

## **BUILDING A BRIDGE FOR YOUTH AT RISK**

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has been awarded \$464,777 from the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to reduce juvenile gang involvement through the *Bridge to Work* Program.

The program will start April 1, 2007, and is renewable for two additional years for a total of \$1,394,3311 in funding. The SBWIB will implement Bridge to Work by connecting the employment preparation and job training services of South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers with the mediation and conflict resolution services of Centinela Youth Services (CYS), and developmental support that will be provided by local community partner agencies.

This formal collaboration will use a comprehensive approach that addresses the economic needs of low-income youth and their families via employment preparation, (vocational instruction and hands-on work experiences); and addresses the need for skills to interact positively in the workplace, at home and in the community by providing conflict resolution training and mediation services as methods of prevention and intervention.

The program targets youth ages 14 to 17 years who are gang affiliated or at-risk of gang affiliation, and first/second time offenders residing in the South Bay. Up to 435 at risk youths will be served each year.

Participating in this effort are local police departments and school districts, community and faith-based organizations, and workforce development agencies.