

SACRAMENTO

Mutual Assistance Network Of Del Paso Heights

Contact: 811 Grand Avenue, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95838, (916) 927-7694
Linda Gutierrez, (916) 286-1208, lindagutierrez@grant.k12.ca.us

“We get 1,330 visits per month to the Family Resource Center alone. Our programs, which cover all the different parts of our community, give the residents of Del Paso Heights the chance to improve their quality of life.”

–Linda Gutierrez, Academic Achievement Coordinator

Mission: The Mutual Assistance Network (MAN) of Del Paso Heights is a community development corporation that uses the skills and talents of the residents of Del Paso Heights to:

- Expand commercial, financial and employment opportunities for neighborhood residents
- Improve the neighborhood’s physical, public safety, educational, and social conditions
- Stimulate and build self-help with mutual assistance programs that enable residents to work together to achieve good health and successful lives
- Promote, conduct, and operate any programs, businesses or other activities necessary to achieve these purposes

Overview: With 75 percent of its employees and a majority of its board members residing in the neighborhood, MAN offers a number of programs to support the revitalization of Del Paso Heights and build opportunity for local residents.

- Youth Services provides leadership development, mentoring, guidance and performance arts instruction through Operation Graduation (a mentoring and tutoring program for area youth), Youth Village, Youth Support Group and No-Limit Positive Soldiers.
- Economic development programs include Neighborhood Central, the Housing Reconstruction Program and Community Gardens.
- Family Services provides support, advocacy, in-home services, information and referrals through the Block Grandparent Program, Parent Support Group and Grandparent Support Program.
- Welfare-to-Work – a comprehensive program designed to assist Del Paso Heights residents secure long-term employment – offers job development, job retention services and community-service placements.

Results: Operation Graduation

- On average, 9th graders in Operation Graduation were 40 percent more likely to stay enrolled in high school until the end of 9th grade than were those in the control group.
- If Operation Graduation participants continued into 10th grade, they were 58 percent more likely to complete the academic year than the control group.

Key Elements of Success: Operation Graduation

- Mentoring by youth peers
- Keeping program voluntary
- Using home visits to reach out to parents
- Conducting careful evaluations to track program success

Target Population: Operation Graduation

Any and all students within the Del Paso Heights neighborhood

Evaluation: Operation Graduation

Operation Graduation, a five-year initiative for the Sacramento Regional Foundation, conducted by Minicucci Associates, 2003

“Operation Graduation is growing every year. Our mentoring and tutoring program, which is currently in three local schools, will expand to five next year.”

-Linda Gutierrez