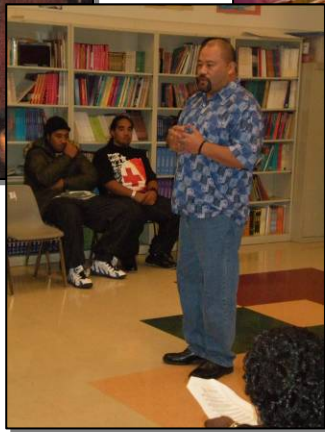
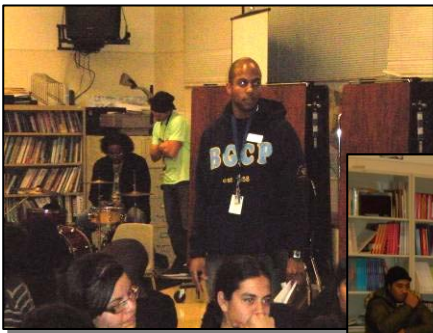




Out Of Harms Way

A report on the collaboration of East Palo Alto organizations to keep East Palo Alto children and youth out of harm way during the December 08 – January 09 Holiday break. A period during which there was a sudden spike in violent crimes.



Out Of Harms Way

Background

On December 11, 2008, Gail Ortega, Director of the Built to Last Collaborative, with the support of One East Palo Alto put out a call to the community.

Last night (December 10, 2008), East Palo Alto (EPA) Mayor Ruben Abrica and Chief of Police Ron Davis announced a major crime suppression, prevention and intervention titled, "Fourth Quarter". "Fourth Quarter" is a response to the recent rash of shootings in the city involving 6-7 people within just two weeks. Two victims were a mother and her child. "Fourth Quarter" will involve area law enforcement groups intervening and suppressing criminal activity within EPA.

The appropriate law enforcement response to shootings and increased criminal activity will happen at the same time our children, both elementary and high school students will return to their homes and community for Winter Break. Our children are returning to their homes and community during very troubling times. Aside from the increased rash of shootings, unemployment and underemployment is the highest it has been in many years and we are entering the second year of a national recession.

Many of our children live in troubled communities; many of our children are not the trouble.

Time is short, we need to come together right away and pool our resources to provide safe places in which our children can be children and our high school youth can be high school youth during the Winter Break. An opportunity to come together has been scheduled. It is a meeting at which the following initiative will be planned for implementation during the last weeks of December 2008:

Planning Meeting -- "Winter Break: Keeping Our Children out of Harm's Way"

An initiative focused on pooling our collective resources to provide safe and fun programming for our children during the Winter Break."

Mobilization

One East Palo Alto organized a meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm at the One East Palo Alto office. Representatives from over twenty community-based youth services organizations answered the call to action during a difficult time of the year. On the one hand, attention was focused on reducing an increase in violence. On the other, young people and youth service organizations were preparing to take holiday breaks. Both the crime and crime suppression and traditional holiday breaks were occurring at the same time. Everyone assembled realized the huge challenges we faced.

We agreed:

1. Our Collective Work, Service and Mission: To keep our children and youth out of harm's way by pooling our collective resources to provide safe and fun programming for our children and youth during the Winter Break.
2. Where possible to forgo holiday breaks and to increase services to youth both within and outside our current programs. Everyone agreed to collaboratively increase youth and children services by:

- Working together where possible to provide safe places for children and youth to participate in positive and safe programs and activities
- Agreeing to collaborate under the banner: ***Keeping our Children and Youth Out Of Harm's Way.***
- Increasing youth services within our own youth programs
- Pooling resources to increase the opportunities for all youth and children to participate in safe, positive and fun activities during the break.

Getting the Word out

Our plan of action included the development and publication of a calendar of events that was distributed to the youth while still in school, community organizations serving youth and families, posted on the web and forward through email networks. The Out of Harms Way calendar provided brief descriptions, dates, times and contact information for all the events and activities going in the East Palo Alto and and Onetta Harris Community Center sites over the Winter Break. The Out of Harms Way Calendars of youth and children events was distributed by email and copies made available December 18, 2008 at the St Francis of Assisi Youth Club; Lord's Gym; Bayshore Christian Ministries; The Built to Last Collaborative / Walls of Faith East Palo Alto and Menlo Park Sites; and Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

Ms. Juanita Croft developed and managed the data base from which the community calendars were developed, updated and distributed; a list of services provided by children and youth organizations; and material used for this report. We are eternally grateful for Ms. Croft's enormous gift of volunteer service, technical knowhow, love and dedication to the residents of East Palo Alto and Belle Heaven.

What We Accomplished

During the break approximately 575 youth participated in the activities and events. Here's a partial list of the organizations and activities held during the break:

Organization	Services
Built To Last Collaborative Walls of Faith/City Team East Palo Alto Site	Study session (18) Home visits (100) Drop-in activities (18) Pool Tournament; Board Game; Baking and Team Games; Cooking Pupusas & Community Celebration Dinner and Video Game Tournament
Bayshore Christian Ministries	Regular program (25)
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula – EPA & MP	Open hours (400)
Lord's Gym/For Youth By Youth City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC	Drop-in basketball (15 – 20)
EPA.net	Short video interviews Posting of online videos Video invitation by Doug Fort to December 23 EPA Town Hall meeting

Organizational Collaborations	Special Events
City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club Lord's Gym/For Youth By Youth	Field Trip leaving from St. Francis of Assisi to Archery Gallery & Century Movie Theatre (40 – 50)

Youth Community Service (YCS) – EPA St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club Lord’s Gym/For Youth By Youth	Movie Day (Dark Knight) @ St. Francis of Assisi (15)
City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC Lord’s Gym/For Youth By Youth	Ping Pong Tournament @ Lord's Gym (25)
Youth Community Service (YCS) – EPA Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula – EPA	Basketball Tournament (18 – 20)
St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club Lord’s Gym/For Youth By Youth	Bowling
City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC Lord’s Gym/For Youth By Youth	Dance Party (20)
Bayshore Christian Ministries Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA Built To Last Collaborative Youth Community Service (YCS) – EPA Lord’s Gym/For Youth By Youth	Community Meal & Conflict Resolution Presentation @ Boys & Girls Club – EPA (70)



Sharing in the discussion about conflict resolution from left to right: Steve Teu; Ruth Cossey and Juanita Croft

Out Of Harms Way

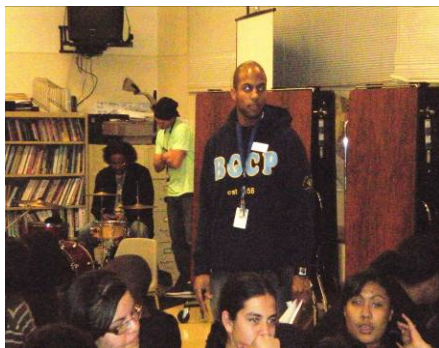
East Palo Alto Youth Unity Dinner

By

Stewart Hyland, Volunteer Coordinator, BTLC

Monday, December 29, 2008: Young East Palo Altans from various programs got together and learned how they can become peacemakers. The Boys and Girls staff conducted a conflict resolution class. Also youth learned about African American, Mexican and Tongan cultural celebrations during December. Everyone broke bread with each other at a meal where much of the food was prepared by the youth themselves.

We heard clearly, from a young woman at a community meeting hosted by Mayor Ruben Abrica and EPA Police Chief Ron Davis, that many of our youth are separated by city boundaries, neighborhoods, and school boundaries. A division results from youth being in so many different programs which don't usually try to bring our different youth together to socialize and get to know each other. As part of the Out of Harm's Way holiday activities we wanted to bring our different youth together in a learning and fun environment. Amy Joh, Bayshore Christian Ministries, organized the Cultural Meal. Boys and Girls Club staff agreed to couple the dinner with a cooking class for older teens. The cooking class was the basis for the idea to have a dinner prepared by our youth for themselves. One of the Built to Last staff members' parents owns a Salvadorian restaurant so that our BTLC students learned how to make Pupusas and brought them to the dinner. YoungLife teens and staff brought homemade Tongan food and the City of EPA youth council provided pizza. Bayshore Christian Ministries, For Youth by Youth and Youth Community Services also participated in the successful event that had over 60 young people in attendance.



Photos Left to Right:

- 1) B&G staff teaching conflict resolution,
- 2) Steve Teu sharing Tongan Christmas traditions
- 3) Roselyn Thomas, YCS staff teaching us about Kwanzaa
- 4) Cruz Hyland and Bernardo Huerta teaching about Posadas.

Out Of Harms Way

Testimonials

Marcus Jackson commented “Youth and Parents alike were pleased with the turnout and information presented. One parent spoke highly of the use of the Boys and Girls Club.”

Frank (Bakari) Clark Thompson wrote: “Some of the highlights were archery. Most of the youth had never shot an arrow and they were amazed to see that they were actually good at it. Another highlight was the pizza lunch we had at Pizza My Heart. One young man, actually the youngest in the group, whose name I cannot recall at the moment said to me with a mouth full of pepperoni pizza, "Man this is great, I'm having an amazing time, thanks for giving us something to do." That statement made the whole two weeks' worth it. I knew that we had provided a service even if this young man was the only one who showed up. We kept him safe and out of harm's way.”

Joshua Mason shared the following: “The greatest highlight of the break for me personally was not something on the schedule. God brought (I just happened to drive) 2 young Latinos from rival gangs to the FYBY / Younglife recording studio at the same time!

Though awkward at first the young men were soon laughing, exchanging phone numbers and inviting one another to other events. There are even plans for them to do a song together! Brother, these are not "wanna be's"-though even if they were its still a glorious event. One of the men said "we used to be cool when we were like 5 years old"-and they looked like they had been cool since they were 5. I can go on and on but let's just say it was a humbling honor to be a part of this and regardless of any ripple effect or lack thereof the Lord is changing these 2 young men's lives and that is 2 more than I, or any of us, can do on our own. It is encouraging that's for sure!”

Amy Joh shared: “Youth were VERY excited to be at BCM over the holiday and expressed that they wished we could be open more days. Parents also expressed pleasant surprise and heartfelt appreciation for BCM being open for the holiday. They also expressed interest in us being open additional days over the holiday.”

Several recommendations were put forth by the participating organizations.

From Julia Williams: “Roselyn commented that for Spring Break activities, instead of us all trying to provide options for the youth. We should have a few large scale collaborations.”

In closing, as a result of several conversations, I discovered that there's a need for more cross-cultural education and programming. For many of us the idea of each one teaches one is heartfelt. Also, there's a need for us to advocate for "fun" related programming and activities. Supporting children and youth having fun in a safe environment is essential to a child's development.

The Cultural dinner with over 70 youth participants was a prime example of the East Palo Alto communities coming together to break bread and learn from one another.

**"Many of our families and their children live in troubled times and communities;
many of our families and children are not the trouble."**

I want to thank everyone for team work, sacrifice, and commitment to our children during the holiday school break which made keeping our children "Out of Harm's Way" a collaboration of epic proportions. While others were on a much needed break. You placed the needs of our children above your own personal needs to bypass a scheduled break to make yourself available and to open your program doors to our children.

As you know we had to build the plane while we were in flight. Taking off is one thing. Your work, sacrifice and commitment to our community, families and young people kept us in flight. While taking off and during the flight you built the plane. Thanks to a power beyond our understanding, a runway was provided for soft landing. The young people we served safely entered a new year.

Finally, spring break is just around the corner. If you are interested in participating in the Spring Break: Keeping Our Children Out of Harm's Way:

contact:

Gail Ortega

Built to Last Collaborative

650-330-2259

OHCC, 100 Terminal Ave

Menlo Park, CA94025

Gail.ortega@gmail.com



Out Of Harms Way

List of participating and contributing organizations

Bayshore Christian Ministries

Amy Joh
650-327-1139
1001 Beech St
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA

Mike Jones
650-646-6122
2031 Pulgas Ave
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP

James Harris
650-646-6122
401 Pierce Road
Menlo Park, CA94025

Built To Last Collaborative

Gail Ortega
650-330-2259
OHCC, 100 Terminal Ave
Menlo Park, CA94025

Built To Last Collaborative/Walls of Faith

Stacey Nitta
650-327-5057
1136 Saratoga Ave
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Built to Last Collaborative /Volunteer Coordination

Stewart Hyland
Onetta Harris Community Center
100 Terminal Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 330-2255 (office)

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC

Pamela Reliford
650-906-7141
2415 University Ave
East Palo Alto, CA94303

City of East Palo Alto/Senior Program

Juanita Croft
650-853-5907
2415 University Ave
East Palo Alto, CA94303

East Palo Alto Academy Elementary

Guadalupe Martinez
650-462-8450
2337 Pulgas Ave.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

EPA.net

Michael Levin
650-322-6405
2411 Pulgas Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Lords Gym Community Center

Joshua Mason
650-921-3538 (c)
1840 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Me Myself & I/JobTrain/FYBY

Frank (Bakari) Clark-Thompson
650-473-9103
1136 Saratoga
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees

Larry Moody
329-2800 x60111
Ravenswood City School District
2120 Euclid Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303-1799

One East Palo Alto

Kava Tulua
650-330-7467
1798-B Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Onetta Harris Community Center

Bridget Matheson
650-330-2250
100 Terminal Ave
Menlo Park, CA94025

Project We HOPE/Lord Gym Community Center

Pastor Bains
650-207-1998
1836 Bay Road, Suite B
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Saint Samuel Church

Pastor Bains
650-325-8000
1199 E Bayshore Rd
East Palo Alto, CA94303

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club

Mel Rivers
510-938-8565
1425 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Youth Community Service (YCS) - EPA

Julia Williams
650-440-0271
1798-B Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA94303

Youth Community Service (YCS) - PA

Leif Erickson
650-617-8961
3800 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, CA94303

Youth Leaders of Our Community (YLOOC)

Tameeka Bennett



KEEPING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OUT OF HARMS WAY as of Wed, Feb 4, 2009

12/15/2008 Monday

Bayshore Christian Ministries
Regular program

Built To Last Collaborative
Drop-in
5:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

12/16/2008 Tuesday

Bayshore Christian Ministries
Regular program

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Built To Last Collaborative
Study session
3:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

12/17/2008 Wednesday

Bayshore Christian Ministries
Regular program

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Built To Last Collaborative
Study session
3:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

12/18/2008 Thursday

Bayshore Christian Ministries
Regular program

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Built To Last Collaborative
Study session
3:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

12/19/2008 Friday

Built To Last Collaborative
Pool Tournament

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Open
2:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Bayshore Christian Ministries
E-PAY-AC/Mobile Recreation
3:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Project We HOPE/Lord Gym Community
Basketball
9:00 pm ~ 12:00 am

12/20/2008 Saturday

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Teens only
5:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Teens only
5:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Family Night
5:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Lords Gym Community Center
Holiday party
5:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm

Me Myself & I/JobTrain/FYBY
Party With Us for the Holidays
5:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
8:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OUT OF HARMS WAY as of Wed, Feb 4, 2009

12/21/2008 Sunday

Project We HOPE/Lord Gym Community
ToyDrive/Give-a-way @ Saint Samuel Church
5:30 pm ~ 7:30 pm

12/22/2008 Monday

Built To Last Collaborative
BTLC Home visits

Built To Last Collaborative
Drop-in

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Open
9:00 am ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Open
9:00 am ~ 6:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Open
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Drop-in (5th - 12th) @ Lord's Gym
12:00 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Bayshore Christian Ministries
Open
1:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Built To Last Collaborative
Built To Last Drop In Games @ CityTeam/Walls of Faith
3:30 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Teen Game Night @ Lord's Gym
6:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm

12/23/2008 Tuesday

Built To Last Collaborative
BTLC Home visits

Built To Last Collaborative
Baking and Team Games

Youth Community Service (YCS) - EPA
Basketball Tournament

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Open
9:00 am ~ 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Open
9:00 am ~ 6:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Open
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Drop-in (5th - 12th) @ Lord's Gym
12:00 pm ~ 3:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/Senior Program
Soul Line Dance class
2:00 pm ~ 3:30 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - MP
Teens only
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Teen Game Night @ Lord's Gym
6:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Christmas Party
7:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

12/24/2008 Wednesday

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Open
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

Project We HOPE/Lord Gym Community
Candlelight Service @ Saint Samuel Church
6:30 pm ~ 7:30 pm

12/26/2008 Friday

Built To Last Collaborative
BTLC Home visits

Built To Last Collaborative
Movie Day

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Bowling

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Field Trip to Archery Gallery & Palo Alto Bowl
12:30 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Lords Gym Community Center
Midnight Basketball (Streetball) @ Lord's Gym
9:00 pm ~ 2:00 am

12/27/2008 Saturday

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Ping Pong Tournament @ Lord's Gym
1:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm

Lords Gym Community Center
Midnight Soccer
9:00 pm ~ 2:00 am

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OUT OF HARMS WAY as of Wed, Feb 4, 2009

12/29/2008 Monday

Built To Last Collaborative
BTLC Home visits

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Open
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Drop-in (5th - 12th) @ Lord's Gym
12:00 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Bayshore Christian Ministries
Open
1:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Onetta Harris Community Center
OHCC Youth Sports Camp - day 1
1:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Built To Last Collaborative
Built To Last Drop In - Cooking for Community Meal @ CityTeam/Walls of Faith
4:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Bayshore Christian Ministries
Community Meal @ Boys & Girls Club - EPA
6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula - EPA
Conflict Resolution Workshop
6:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Community Meal @ Boys & Girls Club - EPA
6:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm

12/30/2008 Tuesday

Built To Last Collaborative
BTLC Home visits

Built To Last Collaborative
Jeopardy & Group Games

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Open
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Drop-in (5th - 12th) @ Lord's Gym
12:00 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Onetta Harris Community Center
OHCC Youth Sports Camp - day 2
1:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Youth Community Service (YCS) - EPA
Movie Day (DarkKnight or Horton Hears a Who) & St. Francis of Assisi
1:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/Senior Program
Soul Line Dance class
2:00 pm ~ 3:30 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Teen Game Night @ Lord's Gym
6:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm

12/31/2008 Wednesday

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Open
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Drop-in (5th - 12th) @ Lord's Gym
12:00 pm ~ 3:00 pm

Onetta Harris Community Center
OHCC Youth Sports Camp - day 3
1:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Teen Game Night @ Lord's Gym
6:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm

1/2/2009 Friday

Built To Last Collaborative
BTLC Home visits

Built To Last Collaborative
Video Game Tournament

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club
Century21

City of East Palo Alto/E-PAY-AC
Field Trip leaving from St. Francis of Assisi to Archery Gallery & Century Movie Theatre
9:30 am ~ 5:00 pm

Onetta Harris Community Center
OHCC Youth Sports Camp - day 4
1:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm

Lords Gym Community Center
Midnight Basketball (Streetball)
9:00 pm ~ 2:00 am

1/3/2009 Saturday

Lords Gym Community Center
Midnight Soccer
9:00 pm ~ 2:00 am

1/5/2009 Monday

Built To Last Collaborative
Group Games

Bayshore Christian Ministries
High School Youth Ministry (Youth of Truth)
6:30 pm ~ 8:30 pm

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OUT OF HARMS WAY as of Wed, Feb 4, 2009

1/6/2009 Tuesday

Built To Last Collaborative

Board Games

City of East Palo Alto/Senior Program

Soul Line Dance class

2:00 pm ~ 3:30 pm

1/7/2009 Wednesday

Bayshore Christian Ministries

Middle School Youth Ministry (StreetWorkz)

6:30 pm ~ 8:00 pm
