



King City ProYouth HEART Program



The City of King recently adopted a Comprehensive Plan to End Youth Violence, which was prepared by a 23-member community task force. The highest priority identified is the development of an expanded after-school program at elementary school sites. Studies have shown the most effective way to address gang violence is to provide youth ages Kindergarten to 4th grades the tools to be successful. If they do not have the foundation of reading and language by that age, it will impede their ability to succeed in other subjects, increase the likelihood they will disengage from school and the community, and make them vulnerable to gangs and negative influences.

The City of King and King City Union School District are partnering with ProYouth to offer their HEART program to King City schools. HEART stands for *Health, Enrichment, Academics, Recreation and Teamwork*. ProYouth, a non-profit organization based in Visalia, has developed an extensive and successful program during the past 25 years. The program's activities include: healthy behavior activities, including nutrition (healthy snack program provided) and recreation; enrichment pathways, including ag science and culinary arts, computer science and engineering, and the arts (performing, fine arts, digital media, and movement and dance); homework assistance; tutoring to support reading, writing, comprehension and math skills; multicultural awareness; and leadership development. The program has been developed based on data that demonstrates what is most effective in increasing student success and reducing youth violence and gang activity.

The program was launched at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year with funds from grants and over \$100,000 raised from the community. The initial phase of the program has been provided at Santa Lucia Elementary School, which also serves students from Del Rey Elementary School. Enrollment is now close to 200 children grades kindergarten through 5th. The goal for the upcoming year is to add a summer program and to expand program sites to also include Del Rey and Arts Magnet Elementary Schools. The City and School District are excited to announce that applications for new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 21st Century, and After School Education & Safety (ASES) grants have been approved. However, additional funding is needed to expand the program to the goal of 400 children next year,

You can be part of this effort, which is so important for the safety of our children and the future of our community!

Yes, I would like to invest in our youth and the future of our community by making the following contribution to the City of King:

\$5,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

To participate, please mail this form along with a check payable to the *City of King ProYouth Program* to:
King City - ProYouth Program, 212 S. Vanderhurst Avenue, King City, CA 93930

Donations are tax deductible. The City's tax identification number is 946000352