

Young Visionaries  
Pistols 2 Pencils  
Youth newsletter

Pain,

Purpose

&

People

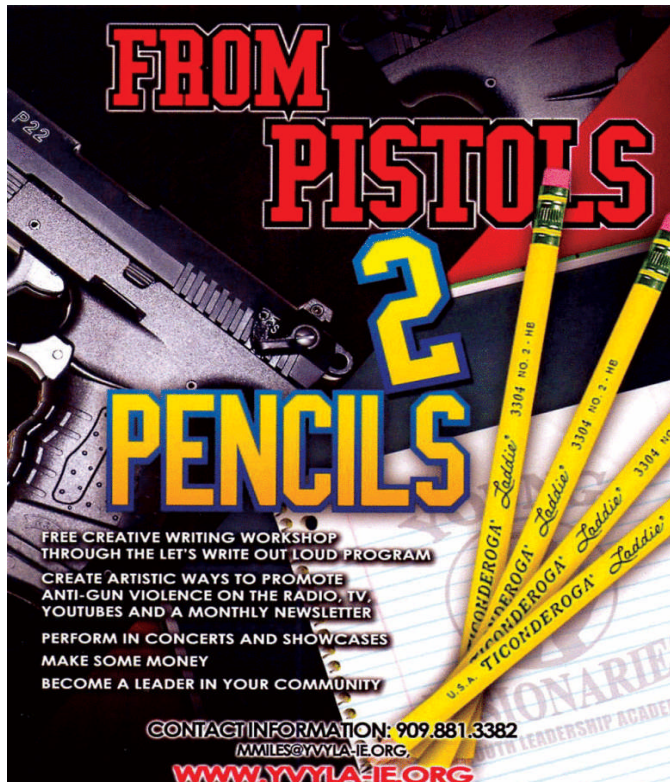


FUNDED BY



**About The Young Visionaries From Pistols 2 Pencils Program:**

The Young Visionaries Program, *From Pistols 2 Pencils*, equips youth with the leadership skills to disrupt gun and creating positive change Bernardino and surround-thermore, participants community support, cacy strategies, and con-nizing. This youth-led litical decisions by bring-issues of illegal access nity risk factors r e s u l t i n g and gun violence in



gang violence while in the City of San ing communities. Fur-learn how to garner implement local advo-duct community orga-program impacts po-ing awareness to the to weapons, commu-for violence, and the impact of teen gang our communities.

June 2010

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**Ashlie Delgado**



**Arnetta Brown**



**Shawndrea Rawall**



**Cody Lewis**



**Jesy Almaro**



**Jacqueline Gonzalez**



***About Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy:***



Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy is an award winning nonprofit organization proudly serving the youth of San Bernardino County since 2001. The organization's purpose is to help enrich the lives of young people through life building activities and instruction in the areas of education, employment, health, mentoring, and community service. Since its founding YVYLA has provided 100's of community youth with training in a number of subjects; academic development, violence prevention, employ-



**Terrance Stone**  
**CEO/YVYLA**

ment development, leadership and life skills development, and teen pregnancy prevention to name a few, in addition to delivering some of the area's most memorable events for youth entertainment.

## *Welcome to our June Issue!*

**We've had an incredible season! Summer is now here, but our work & mission to put an end to gun & gang violence is just increasing. While we continue to focus on our three P's (Pain, Purpose & People) as a cohesive group, we are responsible and accountable for each other to achieve our purpose to influence youth to make a change. To reward our youth for their hard word and commitment, we're hosting a benefit dinner on July 23 — more info coming so save the date!**

**We're treating them to Magic Mountain!**

**As we continue to be the voice in the streets for the youth, we hope that you will continue to support us and spread the news about our newsletter & endeavors! Help us Write On, and watch our youth turn their pain into purpose!**

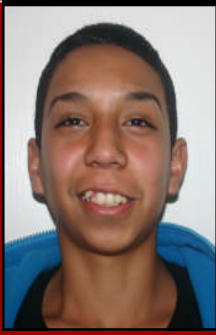


***Youth Organizer & Creative Director***

***Monette 'Mo Poetic' Miles***

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# Youth Groups Unite!



By  
14 year  
old  
Jesy  
Amaro

The Pistols 2 Pencils (P2P) Young Visionaries Program is planning a whole new schedule for the summer. The P2P Youth Leaders have united with Inland Congregation United for Change (ICUC), an organiza-

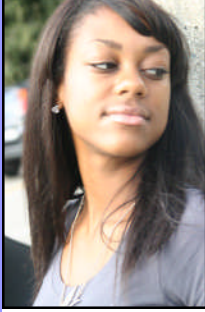
tion that works with religious congregations, schools and neighborhood to strengthen families and improve communities. We came together to discuss ideas and policy changing strategies in the City of San Bernardino that will



help protect us as young people. We also discussed outreach ideas that involve assemblies at high schools such as San Bernardino, San Gorgonio, Pacific, Cajon, and Arroyo.

We mapped out marketing ideas to get the attention of more youth and are working on forming clubs on our school sites. More is to come on this collaboration.

**Inland Congregations United for Change**  
*Unlocking the Power of People*



By  
18 year old  
Shawndrea  
Rawall

As a Young Visionaries P2P Youth Leader I had a chance to talk personally with our case worker Mika, and I ultimately found it beneficial. Usually, I am not comfortable with talking to people about my problems and challenges that I face, but Mika made me feel comfortable and at ease. As a teenager in the community I often find it difficult to cope with my everyday problems without some type of struggle. I encourage others to talk to someone about the challenges they face because it is not good to keep your feelings balled up inside. I always go through problems looking to get out before the problem is resolved. Now I have learned to deal with problems before I move on with my life, or it will haunt me forever and express itself in anger rather than harmony.

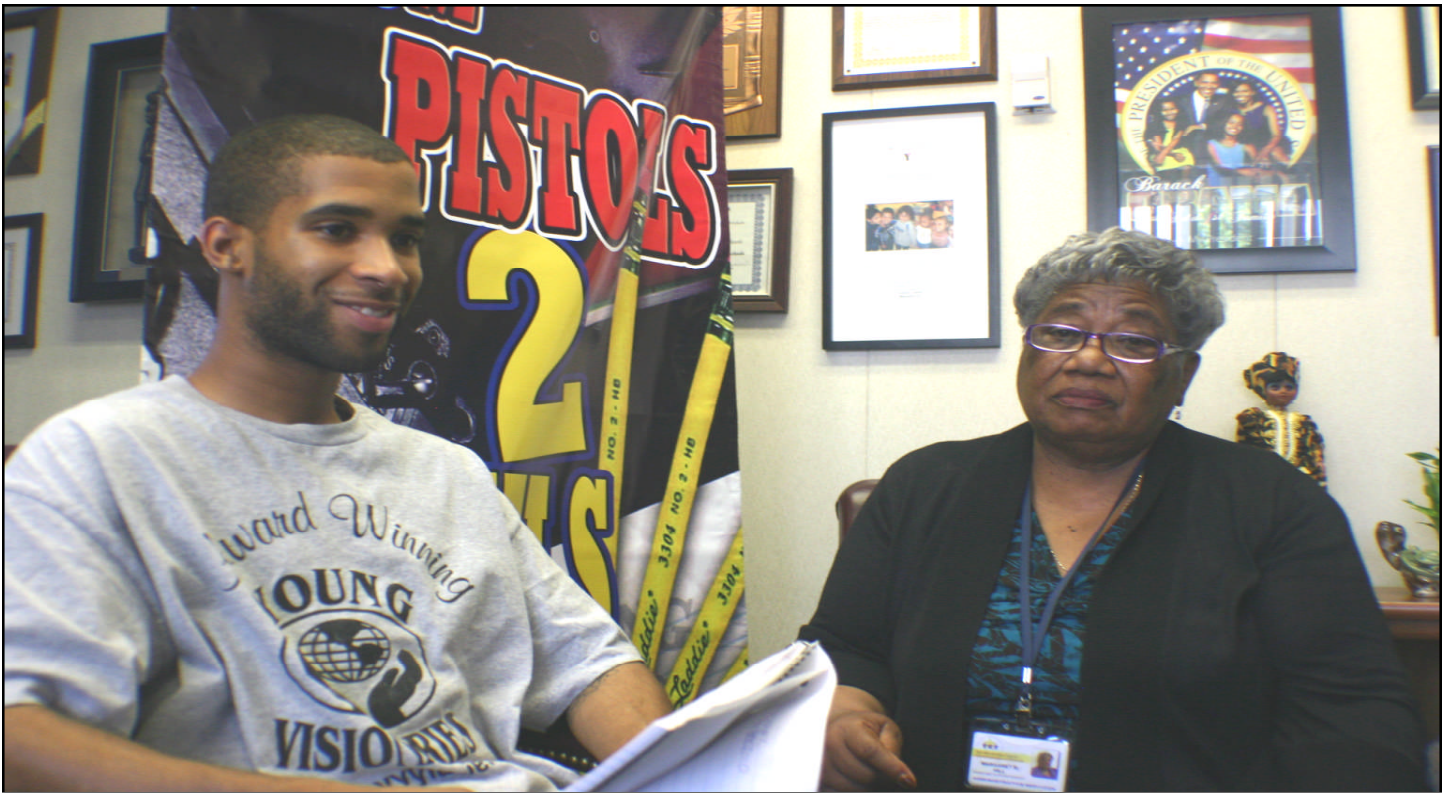
## *Why is it Always The Wrong Place for a Non-Gang Banger?*

Raeon Cooper was 5 years old when her older cousin, Benjamin, was gunned down at a liquor store in San Bernardino. As a child it affected her a lot because she and he were very close. It was an awkward feeling going to his house and not seeing him there.

By  
16 year  
old  
Arnetta  
Brown



**Continued on Page 8**



*Pierre Thomlinson sits down with Margaret Hill*

**Ms. Margaret Hill, the Assistant Superintendent of San Bernardino County Schools agreed to answer a few questions concerning youth gang and gun violence for the Young Visionaries Watch Us Die or Help Us Live PSA interview. Just sitting down talking to Ms. Hill makes you feel like you are old buddies or family that has not spoken in awhile. Her answers demanded comfort to the ears. While answering, she also challenges everyone with her own questions. “Do you want to be here and watch your children grow and be successful? Do you want your children to grow up not knowing who their parents are?” Ms. Hill encouraged the youth to stay focus and understand that we all have a purpose. We can do a lot more alive than we can dead.**

***~ By P2P Volunteer Pierre Thomlinson***

# College Bound Minorities

## *Numbers Tell an Ugly Truth*



**By**  
**16 year**  
**old**  
**Ashlie**  
**Robinzine**

There is a crisis that is spreading throughout youth today: Blacks and Hispanics are not doing well in school, whether it is college or high school. The

numbers are too low. Only 43 percent of black students graduate from a college or university they were enrolled in. But 63 percent of white students graduate from a college or university that they were enrolled in. Only 36 percent of black males are graduating from colleges and universities in the United States. That is disappointing because over the years black people had to fight just to attend colleges or universities, and now all of that hard work seems to have been done in vain. James Meredith was the first African American to enroll into the University of Mississippi in 1962, and it wasn't easy for him. President Kennedy had to send in 5,000 military troops in order to stop the rioting and other violent acts that were being committed against Meredith and his pursuit for a higher education. Hispanics are also included in this slow race for a higher education, 60.5 percent of Hispanics have graduated from high school. In addition, 57.9 percent of Hispanics who graduated from high school between the ages of 16 to 24 were enrolled in a college. But almost 40 percent of Hispanics who drop out of school do so before the eighth grade. This has to stop now! All of us are capable of going to college and achieving our goals of being great educated people, but we have to try and give ourselves a chance to be great. Just because we are minorities in population doesn't mean we have to be minor in life.





*Pistols 2 Pencils Youth Leader Arnetta Brown & Cody Lewis  
sits down with Michael Ramos*

P2P Youth Leaders sat and interviewed District Attorney Michael Ramos on his solutions and partnership opportunities for youth in the San Bernardino community. Michael Ramos will be apart of the “Watch Us Die or Help Us Live” PSA, a documentary on the effects of gun & gang violence from a youth’s perceptive.

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**...Wrong Place for a Non-Gang Banging Teenager *by Arnetta Brown***

As the years went on, she lost about 2 more family members; none were apart of a gang. “It was simply a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time,” said Cooper. She concludes, “San Bernardino is always the wrong place for a non-gang banging teenager.” Where are we suppose to go?



# That Day I Learned to Be Grateful

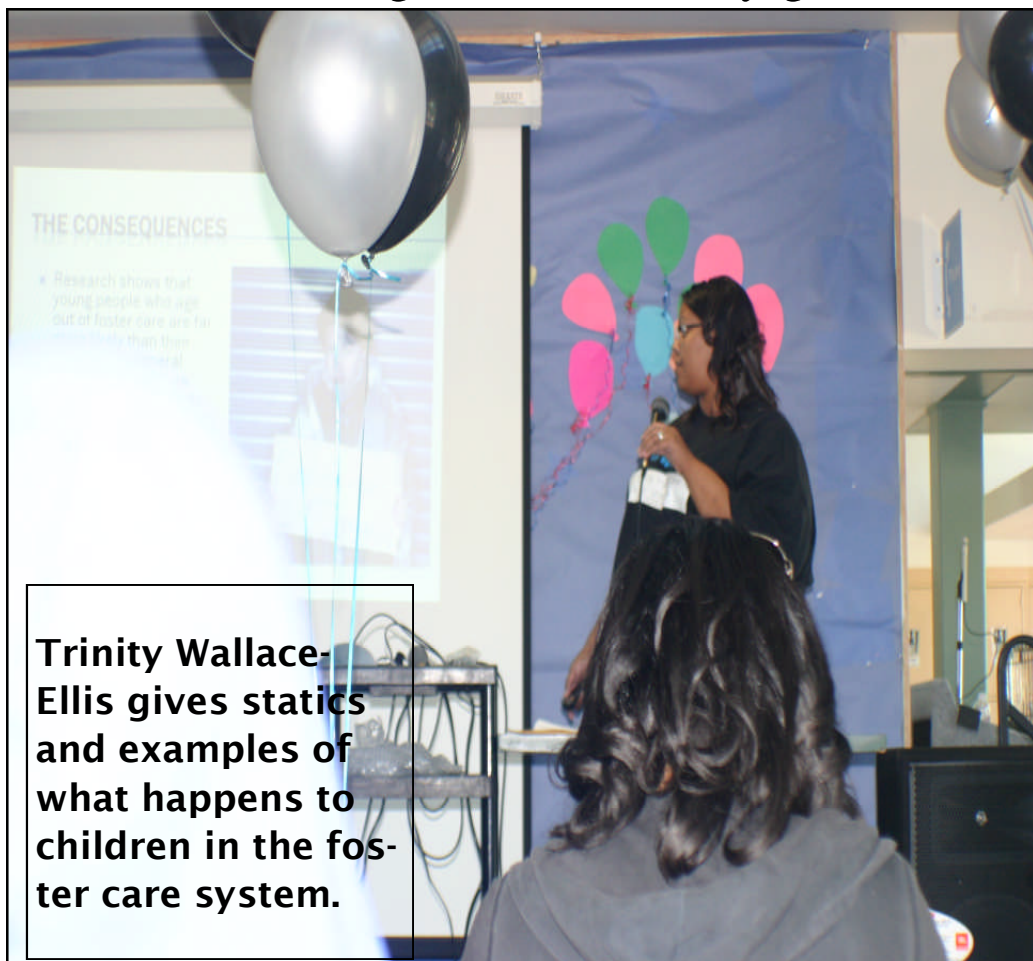


By  
15 year old  
Jacqueline  
Gonzalez

The month of May was National Foster Care Awareness Month. The day I learned to be grateful was May 22, 2010. I was able to share one of my poems at the Foster Care Awareness event sponsored by The San Bernardino County Schools. The poem was

about love. I saw that it expressed an emotional feeling that gave children there a smile. When heading to the event my goal was to

help someone that needed love and comprehension. It was also an event that help me realize how much children in the foster care system are in danger of gun and gang violence. They live with not much freedom, so they decide to commit felonies to release



**Trinity Wallace-Ellis gives statistics and examples of what happens to children in the foster care system.**

anger. Most of the time children in foster care suffer from their past. They have thoughts that cannot be forgotten.

Even though they are in need of shelter, they are also in need of love. Most of the children wished for a normal life because when it comes to being a child in the system, you are not able to participate in many activities. One thing I learned that was that children in the foster care system are not able to participate in sports. That day I learned something: to be grateful for the good things that surround me. Each one of us could make a change by helping a child in foster care. Even if it's just to read a poem about love. In anything they need, love can conquer all.



# Young Visionaries

## Pistols 2 Pencils News



### What's Upcoming?

**Tuesday, June 1, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm** — Pistols 2 Pencils Youth & Parent Prevention Council Meets. Open to the public!

Location: 1616 N. "D" Street, San Bernardino, CA

[www.yvylla-ie.org](http://www.yvylla-ie.org).

**Tuesday, June 8, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm** — Pistols 2 Pencils Youth Leadership Team meets. Closed to the public, but open to any high school aged student!

Location: 1616 N. "D" Street, San Bernardino, CA.

[www.yvylla-ie.org](http://www.yvylla-ie.org).

**Tuesday, June 15, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm** — Pistols 2 Pencils Youth Leadership Team meets. Closed to the public, but open to any high school aged student!

Location: 1616 N. "D" Street, San Bernardino, CA. [www.yvylla-ie.org](http://www.yvylla-ie.org)

**Tuesday, June 22, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm** — Pistols 2 Pencil Youth Leadership Team meets. Closed to the public, but open to any high school aged student!

Location: 1616 N. "D" Street, San Bernardino, CA.

[www.yvylla-ie.org](http://www.yvylla-ie.org)

# Young Visionaries

## Pistols 2 Pencils News

Tuesday, June 29, 6:00 pm — 7:30 pm

Pistols 2 Pencil Youth Leadership Team meets. Closed to the public, but open to any high school aged student!

Location: 1616 N. "D" Street, San Bernardino, CA. [www.yvyla-ie.org](http://www.yvyla-ie.org)

### ***Our Websites & Social Network Pages:***

[www.yvyla-ie.org](http://www.yvyla-ie.org)

[www.myspace.com/pistols2pencilsprogram](http://www.myspace.com/pistols2pencilsprogram)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Bernardino-CA/Pistols-2-Pencils-Program/219129847350?ref=ts>

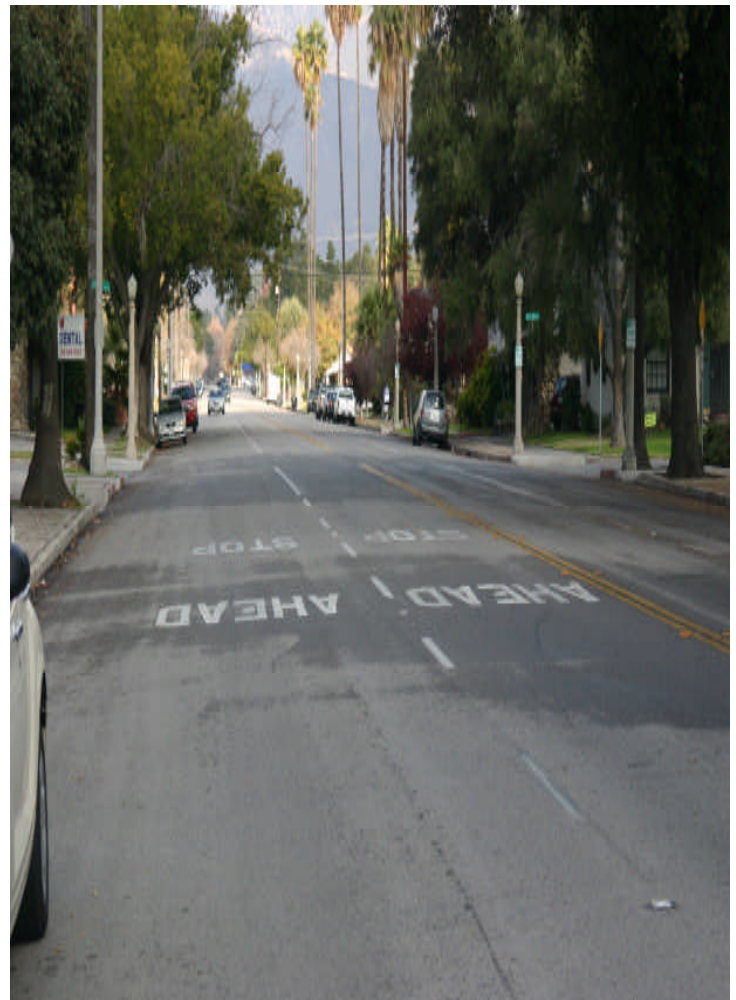
[www.twitter.com/p2pyouthleaders](http://www.twitter.com/p2pyouthleaders)

<http://www.youtube.com/thep2pyouthleaders>

### **SIGN OUR PETITION:**

<http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/pistols2pencils>

### **These Are Our Streets!**



THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTING SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS

The California Endowment

Congregations Organized

for Prophetic Engagement (C.O.P.E.)

The Boys & Girls Club of San Bernardino

San Bernardino City Unified School District

Operation Hip-Hop

Social Architects

2Xtreme Photography

Dameron Communications

Precinct Reporter Newsgroup

1800-SPEAK UP!

The Norman F. Feldheim Library

Mutivation

Homestreet Publishing's Let's Write Out Loud Program

San Bernardino City Council

Inland Congregation United for Change (ICUC)

Parents of Murdered Children - Inland Empire Chapter