

October 7, 2005

Ms. Taura Mizrahi
The Write Approach
9663 Santa Monica Blvd., #939
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Ms. Mizrahi,

Because of The Write Approach's continued belief in and support of the Boys & Girls Club of Venice, we have had the privilege to serve a growing number of youth in the Venice and surrounding communities helping them to set goals for their futures and providing them with the skills to enter the workforce and build careers. Thanks to The Write Approach's generous contribution we have had a tremendous year with our 2004-2005 Career Launch and Career Exploration programs.

Through the Career Launch and Career Exploration programs club members learn to write resumes, complete job and college applications, explore various careers, search for colleges, prepare for the SAT, and receive information on financial aid sources. Over the years, The Write Approach has continued to support this program and because of your investment in our youth, the Club now serves an estimated 578 teens ages 13-18, a tremendous increase from only five years ago when we served 25 teens. Throughout this program year, virtually all of our teens participated in one way or another in Career Launch and Career Exploration.

Last year we began hosting Cornerstone Middle School, an LAUSD free charter school, at our main branch. This addition brought us 98 new middle school students who participated in Career Exploration. These students were challenged to define their futures and careers in new ways and to think about college and career at an earlier age.

Our Venice High School site has proven to be a wonderful outreach tool for older teens. Last year we served 44 probation youth every Monday and Wednesday at this site, helping them learn the importance of positive choices and decision-making skills. Additionally, we assisted 8 ROP students at Venice High with their work-study program. We also co-facilitated the Young Urban Leaders Influencing Venice (YULIV) group. The purpose of the group is to contribute to the welfare and improvement of the school and community. Members of YULIV establish outreach, engage in positive interaction, and participate in leadership and conflict resolution activities. This past year, 20 of the 28 YULIV members were Club teens.

Additionally, a group of approximately 20 teens attended a job-shadowing trip to a recording studio where they had an opportunity to talk with a producer and recording artist. The teens had a great time, learning about the record industry. They even had the opportunity to record their own demo song. With the skills that they learned in Career Launch, approximately 50 teens found summer jobs. We employed 16 teens at the Club and 14 teens at our Thrift Shop this summer. We continue to work with the Archdiocese Youth Employment Agency, which is onsite at our main branch, to place our youth in jobs throughout the school year.

Living' It was a teen summit this summer organized by five area Boys & Girls Clubs, including the Venice Club. Teens worked with staff to help plan this summit held at the Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro where they received job information, had rap sessions, and participated in fun activities. Guest speakers talked about gangs, college and jobs. From the Venice club, approximately 70 teens ages 13-17 participated.

This past year, we hosted a Linking College to Career Summit with six guest speakers including an LAPD officer, two colleges, and an Air Force Officer. The Archdiocese Youth Employment Agency gave the teens information on jobs. Participating were two other Boys & Girls Clubs and the Heart of LA Youth with a total of 90 teens, 35 of whom were Venice Club teens.

Helping our teens make college a reality, we took a group of approximately 60 youth to the Cash for College summit at the Los Angeles Convention Center. This summit helped many of our teens that might not otherwise have had the means to attend college find financial aid sources. Unite LA, LAUSD, LA City Workforce Investment Board, LA Community College District, City of Los Angeles, LA Area Chamber of Commerce, and Cash for College were some of the many participants in the summit.

The success of Career Launch can be marked by the number of Club teens who have been accepted into a college or university. All of the following students participated in and completed the Career Launch program:

- Joseph Poakwa (2005 Club Youth of the Year)—Loyola Marymount University
- Ana Barr—Santa Monica College
- Brianne Barraza—West Los Angeles
- Eddie Crespo—El Camino College
- Brian Diaz—Santa Monica College
- Antoine Dixon—West Los Angeles
- Damond Forrester—Washington State University
- Jasmine Giron—South West College
- Kathy Hernandez—West Los Angeles
- Amanda Jacques—Dominguez Hills
- Mike Jefferson—El Camino Community College
- Omar Jones—San Diego State University
- Chris Jones—South West College
- Mark Lewis—Mississippi State University
- Juan Lobos—Washington State University
- Will May—Santa Monica College
- Sam Mbadugha—El Camino College
- Jose Salas—Santa Monica College
- Jerome Shipp—South West College
- Alberto Siria—Santa Monica College

The Write Approach has played an integral role in the great strides and tremendous successes of Career Launch and Career Exploration. With the Club's continued growth we plan not only to sustain our success, but also to continue our outreach serving more members each year. Through your continued support, together we prepare and make it possible for youth to succeed.

Yours in Service to Youth,

John Smith
Chief Professional Officer