-line expertise who work or deal directly with these youths:

- Youth (at risk, in gangs, affiliates, leadership)
- Neighborhood Stakeholders (families, friends, businesses & leaders in neighborhood areas)
- Service Providers (youth programs, non-profits, agencies, social workers, ex-gang members)
- Schools (teachers, counselors, student leaders, youth at risk)
- Law Enforcement (police officers, judges, prosecutors, probation officers)
- Interfaith (church youth leaders)
- Government (city & county)

How Will it Happen?

CCF has created the collaborative model for the process by providing the professionals facilitators and trained volunteers, the coordination, and the clerical and organizational support to bring the community together for dialogue, planning and action.

First there will be Community Gatherings in May. These are community “grassroots” gatherings to hear from the people in the neighborhoods: what they see from their perspective as the issues and potential solutions for local youth violence.

Next, Community Forums will start May 29, with CCF convening a facilitated town meeting with 150 participants (any interested Santa Barbara residence may apply) who are open to volunteer their time, talent, and resources.

What Will it do?

Through facilitated discussion and planning teams, the forums will

Identify challenges and ensure they will be addressed and serviced

Increase honest and open communications between all involved parties

Create a process to allow youth to be an active part of determining their future

Determine areas of importance and priority

Then, create specific, concrete action plans such as

Create micro businesses for youth (bike repair, computer technology etc.)
Implement job training & placement for specific careers of interest to youth
Inventory neighborhood assets with an eye on strengthening their impact
Assist the neighborhood to address and find answers to their own challenges

How will this help our community address this issue?

- **Services Providers** will be able to
 - Recognize the breadth and level of others involved
 - Partner and form alliances with other agencies / providers
 - Coordinate efforts and avoid duplication of services

- **Neighborhood Stakeholders will feel**
 - They are not alone – they are self empowered, connected and supported by community
 - The coalition is interested in them as key players & knowledgeable participants
 - Community leaders recognize and are making a commitment to this issue

- **Gang Members and Other Young People will realize**
 - Their community has joined together and is committed to work on this issue
 - Adults are working for their welfare and many resources are available
 - They play a major role in the process of change and in their futures
 - There are alternatives & opportunities for achievement outside of gangs.
 - A sense of belonging experienced in a gang can also be realized in positive non-violent activities

- **Results thus far**
 - Dialogs amongst opposing factions of youth
 - Volunteer training meetings for community
 - A series of neighborhood gatherings to identify assets, resources & needs
 - Assembling a grassroots leadership team