

*"For these are all our children.
We will all profit by, or pay for, whatever they
become."*

- James Baldwin



*Bayview Hunters Point is rich with our
world's greatest resource: children.
Approximately 32 % of Bayview residents
are under 18.*

If children experience MAGIC in their world, they will have hope for the future...

A Recipe for MAGIC

**By Jeff Adachi
SF Public Defender**

A few months ago, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office and several partnering organizations joined together to form the volunteer group, Mobilization for Adolescent Growth in our Communities (MAGIC). MAGIC's mission is simple: to bring community leaders together to develop a consensus, and to implement a successful strategy to foster adolescent growth and promote the use of services in our communities.

MAGIC is based on the belief that we can seriously address the problems afflicting our children only by working together to develop community consensus based on a shared vision.

Much has been said about the violence and crime plaguing communities such as Bayview Hunters Point, Visitacion Valley and other neighborhoods in San Francisco. Residents often voice their frustrations with police and other officials at town halls and community meetings.

I looked at the work we do at the Public Defender's office, and saw that nearly 30% of the 1400 youth we represent in the juvenile justice system each year come from Bayview Hunters Point. I know from my two decades as a public defender that this statistic does not suggest that kids in Bayview are more inclined to commit crimes, but rather it simply illustrates that poverty deprives children of many essential resources and opportunities which kids and families in more affluent neighborhoods possess. Quality education, mental and physical health care, child care, tutoring, mentoring and after-school programs should not be optional, and should not be reserved for children whose parents have the resources to pay for them.

In searching for solutions, I became intrigued with "the Comprehensive Strat-



egy." Developed by juvenile justice experts during the Clinton-Gore years, the Strategy outlines the process of juvenile justice reform through community planning. Drawing on best practices from across the country, the plan has been successfully implemented in over 50 cities throughout the U.S.

I met with representatives from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) in Oakland, who explained that the plan has been extremely successful where it has been implemented, resulting in marked decreases in crime and better coordination and delivery of youth services. The plan uses well-researched data to pinpoint community needs. These needs will be fulfilled through the collaboration of community leaders, trainers and government agencies, so that those who best know the strengths and needs of the community will have the support and resources needed to solve the problems.

MAGIC now seeks to take this model of success and implement it in San Francisco, one neighborhood at a time, to bridge the gap between the world that is and the one that ought to be for our children. We are excited to start this initiative in Bayview Hunters Point with our Back to School Celebration, and we look forward to spreading the MAGIC with each of you. We invite you to join us.

Bayview Magic

MAGIC Partners continue to celebrate Bayview children through exciting programs and initiatives.

■ The Bayview Hunters Point Foundation recently took a group of 20 children to Lake Tahoe for a summer trip.

■ MAGIC member Barbara Howard founded a mentorship program, "B.H. Brilliant Minds Project, Inc." which takes underprivileged children on field trips.

■ Bayview Hunters Point is home to one of the largest artist communities in the country. "The Point" and its over 250 artists routinely open their studios and show their work twice a year. Please visit the next FREE open studio, scheduled for October 24 & 25.

■ Bayview is home to the Bayview Opera House which strives to train Bayview youth interested in arts-related fields through several programs. Their programs include a community movie theater, a stage technician workshop and the Heritage Magazine. See www.bayviewoperahouse.org or contact Shelley Bradford-Bell at (415)824-0386 for more information.

■ The Hunters Point Family agency includes four organizations: Girls 2000, Bayview Safe Haven, Brothers Against Guns, and Peacekeepers. These groups provide cooking classes, art projects, employment and life training workshops, academic tutoring, and more. See www.lfagroup.com/services/ for more information.

The MAGIC Mission

The mission of MAGIC is to mobilize key community leaders in Bayview Hunters Point, including individuals, families, youth, juvenile justice stakeholders, government agencies, youth services, faith-based organizations, and businesses to develop a community consensus in a plan of action to support and foster adolescent growth in Bayview Hunters Point. MAGIC's objectives are:

- To conduct an intensive assessment phase of data collection and analysis to identify priority risk factors that contribute to youthful lawbreaking and draw attention to gaps in the existing continuum of prevention and juvenile justice programs in Bayview Hunters Point.

- To present the community with accurate and validated information concerning the needs of youth as well as other factors affecting our youth, including violent crime, gang activity, drugs, domestic violence and guns.

- To research, evaluate and present information about existing services that are

responsive to the identified community needs in the Comprehensive Action Plan.

- To increase collaboration, joint planning and program development by youth agencies and juvenile justice stakeholders with the goal of developing a full continuum of services available to at-risk youth and their families, which includes parenting skills, a truancy intervention programs, violence prevention, gang prevention/intervention, youth substance abuse, youth employment initiatives, peer mentoring, restorative justice and conflict resolution programs.

- To develop performance measures designed to evaluate the effectiveness of youth services and juvenile justice agencies in meeting the needs of youth.

- To produce a multi-year Strategic Plan endorsed by local officials and designed to guide the development of new and existing programs, and the investment of resources.

MAGIC will also reach out to involve other communities, neighborhoods and individuals to share the organization's experiences and to seek outside assistance, support and resources.



Visit MAGIC at www.bayviewmagic.com

MAGIC's partners include:

- Center for Young Women's Development
- Children's System of Care
- The Community Leadership Council
- Family Restoration House
- Infusion-One
- National Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Northern California Service League
- Safety Network Program
- San Francisco Public Defender's office
- Urban Services YMCA
- W. Haywood Burns Institute
- Women's Chamber of Commerce



MAGIC members meet with James Howard and friends. Howard has operated "Wendy's Cheesecake" bakery and restaurant in the Bayview for 30 years. Mr. Howard told MAGIC, "Businesses have to stay in Bayview. We've worked to make this community what it is today."

Children Learn What They Live

- If a child lives with criticism
She learns to condemn
- If a child lives with hostility and violence
He learns how to fight
- If a child lives with ridicule,
She learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame,
He learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance,
She learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement
He learns confidence
- If a child lives with praise
She learns to appreciate
- If a child lives with fairness
He learns justice
- If a child lives with security
She learns to have faith
- If a child lives with approval
He learns to like himself
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
She learns to find love in the world
- If children experience MAGIC in their world
They will have hope for the future.

Thanks to MAGIC's Back-to-school sponsors

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- Topher Delaney & Seam Studios