KGA HOUSE PARTY
HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER
Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015
2:00-5:00 PM
1045 Obispo Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90804

Join us in celebrating the holidays and another successful year of youth organizing Long Beach! Watch the short-video premiere highlighting the victory of our Youth at the CORE Campaign!

$20 suggested donation at the door
$15 suggested on-line donation
RSVP at www.facebook.com/kgalb

Know History, Know Self
Creating a Legacy of Change!

For almost two decades, KGA has organized, advocated for, and trained a new generation of Southeast Asian youth to be powerful leaders. We have worked on reproductive justice, immigrant refugee rights, language access, school climate and equitable budgeting. On the 40th anniversary of the Southeast Asian diaspora in the U.S., we reflect on and continue our community’s legacy of deep resistance and resiliency.

This year we commemorated the 40th anniversary of Southeast Asian diaspora in the U.S. From war, bombings and refugee camps to displacement, poverty, incarceration and deportation, we’ve reflected on the institutional root causes that have shaped our family’s experiences. Forty years later we continue our community’s legacy of resistance and resiliency with youth organizers at the forefront creating historic, long-term social change!

During our 2nd Annual Wellness Week, music, rallies, and excitement for a school-based wellness center buzzed throughout the campus. In just one week, KGA youth organizers surveyed and collected over 1,500 surveys (a third of Poly’s student population) that helped determine the hours and services for the Wellness Center.

KGA’s Youth at the CORE campaign helped establish the Wellness Center with support from The Children’s Clinic, MAPS Academy and Poly Health Teacher, Ms. Sawyer. The Wellness Center is the first and only in Long Beach to have teen-only hours, a KGA youth-led campaign victory! Scheduled to open this fall, The Children’s Clinic will staff the center and with students’ input from the survey, continue to keep youth’s health a priority.

“I don’t think students are used to giving their opinion on school resources they need. Having so many students fill out our survey shows that students do care about their health, education and how well they do in school,” says Kimberly Lim who, along with Alisia Sim, were the first KGA members to hold a seat for Poly’s School Site Council.

The campaign, deeply rooted in the goal to support Southeast Asian youth and children of refugees, has contributed to the larger movement of creating a positive school climate to serve all students in need.

For most low-income students whose families moved to Long Beach as refugees, a wellness center would have helped them during challenging life experiences. Youth organizer, Tavalee Chamrouen reflects, “Having a wellness center would have helped to relieve my mind and stress so I can enjoy life. Growing up, I always think how unfair it was that my dad was deported. He survived the war and when he came here, he didn’t even get a second chance.”

In addition to creating institutional change at schools KGA, in partnership with the Every Student Matters campaign, Long Beach Rising, and the Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community, made history and mobilized Long Beach voters to successfully pass Prop. 47! The California-initiative reallocates prison spending to fund K-12, mental health services, and substance abuse prevention programs. It is retro-active and re-classifies non-violent, petty crimes into misdemeanors to prevent people from funnelling back into poverty and prison. Tavalee, one of many who volunteered her weekends to inform registered voters says, “I felt proud to make a positive change so people like my dad could get a second chance. I made sure my teachers knew about it too so that money would go to schools and teachers, not the prison system.”

Community organizing allows us to heal, empower, learn, and change our world to be equitable and just. We are committed and passionate to trail-blaze a path of justice for our generation and beyond!
Youth at the C.O.R.E Campaign

- KGA secured teen-only hours for the Wellness Center opening this Fall.
- Youth organizers surveyed over 1,500 students who gave their input on what hours and services they need to be healthy and thrive in school.
- During Wellness Week, 50 student and health-based organizations provided health information and resources. The week culminated with a Health Fair and a special appearance and dance routine led by the Los Angeles Laker Girls!

Electoral & Civic Engagement

- In collaboration with Every Student Matters and the Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community, we knocked on 2,000 doors, talked with over 600 registered voters and committed over 350 Long Beach residents to pass Prop. A on election day.
- On Halloween night, KGA hosted the 2nd Annual School House of Horrors to show how poverty and the school-to-prison-pipeline cause students to vanish from schools. Over 150 people attended and were given information on Prop. A7 as a solution that heals not harms our community.
- As part of the Cambodian Advocacy Collaborative, we worked on Senate Bill 291 to improve and prioritize institutional health access for people with trauma related to genocide. With the Khmer Parent Association, United Cambodian Community, Families in Good Health and Cambodian Association of America, we gathered signatures, testimonials, and coordinated community forums and legislative visits.

Media and Community Events

- In November, KGA was featured in the nationally-syndicated PBS special, America by the Numbers: Pass or Fail in Cambodia Town.
- Over 200 community members attended the premiere screening of Pass or Fail in Cambodia Town including LBUSD’s School Board and investigative journalist Maria Hinojosa who reported on the Asian American model minority myth and education statistics for Cambodians in Long Beach.
- 89.3 KPCC featured KGA in podcast. Take Two: Cambodians in Long Beach Mark Genocide: These are the Survivors.
- In January, over 50 people attended the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders event: Cambodian Community Listening Session. Co-hosted by KGA, the event addressed worker’s rights and workplace safety and fair treatment.
- KGA co-sponsored and participated in MAFE Healing Center’s The Healing Fields event.
- 200 people attended our 11th Annual Yellow Lounge during AAPI Heritage month in May. Performances and galleries highlighted stories of survival and resilience of the Southeast Asian diaspora in the U.S. 45 years after the Fall of Saigon and the take over of Phnom Penh.

Reflections From Our Members

Hard work pays off! Club YO! LB celebrates the passing of Prop. 47 to invest in schools not prisons.

"Wellness centers would’ve made a huge difference for me this school year. Even though I ended up a lot of heartache and pain this year I just felt like my place is here, to be part of the community and to keep fighting for what we want. It’s important for us young leaders to show that we’re here. We have a powerful voice! Our opinion matters and we want to fight for our student wellness! We’re not just students, we’re human beings. I want to show my son I can do this with the help of KGA.”

- Jocelyn Ly, Young Organizing Long Beach Program

"I remember freshman year I was really shy, timid and didn’t interact much with people. KGA connected me to my culture, heritage and community. Being here helped shift how I think of things. I learned that we are the best people to fight for schools not prisons. The students are the future! KGA has given us an open space and positive vibe to learn. This year I’ve grown more as a leader. I’m more outspoken in the classroom and I’ve been more active at outreach. You can find me in school representing KGA! If I’m not wearing a KGA shirt, I’m promoting our events like Wellness Week or Club YO! LB. KGA is LIFE!”

- Timothy Lim, Khmer Justice Program

Thank You for your Support!

In the fall of 2017, KGA launched a Student Matters campaign and advocating for our young leaders to show that we’re here. We have a powerful voice! Our opinion matters and we want to fight for our student wellness! We’re not just students, we’re human beings. I want to show my son I can do this with the help of KGA.”

- Jocelyn Ly, Young Organizing Long Beach Program

"I remember freshman year I was really shy, timid and didn’t interact much with people. KGA connected me to my culture, heritage and community. Being here helped shift how I think of things. I learned that we are the best people to fight for schools not prisons. The students are the future! KGA has given us an open space and positive vibe to learn. This year I’ve grown more as a leader. I’m more outspoken in the classroom and I’ve been more active at outreach. You can find me in school representing KGA! If I’m not wearing a KGA shirt, I’m promoting our events like Wellness Week or Club YO! LB. KGA is LIFE!”

- Timothy Lim, Khmer Justice Program

BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER TODAY!

GIVE YOUR SUPPORT ONLINE OR EMAIL info@kgalb.org TO BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER TODAY!