



WELL-BEING: OAKLAND FREEDOM SCHOOLS (OFS)

Program Summary

- Purpose: Providing a six-week summer literacy and cultural pride program to build strong reading skills and student self-concept, and close achievement gaps.
- Provides culturally responsive, trauma-informed, relationship-based programming to approximately 180 elementary and secondary students each summer at three OUSD schools: West Oakland Middle School,
- Serving both the East Oakland and West Oakland Community:
 1. High Quality Academic Instruction – Delivering an integrated Reading Curriculum -- meeting California common core standards – in which books, activities, and field trips all relate to and reinforce a love of reading;
 2. Inter-Generational Impact – Developing leaders from two generations – the youth served and the trained college students and recent graduates who teach and serve them;
 3. Parent & Family Involvement – Providing family learning to strengthen skills for the healthy educational and social development of their children;
 4. Social Action & Civic Engagement – Teaching youth to engage in community service and social justice advocacy;
 5. Nutrition & Health – Building personal responsibility and skills for healthy living and choices.
- Budget: \$270,500; Government Grants – Oakland Fund for Children & Youth (OFCY) and the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)/21st Century; Foundations – Barrios Trust, Clorox, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Rite Aid Foundation, and the TJX Foundation.

The Need/Gaps We're Addressing

Summer is a particularly significant time for learning. For some, summer months offer exciting opportunities to learn and explore outside of the traditional classroom. However, for students and families experiencing poverty, limited access to resources and learning materials during the summer can result in students falling

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MFRC Webpage

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academically behind their more affluent peers, especially in reading or English Language Arts. Summer learning loss has been found to be a contributing factor in the achievement gap, disproportionately impacting students of color, and if not addressed, can result in cumulative grade level reading loss over time. OFS provides integral academic interventions for students in high need communities to mitigate this potential loss.

Outcomes & Impact

- Participants on average gained a one-year increase in instructional reading levels in just six weeks.
- 97.5% of parents reported their child’s demonstrated increased pride in their history and culture.
- 96% of parents reported that they plan to be more engaged in their child’s school work next year.

Call to Action

- \$500 gift provides transportation to 5 enrichment field trip experiences for OFS participants
- A \$1,500 gift provides 15 students with culturally and linguistically relevant books they can take home to read with their families and reinforce reading
- \$90,000 funds the expansion of the critical summer program to 1 additional site

Carolyn, an OFS mom’s Story:

Over the summer my daughter and two nephews attended Oakland Freedom Schools, each and every one had a great experience. The one highlight that really showed me that Oakland Freedom Schools was indeed a fabulous program; was seeing my nephew, who is eight years old and has been identified as intellectually disabled, engage and soak in everything that was being taught to him. Over the six weeks of programming, I watched him open up like a butterfly. He went from being quiet to singing cheers and chants that reinforce his self-esteem and confidence. And to my surprise, he found a joy for reading and began to identify words he didn’t know before attending Oakland Freedom Schools. I am grateful for this program and look forward to the upcoming summer.