



# Youth Council

YO! Watts Youth Council Issues \$5000 in Grant Money to Local CBO



The YO! Watts Youth Council was recently charged with the amazing task of disseminating \$5,000 in grant money to community based organization(s) in the area. Collectively the council met and decided that it wanted to issue money this year to CBO's that operate programs that address needs in one or more of the following areas:

- Gang Prevention
- Teen Pregnancy/Sex Education
- Environmental Issues

Once the topics were decided the council issued an RFP for agencies to compete for the available funding. From April to May, the Youth Council reviewed each request and decided who to award. The winning agency was Reach Back LA-Village Enrichment Program. Reach Back LA-Village Enrichment Program provides after school mentoring that addresses and creates programs that target all the areas mentioned above. The council members do bi-weekly visits to ensure that all proposed services are being completed in order to fulfill all the grant requirements.

Youth council staff supervisor, Malik Manani is amazed that the youth council operates with very little help or input from him. "It's their thing and they take full ownership of it. They take this work seriously and display a passion that is simply inspiring to see."

To celebrate the success of the program a culmination ceremony was held at Gracie Simmons Lodge where all members received a Certificate of Appreciation and a monetary stipend. Our YO! Watts Youth Council, along with 5 other Youth Councils, planned and coordinated all the event details. There was a dance performance, music, great food and centerpieces created by each of the councils.



The youth council members continue to work together to be a part of the positive change that they want to see in their community. Our Youth Council represents a shining example of what great future leaders this community has!!

