

LIFETIME Newsletter

Summer 2008



In This Issue

Greetings LIFETIME Family!

Empowering Lives
Parents on the Move



Upcoming Events

Equal Voices Convention

10 am - 2 pm on
Saturday, Sept. 6

Ten thousand people will be gathering in LA, Birmingham and Chicago to witness the unveiling of the American Families' Platform, which was created by over 40,000 working families throughout the nation based on their experience and needs for childcare, healthcare, access to education and more!

Greetings LIFETIME Family!

Welcome to LIFETIME's inaugural newsletter! I'm excited to share the great things happening at LIFETIME with you. First, we've launched our Education Works! Campaign and are educating parents and service providers on how parents can go to school and the resources available for them to stay in and complete education and training programs, especially under CalWORKs. If you want us to come out to do an Education Works! training, please contact our PEER Program Coordinator, Sayoko Watson. Second, after A LOT of advertising we hired an Organizer, Kaysi Holman, to lead our policy advocacy, parent leadership, and membership development work. She is working hard to reconnect with past, current and future parent leaders as we continue our fight to change the policies that keep our families poor. And finally, we are moving back to Oakland! Expect an update on our location by the end of the year with all of our new contact information.

Currently we are recruiting members for LIFETIME's statewide Board of Directors. If you are interested or want more information please contact LIFETIME.

Our Fall 2008 newsletter will be sent in October, so be on the lookout! Until next time, be encouraged, be an inspiration, and be blessed!

Sylvia Cabrales

Mills College '00 and former CalWORKs mom
LIFETIME Board Chair

Education Works! Trainings

Check LIFETIME's event calendar to find out more about upcoming workshops in your area. [Click Here](#) to view the events calendar and for more information on Education Works! please contact [Sayoko Watson](#).

Voter Info Sessions

In an effort to build our membership and power in our community, we are launching a Voter Turnout project this fall! We're going to need a LOT of volunteers to help us register parents to vote, make calls, and knock on doors. Voter information sessions will begin in September, so contact Lead Organizer [Kaysi Holman](#) or SoCal Organizer [Angelica Ceballos](#) by email or phone at 562-712-9658 to sign up to participate in and lead our voter project!

Quick Links

[Donate Now](#)

[More About Us
Programs & Services
Campaign & Events](#)

[Join Now](#)



Empowering Ourselves to Become Educated, Employed, and Economically Secure

LIFETIME's PEER program has been busy doing outreach throughout the state, promoting LIFETIME's mission and goals to impact the education and economic conditions of low-income parents and communities. Through providing one-on-one peer advocacy support, Education Works! trainings, and [Individual Development Accounts \(IDA's\)](#) we remain steadfast and confident about offering some of the best support services to low-income families and CalWORKs parents in the state!

Key to what we do is teach parents how to become advocates for themselves. Recently parent leader Vivian Hain was 'sanctioned off' of CalWORKs without proper notice, despite the fact that she had a mental health exemption. Vivian immediately requested a state appeals hearing. We began advocating for her with the County and advised her to contact her Board of Supervisor Representative, Keith Carson. As a result of Vivian's actions her CalWORKs benefits were restored within an hour.

Understanding that others have encountered situations that are similar or the same as Vivian's, the PEER program would like to share an advocacy tip with you to use if you or someone you know gets 'sanctioned off' of CalWORKs without advanced notice. If you are not getting the services you believe you should be getting from the welfare office, request a state appeals hearing. Most issues are resolved before the hearing takes place, and LIFETIME is here to provide you the support you need to win your case. In addition to the appeal process, you can also contact your representative on the Board of Supervisors in your county. Your representative is there to advocate for you, just like LIFETIME. Use them whenever necessary!

We've also been diligent about fostering relationships with community partners and organizations that exude the same passion, dedication, and commitment of LIFETIME to better serve and empower low-income families. One such organization is the Black Infant Health Program of Alameda County. The Black Infant Health Program provides intensive, long-term case management to support pregnant and parenting African American women and men and improve the health and futures of their babies. For more information or to enroll, contact the Black Infant Health Program in San Leandro at (510) 618-1967. If you don't live in San Leandro, give them a call to get the info for your local program.



To connect with a PEER Advocate, to schedule an Education Works! training, or sign up for the IDA program, please contact PEER Program Coordinator [Sayoko Watson](#).

LIFETIME's Recruiting

Bilingual PEER Advocates

PEER Program interns are responsible for providing case management and support services to low-income and CalWORKs parents. In addition interns conduct regular outreach and also facilitate LIFETIME's Education Works! trainings.

Check out the job announcement [here](#).

Organizing Interns

Organizing Interns assist with LIFETIME's End Poverty, Not Welfare Campaign. Key responsibilities include grassroots member recruitment, campaign coordination, and parent leadership development.

Check out the job announcement [here](#).

To apply for an LIFETIME internship, send your cover letter and resume to [LIFETIME](#) by email or fax (510 352 5161) (Work Study students encouraged to apply)



Parents on the Move: Working Together to Protect our Children!

LIFETIME continues to fight Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposal that targets our children to balance the budget. By now you have probably heard about this year's budget deficit and the

pressure to cut programs and services - most of which provide much needed support to our families and children. For the second year in a row, the Governor has proposed to cut children off of aid and suspending or eliminating Cost of Living Adjustments for CalWORKs and SSI. He also proposed taking money from k-14 education and reducing reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal providers. Now he's laid off 20,000 temporary state workers and reduced the wages of 200,000 state workers to \$6.55/hour, the federal minimum wage. This tactic may force our legislators to cut programs, so it is imperative that we work together to stay strong and remind our legislators about what we need - NO CUTS and INCREASED REVENUE. Join us at the California State Building in Oakland on Wednesday, August 13th at 9:30a to tell our Legislators: Don't Balance the Budget on the Backs of our Children! For more information, contact Lead Organizer Kaysi Holman.

In addition to our state work, we are gearing up for federal welfare reauthorization by developing relationships with other women's organizations across the country and raising awareness of the challenges parents receiving welfare experience. On a national level we've taken a lead on increasing education opportunities and access to domestic violence services under TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), the federal welfare program that funds welfare programs across the nation. To gain support for these issues, we presented our Family Violence is Not an Option workshop at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference in Washington, DC on July 22nd. The highlight of the workshop was Juanita Castillo, a nursing student in San Jose and a LIFETIME member. Juanita, a domestic violence survivor herself, co-presented our workshop and connected with several leaders of domestic violence shelters and grassroots. She also did her first legislative visit with Diedra, a staff member from Senator Max Baucus's office (D-Maine). Diedra reinforced our commitment to our strategy of putting a human face on the issues and told us to work with organizations from other states that have Senators on the Finance Committee, which will hear the TANF reauthorization in 2011. This was Juanita's first trip east, and her first trip as a representative of LIFETIME. If you are interested in traveling with and representing LIFETIME, be sure to join as a member (only members are invited to participate) and lookout for announcements to upcoming events on our [listserve](#).

Keep up to date on our local, state, and national work by attending our monthly membership meetings in the Bay Area and in the Los Angeles area. Our next Bay Area membership meeting will be in September and will focus on our Voter Project, exact date, time, and location TBA. Contact Bay Area Organizing Intern [Lakisha Neal-Chatmon](#) at 510-352-5160 x 303 for more info! Our next Southern California membership meeting is scheduled for September 27th, exact time and location TBA. Contact So. Cal. Organizer [Angelica Ceballos](#) at 526-712-9658 for more info!