



Together Rising

Special Issue | April 2012

338 E. Market St. Stockton, CA 95202

P.O. Box 30674 | Stockton, CA 95213

Ph: 209.941.0701 | Fax: 209.941.0784

<http://www.ffsj.org>



**Fathers & Families of San Joaquin and the National Latino Fatherhood & Family Institute** hosted the Elders' Gathering and the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Boys & Men of Color (BMoC) Summit and the Peace & Dignity Tributary Run on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>th</sup>, 2012, respectively.

The Elders' Gathering was held at the FFSJ office. The gathering consisted of local community elders who came together to create a space for inter-generational healing and community transformation. The gathering provided the opportunity to connect with those who share the same goal of helping our community with the struggle it faces.

Around 40 community members attended and sat together in a circle to share their wisdom and proclaimed their intentions for the community. Jerry Tello, an internationally recognized expert in the areas of family strengthening, community mobilization and culturally based violence prevention and intervention issues, facilitated the gathering and shared with the elders the importance of healing generations. Young people need mentors to guide them in the correct direction and to remind young people of their culture and their roots. The wisdom which elders have is beneficial to the youth, women, men and other elders as well.

At the end of the event, elders made the commitment to gather once a month and to set forth their intentions and to mentor young people in our community.

## Elders' Gathering

*To contribute to a safe and healthy community where all young people are educated and successful, elders made the commitment to meet once a month for over 6 months.*

**Thursdays from 5pm-7pm**

**May 17, 2012**

**June 21, 2012**

**July 19, 2012**

**August 16, 2012**

**September 20, 2012**

**October 18, 2012**

**November 15, 2012**

**December 13, 2012**

# The BMOG SUMMIT

## Boys and Men of Color

On **Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>**, the Boys and Men of Color (BMoC) Summit took place in Raymond Great Hall at the University of the Pacific. The BMoC Summit was part of the Enough is Enough Campaign week. The Enough is Enough Campaign promotes a week of events and information from different aspects of society to explore different approaches to reducing violence in the community.

The summit attracted over 150 students, teachers, practitioners, advocates and parents. The stage was created for youth who when given the opportunity to make valuable contributions to community building efforts.

The day opened by grounding ourselves with the drumming circle from the Spirit Drum led by George Galvis. The rhythm of the drum grounded the work ahead.

Master of Ceremonies, Hector Sanchez-Flores, provided a masterful job throughout the day by honoring those who were present; the first teaching of the day was to show up.

Jerry Tello, stepped in to being the keynote speaker after the planned keynote, Dr. Victor Rios, canceled due to family illness. Mr. Tello has motivated, trained and mentored thousands of individuals, organizations, and community groups and is the

author of various curriculums addressing male rites of passage, violence prevention, teen fatherhood, pregnancy prevention, family strengthening, and fatherhood literacy.

Mr. Tello presented "Healing Generations: Elders Speak Up, Fathers Stand Up so Youth Can Show Up." He urged the importance for elders to speak to the youth on being a true man based on true traditions, values and aspects where violence, addictions, and sex have nothing to do with an honorable man.

Mr. Tello expressed to the youth the importance of being true to themselves as well as to their elders, parents and society because all relationships are a commitment that needs to be valued. "You are sacred, and if anyone has not told you that you are sacred, I'm here today to tell you that all of you are sacred."

Click [here](#) for link to the article The Stockton Record and [here](#) for the link to the article in the Bilingual Weekly.





Danza Azteca Quetzalcoatl Ciltalli "edutained" the audience. The sound of the drums and traditional Aztec dance were integrated into the summit as a means for youth to learn cultural methods of regaining balance while re-rooting in ways that heal and empower.

The Summit continued with the panel *"How Communities Can Partner with Young Men to Improve Outcomes and Narrow the Gap for Boys and Men of Color."*

George Galvis from Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice and Michael Tubbs from the Phoenix Scholar and Stockton resident shared their own experiences as men of color and how they broke through the realities of being men of color. They presented how grassroots groups can connect with tree tops to impact systems and communities that are struggling for upward mobility.

Galvis encourage youth to not live with anger but to live with joy, to love and to feel their emotions and to cry because crying is a healing method. "If you keep all

the pain inside you, pain becomes anger, anger becomes rage, and rage becomes violence."

Tubbs shared his sentiments about the war boys and men of color are facing. "We are in a war, with 58 homicides in Stockton last year it is *genocide*. We need to change this, if we don't, no one is going to."

The summit concluded with One Drum, One Nation with Dr. Sal Nuñez; founder of the Healthy Drumming Institute. Dr. Nuñez presented the drum as a tool towards healing by interacting the youth and the audience with the drums.

"Every culture has their drums, the drum is symbolic of your mother's heartbeat, playing the drum is a journey intended to calm your spirit and keep anxiety down," said Dr. Nuñez.

The youth and audience enjoyed playing the drum. "Playing the drum made me happy, I feel happy," said a youth who was first hesitant to play the drum.

**Saturday April 21, 2012**  
**G.R.A.S.S.R.O.O.T.S and Fathers & Families of San Joaquin hosted the local Peace & Dignity Tributary Run 2012** to promote the efforts to bring peace to Stockton.

Around 30 local runners met with 4 experience runners who stopped in Stockton on their way to Alaska to participate in the Peace & Dignity Journey of 2012 that will have its final gathering in Guatemala. The journey promotes peace and the sacredness of water.

The runners met at 5:00 A.M. at the Plea for Peace Center. The day started off with a sunrise ceremony and the 10 mile course began shortly. The runners ran along the Stockton streets promoting peace and healing by carrying sacred staffs that symbolized prayers, hopes and dreams. Click [here](#) for link to article.





## Upcoming Events

**June TBD, 2012- A Father's Love, contact info: 209-941-0701.**

The father of the Year Award Ceremony is an event dedicated to honoring family values while specifically paying tribute to the role of fathers and men in our community.

### Youth Empowerment Summer (YES) Academy

YES Academy provides youth a deeper understanding of the meanings and functions of power structures of the U.S., including legal, political, economic systems and the roles of mass media in sustaining and transforming institutionalized inequity, enhance their critical thinking capabilities, and developing citizen leadership potentials. Community Elders/Educators cover the following topics: art, poetry, journalism, social movements, history, culture, current issues, organizing and leadership.

### November 2, 2012 Dia de Los Muertos | Day of the Dead

El Dia de los Muertos is to honor those who have lost their lives to violence and to create a space for healing and recovery from violence. As a community we take a wide stand for peace.

### Thank you to our sponsors:

National Latino Fatherhood & Family Institute

The California Endowment

The California Rural Legal Assistance

University of the Pacific

University of California, Davis

Health Plan of San Joaquin

### MISSION

Our mission is to involve and engage fathers to improve the well-being of children, families and communities.

### VISION

It is the vision of Fathers & Families to promote strong and healthy families and communities where children and youth are nurtured and fathers are engaged.

FFSJ defines "healthy communities" as safe, strong and resourceful; treats individuals and families equitably and honestly; promotes positive family images and recognizes family strengths; and creates opportunities for individuals and families to achieve health, wellness and their human potential.

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## Fathers & Families of San Joaquin

338 E. Market St.  
Stockton, CA 95202  
(physical)

P.O Box 30674  
Stockton, CA 95212  
(mailing)

209.941.0701 ph  
209.941.0784 fax

[www.ffsj.org](http://www.ffsj.org)