

**South Bay Workforce Investment Board
11539 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 500
Hawthorne, CA 90250**

**PRESS RELEASE
February 26, 2008**

CENTINELA YOUTH SERVICES RECEIVES S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION GRANT

Centinela Youth Services (CYS) has been awarded a grant of \$15,000 from the S. Mark Taper Foundation to support its youth conflict resolution and mediation programs in Hawthorne and the surrounding South LA area. CYS programs operate both in schools and in the community through referrals from law enforcement and other community-based agencies.

Jan Vogel, CYS' Chief Executive Officer, welcomed the grant, stating, "This funding will enable us to provide mediation and conflict resolution services at many schools and help remove barriers to success for many at-risk youth in our community, who might otherwise choose a life of gang involvement or crime."

Deemed as an extremely effective program since 1975, CYS has won numerous competitive grants. It's considered a leader in the field of youth conflict resolution because of its effective use of trained volunteers to mediate family conflicts and juvenile crime cases, and its training program for student mediators to improve campus safety.

The S. Mark Taper Foundation itself is a well-established agency in Los Angeles, having received the *Outstanding Private Foundation* award at the National Philanthropy Day (NPD) in 2006. Founded in 1989, the S. Mark Taper Foundation is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities.

This generous grant from S. Mark Taper Foundation, along with the support of many other funding partners, will enable CYS to continue serving youth and families from the community.

Volunteer opportunities and further information about CYS services are available at the website www.cys-la.org or by calling 310-972-7702.

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