

LOS ANGELES

Homeboy Industries For A Future

Contact: 1916 East 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033, (800) 526-1254

“Nothing stops a bullet like a job.” — *Jobs for a Future motto*

“Our unique and multi-service approach offers hope to those for whom hope is often foreign. By addressing the root causes of gang violence, we give the roughly 1,000 youth we serve each month the chance to plan their futures, not their funerals.”

– *Father Gregory Boyle, Executive Director*

Mission: To help gang members, at-risk youth and those recently released from detention facilities find assistance with job training and placement, tattoo removal, counseling, community-service opportunities, and case-management services. Homeboy Industries is an economic development, job-training program which employs enemy gang members who wish to redirect their life.

Overview: Jobs For A Future (JFF), a program of Homeboy Industries, is a unique, first-stop center founded by Father Gregory J. Boyle, S.J. that now employs 12 full-time (and one part-time) staff members. Job referral was the first service provided, but as the organization grew, it saw that in order to succeed in a job, other needs must be met. Homeboy Industries believes that its approach provides a longer-lasting remedy than incarceration. Traditionally, solutions to gang violence have been threefold: prevention, intervention and suppression. Of the three, intervention is often neglected. At Homeboy Industries, intervention is pursued through the following program elements:

- **Job Referral** -- Four job developers work closely with employers, job-training programs, employment agencies and other community-based organizations to maximize job opportunities for clients.
- **Job Readiness** -- Clients are assisted in resume preparation and coached in interview skills, appropriate attire and behavior for the workplace and job retention. If a client is not job ready, he is referred to the job-training program.
- **Job Training** -- Clients who are unprepared for other employers are hired either by Jobs For A Future or by another Homeboy Industries business.
- **"Ya Estuvo" - Tattoo Removal** --- JFF provides free tattoo removal services to any client who requests it
- and gives priority to clients who have tattoos that endanger personal safety, impede the ability to secure employment or affect mental health.
- **"New Image"** --- When funding is available, JFF also assists young men and women in acquiring appropriate attire for the work environment.
- **Counseling** --- With the help of qualified counselors, clients have demonstrated significant progress in changing behaviors, finding and keeping gainful employment, learning relationship skills and making positive choices.

Results:

- Serves 1,000 youth per month
- Removed tattoos – which can endanger personal safety, prevent employment and affect mental health – from 1,250 clients in 2002

Key Elements of Success:

- Intervenes to reduce gang violence
- Offers real alternatives to gang life
- Addresses root causes of gang violence
- Services available to any motivated client

Target Population: Although Jobs For A Future was born in the Aliso-Pico housing projects, it now serves at-risk, gang-impacted young men and women from throughout Los Angeles County.

Awards:

Los Angeles Mega Cities Project (1995)

Archdiocese of Los Angeles (1997)

“The Ya’Stuvo Tattoo Removal program is a highly valued, if not vital service for previously gang-involved individuals and, by extension, the families and general communities of which they are members. The accessible and no-cost structure of the program has helped motivate over 1,250 individuals to stay committed to a medical procedure that can be painful, and take more than one-and-a-half years to complete. The program’s waiting list of over 600 is a testament to both how important the service is to the community that uses it, and how well it is provided.”

-- An evaluation by a program funder in 2002.