Your generosity these past two years has propelled Partners into new program areas, serving more low-income Oakland public school students in more ways than ever before. In addition, we now partner closely with two West Oakland public middle schools and the Oakland school district itself. We have never fulfilled our mission to support public education in Oakland so fully – thanks to you!

With your support, since 2009 we have added 4 new components to The Partners Program. First, we launched our High School Transition Program to help students and families research, identify, apply to, and enroll in high quality college preparatory high schools – public, charter, parochial, and independent. In the 2 years since we began this work, matriculations to high quality college preparatory high schools are up 250%, from 20% (baseline) to 30% to 50% of our last three 8th-grade classes; for this year’s class our goal is 70%.

Second, we added a College Transition Program for alumni of our middle school program who need extra support for the complex world of college, financial aid, and scholarship applications. Currently in its first year, this program serves 10 alumni, and our goal for next year is to serve 40 students through an innovative partnership with UC-Berkeley Extension and two peer programs – Aim High and Heads Up.

Third, this fall we began partnering with KIPP Bridge and
By Lexy Green, Assistant Director for Curriculum and Instruction

We designed the Pathways curriculum to address subjects that are critical to school and life success but are not part of a traditional academic curriculum.

Each grade level has its own Pathways class with its own unique curriculum designed to address the needs of students in that grade.

The Pathways curriculum focuses on defining success, setting goals, and mastering the tools needed to achieve success in middle school, high school, college, and beyond.

Rising 7th grade students spend their Pathways class learning about themselves and their communities. They begin with lessons on self-awareness and self-esteem, including practical strategies for improving their confidence when they feel like giving up. The seventh graders also study Multiple Intelligence Theory and create a colorful 3-fold brochure to "advertise" their learning styles, strengths, and growth opportunities to their teachers next fall.

By Stefani Berger, Assistant Director for Leadership Development Programs

Partners began 25 years ago to provide summer academic support to under-resourced middle school students from Oakland public schools. From the beginning, we put highly motivated high school-aged mentors in the classroom with highly motivated but under-resourced middle school students. This time-tested idea has worked so effectively that we could not imagine Partners without them!

Today, The Partners Program has expanded this idea into a 4-tier Leadership Development Program with multiple opportunities for Assistant Teaching Apprentices (ATAs), Assistant Teachers (ATs), Assistant Teaching Leaders (ATLs), and College Interns (CIs). This past summer we had 39 leaders-in-training working with middle school students while also developing their own leadership skills.

The idea is a simple one: for college-bound high school students and those already in college to inspire their younger peers and show them the path toward 4-year college graduation. From such a simple idea the results are profound, with mentors exploring their potential to make a difference in another person’s life through a commitment to social justice, service, and educational equity.

The mentor group includes students from College Prep, as well as Partners alumni who are in a variety of local public high schools. The application process is a rigorous one, including essays and social justice, service, and educational equity.

The Pathways class for rising 9th graders focuses on success in high school and beyond. The students define what success means to them, set goals, and make plans to meet those goals in high school, college, and career. They learn what they...
Leadership Development, continued

a personal interview, in order to encourage the most highly committed high school students to join us as mentors.

Every day, I am delighted to work with such gifted and committed high school students. My role is to support, train and guide them as they travel forward on their path, that of making a difference in the world, one child at a time.

If you’d like to learn more about our Leadership Development Programs, or perhaps to visit next summer, please let me know. You can reach me at stefani@college-prep.org.

Pathways, continued

need to achieve in high school to gain admission to a four-year college, and also learn to use on-line resources to plan their college research and application processes.

Partners is 25! Help our family thrive!

By Mercy Albaran, Partners Class of 2003

Partners will graduate its 25th class in 2012! We will host a big community celebration day and reunion and are currently trying to locate as many alumni, past faculty, and former teaching assistants as possible. We are doing outreach via a Facebook group (www.facebook.com/PartnersProgram) and a Twitter account (www.twitter.com/ThePartnersProg), as well as email and phone calls.

Please help us re-connect with you, your family, and your Partners friends! Find me on Facebook or email me at malbaran@gmail.com with your updated contact information.

We also want to share your stories by making alumni “posters” (similar to the alumni profiles in our newsletters) for the celebration. Please let me know if you’d like to share your story, and stay tuned for news about the big 25th Anniversary Community Celebration this summer!

The Partners Program Board of Directors

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Hi! My name is Mia Voight and I am an Intern for The Partners Program this year. I just recently graduated from College Prep, where I was an AT (assistant teacher) all 4 summers working with Partners. Now I am spending my gap year organizing Partners High School Transition Program application workshops for 8th graders and their families. In each workshop we guide students and their families through the process of applying to high quality college preparatory high schools, helping each student to find a perfect high school match. I absolutely love what I’m doing; I am getting the opportunity to work all year with the program and the students that I have adored so much each summer!

As a recent grad it has been a challenging journey to find work, and I looked to The Partners Program for support and networking – and found plenty of both. Since the beginning of this fall, I’ve been working part-time for Partners as the College Transition Program Coordinator, planning college tours, organizing application workshops, and meeting with students 1-on-1. I never would have guessed that this small summer school program I attended over a decade ago would continue to be a big part of my life today.

Since I’ve been back in Oakland it has been such a surprise running into so many old Partners friends. Just this September, I ran into Jerrica Webb at an event I helped run for my internship at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. Jerrica was a student that I taught for a couple years when I was an AT for Partners; when she walked through that door, we recognized each other right away and hugged! It turned out that she was a former student fellow for the Ella Baker Center; what a small world! Also, a few weeks ago, during the General Strike in Oakland, I ended up marching right alongside Kadijah Byrd, another former student of mine at Partners, who is now a college freshman! I’ve learned that Partners is not just a program that prepares students for academic success, but more importantly, it is a family.

Greetings! My name is Latoya Reed, and I am very excited to be working with The Partners Program this year! I just recently graduated from College Prep, where I was an AT (assistant teacher) all 4 summers working with Partners. Now I am spending my gap year organizing Partners High School Transition Program application workshops for 8th graders and their families. In each workshop we guide students and their families through the process of applying to high quality college preparatory high schools, helping each student to find a perfect high school match. I absolutely love what I’m doing; I am getting the opportunity to work all year with the program and the students that I have adored so much each summer!

Hi! My name is Latoya Reed, and I am an Intern for The Partners Program this year. I just recently graduated from College Prep, where I was an AT (assistant teacher) all 4 summers working with Partners. Now I am spending my gap year organizing Partners High School Transition Program application workshops for 8th graders and their families. In each workshop we guide students and their families through the process of applying to high quality college preparatory high schools, helping each student to find a perfect high school match. I absolutely love what I’m doing; I am getting the opportunity to work all year with the program and the students that I have adored so much each summer!
At Partners, we have an innovative and unique field trip program with specific content and developmental goals in mind.

The first week, we hold our annual all-school Independence Day Picnic at Temescal Regional Park, a chance for students to enjoy outside games in a safe setting and also to spend time swimming, a critical life skill.

The second week, students head out in small groups for field trips of their choosing. We offer 15 options, and 98% of students get one of their top 3 picks. This allows students to explore a specific field or topic of interest to them, in such diverse arenas as restaurant and bakery work, research science, organic food production, community service, entrepreneurship, and exploring the Bay. In addition, students have the opportunity to spend time in a very small group with faculty (most trips are 6 – 10 students) and to get to know students outside their grade levels.

The following week, students head out by grade level for a field trip tied to one or more aspects of their summer curriculum. This summer, 7th graders visited ZEUM to do claymations and performances from A Midsummer Night’s Dream; 8th graders headed to The Exploratium for science enrichment; and 9th graders toured UC-Berkeley, including hands-on visits to science labs and lunch with first-gen college students.

Field trips are more than just a “break” from classes. At Partners, they provide an opportunity for students to develop their love of learning, see how academic subjects manifest themselves in the real world, explore work and hobby options, and build deeper relationships with their peers, mentors, and teachers in a casual, non-classroom setting.

Field Trips are a true community effort. We deeply thank our volunteer drivers, the College Prep community (for the use of the school vans), and our partnering organizations. We truly could not do this without you!

Thank you volunteer field trip drivers!
Megan Chen, Kevin Leslie, Vanessa Ortega, Tigress Osborn, Jeff Peterson, Jeff Sensabaugh, Betsy Thomas, Kiet Tran, Linh Tran Tsang, and Jonathan Zucker.

Thank you field trip partners!
Alameda County Community Food Bank, Bakesale Betty, Chabot Space and Science Center, The Exploratorium, Genentech, Nieves Cinco de Mayo Ice Cream, The Oakland Museum of California, Pegasus Charters, Revolution Foods, Soul Food Farm, University of California Berkeley, and ZEUM.
Donors

July 1, 2010 - November 1, 2011

Thank you for your generous support; you’ve enabled us to serve more students and families in more ways than ever before!

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July 1, 2010 - November 1, 2011

Many thanks to those whose in-kind and discounted products and services, volunteerism, and program partnerships have helped us to extend our work! Additional field trip partners & volunteers are listed on page 5. Thank you all!

The College Preparatory School for hosting our programs and so much more! Plus...
All our school and art supply donors
A Better Chance – Prasant Nukalapati
Aim High – Alec Lee
The Alameda County Community Food Bank

College Boot Camp: Christine Brito, Talon Clayton, Solomon Enos, Tigrress Osborn, & Ansel Troy
Eagle Village (EVCC) – Valerie Hutson & Morgan Shidler
FindtoFund – Tom Cerruti
Graduation volunteers: Wayne Brazil, Rebecca Byrnes, Benjamin & Sandra Loggins, & Barbara Malina
Heads Up – Barbara Gee & Jane Shamaeva
Inkworks
KIPP Bridge Middle School – Lolita Jackson & Sherrye Hubbard
Lanesplitter Pizza – Ian Moll
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The Middle Grades Partnership – Beth Casey
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UC-Berkeley – Susan Marquese & David Larue
UC-Berkeley Ext. – Barbara Peterson & Meaghan McCormick
Westlake Middle School – Misha Karigaca & Ann Rosenberg
Director's letter, continued

Westlake middle schools to provide tutoring and activity support in their after-school and Saturday programs. And fourth, we just organized the first-ever Oakland Middle School Summer Summit, bringing together nearly 50 educators and administrators from the Oakland Unified School District, nonprofit organizations, and public and private schools, as well as funders, with the goals of expanding summer programming for low-income students and deepening our programmatic coordination and collaborations.

Growth at this pace requires a community not only to support it, but also to sustain and stabilize the new level of programming. I welcome you to visit our website at www.college-prep.org/partners to find additional information about what you are making possible, including our five-year plan for growth and development.

Please also feel very welcome to contact me at johnfa@college-prep.org and 510/652-0111, x260, with your ideas and inspirations! I look forward to hearing from you! Thank you so much for your support!

Why We Dance! By Stefani Berger

A unique program component at Partners is that every student takes dance class, every day, every year. Teachers and ATs guide students through dance exercises that stretch and strengthen their bodies using the techniques of Modern and Hip Hop Dance. Students are encouraged to find their individual and collective voices, which they then express in their graduation performances.

Practice …

Top, the “brilliant gem” of our program: the close relationships formed between the middle school students and their older peer mentors. Left and below, keynote Beth Casey of Baltimore’s Middle Grades Partnership presents to an attentive audience at the Oakland Summer Summit.
25 and Growing Strong!

The Partners Program celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. What a remarkable achievement! What started as a simple summer school has grown into the current array of programs John describes on the first page of this newsletter, helping hundreds of students each year learn to love learning, and get coaching and support with the transitions, decisions, and numerous challenges of middle and high school.

As was very evident at the Oakland Summer Summit that Partners convened last month for over 40 public and private educational leaders, Partners has become a model to illustrate what can be accomplished, and a catalyst for further partnerships that can have a transformative impact on many more students.

None of this is easy, and although we are extremely efficient, it still costs lots of money to deliver these programs year-round. Seeing how we have grown our financial capacity over the last 5 years, virtually all of that growth has come from friends connecting us to funders, advisors, and other supporters. This past year, nearly one-third of our budget came from new donors as a result of direct referrals from you, our friends.

This is how you can help. Please use the envelope in this newsletter for a donation if you can. Equally important, please think about the contacts and connections you can help us make, whether through an employer, a business connection, a friend, or an acquaintance. We will do all of the work; we just need the introductions. It is a win/win as donors learn about this great opportunity to make a huge difference through this small organization with a big impact. So please talk about Partners to people you know – and invite them to help this great program embark on its next 25 years!

Thanks for the fabulous support you all provide in so many ways.

Steve Berger, Chairman