



# APRIL 4TH REVISITED: SAVING LIVES, BUILDING DREAMS!

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, from 1 to 5 pm  
The Carter Presidential Center, Atlanta

## AGENDA OVERVIEW

- 12 Noon** Pre-event telebriefing featuring Congressman Al Green (TX-9), Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-35), with Mitch Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans
- 1:00 pm** Opening and Welcome: Introduction to Day & Purpose
- 1:05 pm** Panel 1—Violence Is Uncool and Unacceptable: Youth Perspectives and the Role of Popular Culture and Media in Promoting Peace
- 2:10 pm** Panel 2—Community Peace and Thriving Youth: Community Perspectives
- 3:15 pm** Panel 3—Violence Is Preventable: Understanding Violence as a Social Justice and Public Health Issue
- 4:20 pm** Panel 4—Saving Lives, Building Dreams: A Call to Action—Realizing Dr. King’s Vision of Peace and Non-Violence
- 5:00 pm** Adjourn

See the Event Agenda on pages 3 and 4 for full details, and read About the Speakers on pages 5, 6 and 7.

# COMMUNITY PEACE & THRIVING YOUTH

A Joint Initiative of the Martin Luther King III Institute  
for Social Justice and Human Rights & UNITY

Since 1968, April 4th has been a day to mourn the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his legacy. This year, the Martin Luther King III Institute for Social Justice and Human Rights has partnered with Prevention Institute's UNITY initiative to launch Community Peace & Thriving Youth, on April 4th. This two-year national initiative will honor and advance Dr. King's vision of peace and non-violence.

Community Peace & Thriving Youth builds on the public health approach to preventing violence. Instead of simply reacting to violence after the fact, this approach focuses on the root causes of violence and on expanding opportunity to young people. Preventing violence before it occurs means providing economic opportunity and avenues for youth participation and leadership. This initiative offers concrete tools and support to cities across the country as they create peaceful streets and strengthen ties between neighbors.

The next stage of the Community Peace & Thriving Youth initiative is Urban Summer: Saving Lives, Building Dreams. Young people are particularly vulnerable during summer months, and Urban Summer 2012 will provide young people with opportunities related to job readiness, the arts and physical activity programs.

For more information about this initiative, contact Xavier Morales, program manager at Prevention Institute, at 510-444-7738 or [xavier@preventioninstitute.org](mailto:xavier@preventioninstitute.org).



Martin Luther King III  
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
& HUMAN RIGHTS, INC.

## About The King Institute

The Martin Luther King III Institute for Social Justice and Human Rights was founded to use the power of people, technology and communications for non-violent change. The mission of The King Institute is to be an international vehicle for the advancement of social justice and human rights. It uses education, advocacy and direct social activism to identify and apply innovative solutions that address the evils of oppression, racism, poverty, slavery and militarism. It works toward a global beloved community embraced by freedom, shared prosperity and peace. For more information, visit [www.mlkiiii.org](http://www.mlkiiii.org).



## About UNITY

UNITY is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in part by The Kresge Foundation. Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth—UNITY—builds support for effective, sustainable efforts to prevent violence before it occurs, so urban youth can thrive in safe environments with ample opportunities and supportive relationships. A Prevention Institute initiative, UNITY utilizes a public health, or prevention, approach to violence that engages multiple sectors working with each other and with the community. UNITY supports cities in developing, implementing and evaluating prevention efforts, and also works to build momentum for this approach and increase awareness for what is needed to effectively and sustainably prevent violence in the first place. For more information, visit [www.preventioninstitute.org/unity](http://www.preventioninstitute.org/unity).

# APRIL 4TH REVISITED: SAVING LIVES, BUILDING DREAMS!

## EVENT AGENDA

### **12 noon**

#### **Pre-event tele-briefing**

Federal and local policymakers will highlight efforts to prevent violence affecting young people and the need for more attention to this issue, and introduce the Community Peace & Thriving Youth joint initiative. Panel participants will share what they are doing at the national and local levels to promote community peace and thriving youth to an audience of interested journalists from various news outlets. Panelists and expert respondents will answer questions by members of the press as appropriate. This panel includes:

- Congressman Al Green (TX-9), U.S. House of Representatives
- Mayor Mitch Landrieu, City of New Orleans
- Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-35), U.S. House of Representatives

### **1:00 pm**

#### **Opening and Welcome: Introduction to Day & Purpose**

Remarks by:

- Howard Pinderhughes, Ph.D., UNITY Consultant and Professor, UC San Francisco
- Neil Rainford, MHS, UNITY Project Officer and Public Health Advisor, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Robert Adams, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer, Martin Luther King III Institute for Social Justice and Human Rights

### **1:05 pm**

#### **Violence Is Uncool and Unacceptable: Youth Perspectives and the Role of Popular Culture and Media in Promoting Peace**

Young people growing up in the United States today face unique dilemmas with regard to violence. Seemingly routine decisions, such as the choice of which street to walk home from school, can alter their life's path. After a performance by Youth Ensemble Atlanta that highlights some of these challenges, this panel will describe the current conditions youth face, present stories of hope, and share what is needed, from their perspective, to increase community peace and thriving youth. The discussion will highlight the role of norms that promote—as well as have the power to prevent—violence affecting youth, and roles for popular culture and media to advance peace. Panel goals include: present a picture of the current conditions that youth experience that affect community peace; present stories of hope to which young persons can relate; and show the influence of popular culture on violence affecting youth, including on shaping community and social norms. This panel includes:

- Tyrese Gibson, Actor and Recording Artist
- Ife Okwumabua, Actor and Producer
- Angel Ponce of San Antonio
- Youth Ensemble Atlanta
- Moderated by Mary-Pat Hector of National Action Network's Youth Move

### **2:10 pm**

#### **Community Peace and Thriving Youth: Community Perspectives**

City leaders from Denver, Minneapolis, Houston and Seattle will share strategies and examples of how youth development and expanding opportunity are effective strategies to prevent violence affecting youth. They will talk about the efforts they are undertaking to prevent violence affecting youth in their cities, describe what is needed to support local efforts, and present the perspective of people actively working to increase peace. Panel goals include: present perspectives from city leaders who are actively working to increase peace; provide an opportunity for an interactive discussion on community efforts to promote community peace and thriving youth from those working to implement solutions; and identify what is needed to support local efforts to prevent violence affecting youth. This panel includes:

- Mariko Lockhart, MPA, Director, Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative
- Councilman Paul López, City and County of Denver
- Councilman Don Samuels, MDiv, City of Minneapolis
- Sheila Savannah, MA, Bureau Chief, City of Houston Health and Human Services
- Moderated by Derrick Boazman of Too Much Truth, 1380 WAOK

### **3:15 pm**

#### **Violence Is Preventable: Understanding Violence as a Social Justice and Public Health Issue**

This panel will explore violence affecting youth as a social justice issue and how addressing the endemic problem of urban violence in the U.S. is part of realizing Dr. King's vision of peace and non-violence. Putting the issue in a public health context, this panel will describe the extent of violence affecting youth, the trauma that results from directly experiencing and observing violence, and also introduce effective strategies at the local and state levels to reduce the conditions that contribute to its promotion. The panel will link violence, equity and social justice, and introduce a two-year partnership between The King Institute and the CDC-funded UNITY initiative, Community Peace & Thriving Youth. Panel goals include: articulate violence as a preventable public health and social justice issue; present local, state, and the national perspective about the problem of violence affecting youth; provide examples of effective public health approaches to prevent violence; and introduce The King Institute and UNITY partnership on Community Peace & Thriving Youth with the goal of Saving Lives and Building Dreams. This panel includes:

- Larry Cohen, MSW, UNITY Co-Chair and Executive Director, Prevention Institute
- John Rich, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair of Health Management and Policy, Drexel University School of Public Health
- Lauren Smith, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Howard Spivak, MD, Director of the Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Moderated by Goldie Taylor, Journalist, Political Consultant and Author

### **4:20 pm**

#### **Saving Lives, Building Dreams: A Call to Action—Realizing Dr. King's Vision of Peace and Non-Violence**

This panel will focus on repurposing April 4th from a day of mourning for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination to a day dedicated to realizing Dr. King's vision by saving lives and building dreams. The panel will serve as a call to action for others to join in this cause. Join Former Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young in conversation with Martin Luther King III on honoring Dr. King's vision and legacy. Moderated by Goldie Taylor, the discussion will connect the goals of the newly-formed King Institute, the new Community Peace and Thriving Youth joint initiative, and the imperative of saving lives and building dreams. On the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, this remembrance of Dr. King, his work and his legacy, and this panel's call to action will remind us of the imperative of committing to peace and non-violence and the reality that change is up to all of us.

This panel includes:

- Martin Luther King III, Founding President, Martin Luther King III Institute for Social Justice and Human Rights
- Ambassador Andrew Young, former Mayor of Atlanta, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and Congressman
- Moderated by Goldie Taylor, Journalist, Political Consultant and Author

### **5:00 pm Adjourn**

Special thanks to Prevention Institute, Carol.Lloyd.Events, LLC, The Carter Presidential Center, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lighting & Production, Inc., PerfectTakeProductions, Proof of the Pudding, Youth Ensemble Atlanta, and Youth Media Minds of America for their contributions to this event.

Our gratitude also to Robert L. Adams, Ph.D.; Sana Chehimi, MPH; Rachel A. Davis, MSW; Carlton Duncan, MSPH; Tyrese Gibson; Courtney Lenard; Edward-Michael Muña; Xavier Morales, Ph.D.; Neil Rainford, MHS; John A. Rich, MD; Lola Russell; Lily Swartz; Goldie Taylor; Benita Tsao, MPH; and Ann Whidden, MPH, for their support.

Congratulations to CDC's Injury Center on its 20th Anniversary! 2012 marks 20 years the CDC has had a center dedicated to preventing injuries and violence, CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Learn more about Celebrating the Past, Protecting the Future at [www.cdc.gov/injury/anniversary/about.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/anniversary/about.html).

PerfectTakeProductions is an Atlanta-based film company that is the creative brainchild of Navarro Pierre Russell, who is the principal TV-videographer-director-writer-producer. Russell, recently returned from Ghana as the principal videographer for the Stolen From Africa movement, where young screen writers, journalists, creative artists and educators use documentaries and summer youth programs to promote cultural and historical awareness through education, fashion, music and the arts.

Youth Media Minds of America brings youth and technology together to develop successful and responsible media leaders of the future. Youth Media Minds of America is a non-profit educational organizational dedicated to bringing audio, video and multimedia communications technology within the reach of at-risk and underserved youth between the ages of 18 and 19, including youth who are visually impaired or deaf and hard of hearing. For more information, visit [www.ymma.org](http://www.ymma.org).

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Note: Speaker biographies have been edited for length.

**Robert Adams, PhD.**, works at the Martin Luther King III Institute for Social Justice and Human Rights. Previously, he served as Chief Operating Officer at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, and as a Program Officer at The Fetzer Institute, a private operating foundation in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is an education policy specialist and advocate who has conducted extensive research in the area of education reform and equity in the United States and abroad, including Brazil, Mexico, and South Africa.

**Derrick Boazman** was elected to the Atlanta City Council in 1997 and re-elected for his second term in 2001. He serves as a certified trainer teaching community leadership and organizational development skills for Midwest Academy, and at the Fanning Leadership Institute and Community Development Institute. Boazman is an outspoken advocate for the rights of minorities and has appeared on CNN's Talkback Live, Nightline, Court TV, as well as being interviewed by the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and the New Yorker Magazine.

**Larry Cohen, MSW**, established Prevention Institute in 1997 as a national non-profit center dedicated to improving community health and equity through effective primary prevention. This means taking action to build resilience and prevent illness and injury before they occur. Larry has led many successful public health efforts at the local, state and federal levels on injury and violence prevention, mental health and other issues. Larry helped to define violence as a preventable public health concern, and developed one of the nation's first courses on violence prevention. Larry is executive director of Prevention Institute and serves as co-chair of the UNITY initiative.

**Tyrese Gibson** is a Los Angeles native whose self-titled debut album quickly propelled him to the top of the charts. Smooth-voiced R&B crooner "Tyrese" immediately stood out from the pack, thanks to the remarkable honesty of his songwriting, his alluring passion, and his self-assured style behind the microphone. The singer-turned-actor jumped headlong into features, as John Singleton's "Boyz 'N the Hood" follow-up, "Baby Boy," Justin Lin's "Annapolis," a family-themed revenge drama "Four Brothers" and the film "Waist Deep."

**Congressman Al Green** serves the people of Texas' 9th Congressional District and is serving his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a veteran civil rights advocate, he has dedicated his life to fighting for those in society whose voices, too often, are not heard. Congressman Green's chief legislative priorities are rebuilding the American economy and stabilizing our housing market. For nearly ten years, Green served as president of the Houston Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also co-founded the Black and Brown Coalition with Judge Armando Rodriguez.

**Mary-Pat Hector** became the youngest playwright and director to put on an all youth sold out production entitled "East Street Ain't Easy." She founded Youth in Action to mobilize people across the country against bullying, gun-violence and drugs and is the National Youth Director of National Action Network Youth Move. Mary-Pat educates youth around the country on violence and other youth issues. Her accolades include awards from President Barack Obama for Community service, the 100 Black Men of DeKalb for Outstanding Youth Activism, and the 2011 Woman of Power Award Kohl's Kids Who Care.

**Martin Luther King III** is the founding president of the Martin Luther King III Institute for Social Justice and Human Rights, Inc. The eldest son of civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he has continued the quest for equality and justice for all people. He launched the JP Morgan Chase King Imaging Project in December 2011 under its Technology for Social Good program, which has processed close to 200,000 pieces of content associated with The King Papers collection. As president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King fought injustice on civil, local, state, and federal fronts.

**Mayor Mitch Landrieu** has pledged to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for the people of New Orleans. In life, law and government, Mitch always seeks to bring people together to find common ground. As a State Legislator, Mitch represented the Broadmoor neighborhood for 16 years. As Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, Mitch managed a \$127 million budget and 800 employees. He led the effort to rebuild the tourism industry and the thousands of jobs it creates after Hurricane Katrina. He also launched the Cultural Economy initiative to grow jobs through our culture, music, food, film and art.

**Mariko Lockhart, MPA**, directs the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, a comprehensive community-based strategy to reduce and prevent youth violence in the areas of the city most affected. Mariko is an experienced non-profit executive, consultant, facilitator and trainer with a strong track record leading public-private community collaborations to benefit disadvantaged populations. As a recent past president and state director of Communities In Schools of New Jersey (CISNJ), she was responsible for the management and operations of the state-wide dropout prevention organization. Mariko has significant experience in working with diverse communities.

**Paul D. López** represents West Denver on the City Council, and is a home-grown champion for working families. While earning a degree at the University of Colorado, he fought to improve recruitment, retention and graduation of low income students. As a community and union organizer, he went to work in Denver's poorest neighborhoods to protect affordable housing and quality public health care and took on employers who violated worker's rights. Elected in 2007 to West Denver's District 3 at 28 years old, López became the youngest Denver City Council member to ever take the oath of office.

**Ife Okwumabua** is Management Associate and Intern Program Coordinator of Youth Ensemble Atlanta. She is an alumna of Atlanta's Performing and Visual Arts high School, Tri-Cities. While at Tri-Cities, she joined the Youth Ensemble of Atlanta and has performed nationally and internationally. Ms. Okwumabua and has written songs for two musicals. Her directorial debut with the Youth Ensemble of Atlanta was in November 2005 with her original musical "The Maestro."

**Howard Pinderhughes, Ph.D.**, is Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Pinderhughes authored "Race in the Hood: Conflict and Violence Among Urban Youth," which examines the dynamics of racial violence in New York City. His forthcoming book, "Dealing With Danger: How Inner City Youth Cope with the Violence that Surrounds Them" examines the production of youth violence and how urban adolescents think about, experience and make decisions about the use of violence.

**Angel Ponce** grew up in the tough neighborhoods of Houston, Texas. At age 10, he joined a street gang and became involved with drugs and crime until an automotive crash changed his life forever. He decided to leave gang life behind him when he was 20 years old, and today, he has removed 90 percent of his gang-related tattoos, and is in college, majoring in entrepreneurship with a minor in bodybuilding and physical training. Angel has spoken to thousands of youth about his life and ways to make a change in Texas, California and Tennessee.

**Neil Rainford, MHS**, is UNITY Project Officer and a Public Health Advisor for the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He provides programmatic oversight and direction for grants and cooperative agreements in the violence topic areas of sexual violence, child maltreatment, suicide and youth violence. He also serves as the chair for the CDC Division of Violence Prevention of Youth Violence Working Group.

**John Rich, MD, MPH**, is Professor and Chair of Health Management and Policy at the Drexel University School of Public Health. He has been a leader in the field of public health, and his work has focused on serving African-American men in urban settings. In 2006, Dr. Rich was granted a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship for his work. Rich has served as the medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission and was a primary care doctor at Boston Medical Center. His recently published book is "Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men."

**Donald Samuels, MDiv**, was elected to the Minneapolis City Council in February 2003 after emerging as a strong voice for peace in his North Minneapolis neighborhood. Since then, Don has focused on safety, housing and jobs in the Northside. Don has brought additional resources for public safety and economic development, and helped bring over 1,000 jobs to youth and the hard-to-employ. Don consistently works to recruit quality employers to North Minneapolis, and he is the founder of the PEACE Foundation—Public Engagement and Community Empowerment—which connects regional partners and local residents in collaborations to end violence.



**Sheila Savannah, MA**, is the senior staff member at the Human Services for the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services where she manages the Community Health Development and Program Improvement (CHDPI) unit. She served as bureau chief for human services at HDHHS, as senior-staff for City Council Member Ada Edwards and as executive director of a community-based organization that designed programs to address behavioral health, youth development and family self-sufficiency. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Texas and a master's degree in psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

**Lauren Smith, MD, MPH**, is the Medical Director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health where she works closely with the Commissioner to establish and implement departmental priorities. She is an Associate Professor at the Boston University School of Medicine, and serves as a pediatric hospitalist at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Smith's research career has focused on the implication of public policies for child health and childhood health disparities. She has authored two recent reports on the impact of affordable housing and energy costs on child health and well-being as examples of the effects of public policy on health.

**Howard Spivak, MD**, is Director of the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has extensive experience in the field of youth violence prevention, as well as management and leadership in academia public, state and local levels. He has served as Director of Adolescent Services for the City of Boston, during which he co-founded the first community-based public health youth violence prevention program in the nation. As Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, he developed the first office for violence prevention at the state level.

**Goldie Taylor** is managing director of Goldie Taylor Brand Communications, a New York based media consultancy. Most recently, she was an executive editorial and marketing consultant for TimeWarner/ CNN Worldwide where she co-lead the development and marketing of marquee productions, including: League of First Time Voters, Black in America (I & II), Daughters of Legacy, Latino in America. Taylor studied political science and international affairs at Emory University. She is best known for her 2008 op-ed column regarding then republican vice presidential nominee and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, "A Woman's Worth", which was published by EbonyJet.com.

**Congresswoman Maxine Waters** of California's 35th district is considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics. She has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor. Throughout her 35 years of public service, Maxine Waters has been on the cutting edge, tackling difficult and often controversial issues. Prior to her election to the House of Representatives in 1990, Congresswoman Waters spent 14 years in the California State Assembly, and founded Project Build, working with young people in Los Angeles housing developments on job training and placement.

**Ambassador Andrew Young** was a pastor at several black churches in the South when he became active in the civil rights movement and came in contact with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and became its executive director in 1964. Young was elected to Congress in 1972 and served for four years when he became the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under President Jimmy Carter. Young was also served as the 55th mayor of Atlanta from 1982 to 1990.

**Youth Ensemble Atlanta** is an Atlanta-based organization that fosters the personal growth of young people from childhood to adulthood. Along the way, these talented and dedicated performers develop crucial life skills that result in heightened cultural awareness, a commitment to excellence and community service. YEA has been recognized for its work by the President's Committee on the Arts, Georgia Black Business Awards, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office, and winner of the VITA Award for Best Overall Production at the 2000 Windybrow Arts Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa.

# Overview of the UNITY Policy Platform

What cities need to  
prevent violence  
before it occurs

URBAN NETWORKS TO  
INCREASE THRIVING YOUTH  
**UNITY**  
through Violence Prevention



Cities need support to prevent violence. The UNITY Policy Platform describes what needs to be in place on the ground in cities to prevent violence and the supports cities need for their efforts to be successful and sustainable. The UNITY Policy Platform builds on what we know:

- We know how to prevent violence.** There is a strong and growing evidence base, grounded in research and community wisdom, that confirms it is possible to prevent violence in the long term. Cities with more coordination and collaboration have lower rates of community violence.
- Violence is a terrible burden on young people, families, neighborhoods, cities and taxpayers.** Nearly one in 10 students in urban schools does not feel safe enough to go to school, and more than 650,000 young people ages 10 to 24 are treated annually in emergency departments for injuries sustained from violence. Violence also exacts a considerable emotional and social toll. People living in urban areas are disproportionately affected by community violence.
- Investments in preventing violence pay off.** Violence is extremely costly due to emergency medical care costs, criminal justice expenses, school absences, and the economic divestment and loss of employment opportunities when local businesses move elsewhere. Reducing violence is an effective way to stimulate economic development that also saves lives and money.

## What Cities Need on the Ground to Prevent Violence

Cities need strategic plans to prevent violence and coordinated efforts across multiple sectors. The following strategies should be part of a balanced approach and include high-level leadership and community engagement in planning and implementation. Efforts should be driven by local data and evaluation.

I. This strategy can reduce shootings and homicides by up to 70 percent in neighborhoods highly impacted by violence: **Street outreach and interruption:** Street outreach workers can detect and interrupt violence, prevent imminent death and injury. They can also begin changing community norms about violence and create favorable conditions for long-term prevention strategies and the return of businesses.



II. These strategies reduce community and school violence by 50 percent in two to five years in neighborhoods highly impacted by violence:

**Universal, school-based violence prevention at all schools** promotes a safe climate for children to learn and fosters positive social and emotional development. **Treat mental health problems and substance abuse**, and enhance protective factors among youth to prevent mental illness and substance abuse. **Reduce young children's exposure to violence** in homes and communities. Reduce family violence. **Build community capacity** so residents can effectively address current and future problems, and sustain positive outcomes.

III. These strategies reduce risk factors to sustain reductions in violence over the long term in neighborhoods highly impacted by violence:

**Social connections** characterized by trust and concern for one another. **Economic development**, including youth employment. **Conflict resolution**: Enhance the skills of young people to resolve conflicts without violence. **Youth leadership**: Support and engage young people in decision-making. **Quality after-school and out-of-school programming**. **Mentoring**: Provide positive role models who can form strong and enduring bonds with young people. **Quality early care and education**: Foster social, emotional and cognitive skill development. **Positive social and emotional development**: Support growing self-awareness and self-regulation. **Parenting skills**: Train parents and caregivers on parenting practices and developmental milestones. **Family support services**: Provide integrated family services to promote self-sufficiency.

IV. This strategy reduces recidivism and prevents the re-occurrence of violence:

**Successful re-entry**: Support a successful transition from incarceration/detention to the community.

## What Cities Need on the State and National Levels to Maximize Local Efforts

Investing in cities to prevent violence pays off, saving dollars at the federal, state and local levels in the long term. For local efforts to be successful and sustainable, cities need support in the following ways:

**Allocate and align resources**: Cities need adequate, flexible financial resources to implement effective strategies on the ground, bring them to scale and coordinate them.

**Create a high-level focal point for preventing violence** in federal and state governments. This would foster accountability and coordination across multiple agencies.

**Establish a mechanism for multi-sector collaboration in federal and state governments**: This would provide a vehicle for aligning federal initiatives, establishing joint funding streams, coordinating data systems, and sharing evaluation strategies.

**Equip people with the necessary skills** to build a common language and foster understanding about one's own role and each sector's contribution.

**Establish supportive data, research and evaluation systems**: A national research agenda on effective prevention and disseminating multi-sector surveillance data on key risk and protective factors would inform and enhance local efforts. This information could be used to establish national baseline measures and standards.

**Develop a communications campaign** to lend local efforts heightened visibility and added credibility. Convey positive messages about youth and make the case for prevention.

**Enhance public health's capacity and infrastructure** at the federal, state and local levels to address violence. Public health has a track record and proven methodology for changing behaviors that contribute to poor health and safety outcomes.

The UNITY Policy Platform, released in December 2010, is a summary of *The UNITY Urban Agenda for Preventing Violence Before it Occurs: Bringing a Multi-sector Prevention Approach to Scale in U.S. Cities*, which was developed in partnership with the UNITY City Network and is endorsed by city representatives. For more information or to sign on, contact the UNITY team at Prevention Institute by calling (510) 444-7738 or e-mailing [unity@preventioninstitute.org](mailto:unity@preventioninstitute.org). Please send requests for references to [unity@preventioninstitute.org](mailto:unity@preventioninstitute.org).

UNITY is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in part by The Kresge Foundation and The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). Created in 1992 as an independent, private foundation, TCWF's mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness, education and disease prevention programs. Art by the children of the Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School, Los Angeles, CA.