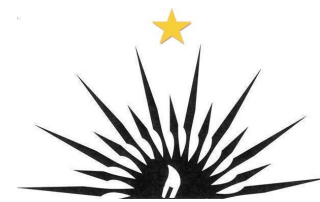


# Bright Futures Scholars



**Quality of Life Center, Inc.**

*The mission of the Quality of Life Center, Inc. is to develop and manage centers with multi-cultural programs and services designed to ensure that opportunities for success are equally shared by all participants with a desire to improve their quality of life.*

## Greetings from the CEO:

It is my privilege to share our Quality of Life Center, Inc. newsletter. You have now entered into the fascinating, cutting edge world of new and innovative Youth Development Programs and associated Family Assistance Services. We appreciate your interest and hope that you will use this opportunity to learn more about who we are and what we do.

I am extremely proud of the success of our agency and our now nationally acclaimed programs; one such being the Bright Futures Scholars Support Program. Participating scholars focus on daily leadership development as well as marketability preparation towards future goals. We

believe that youth strive to meet the expectations that are set for them - and at the Quality of Life Center, these expectations are high. We nurture, prepare and encourage every individual in our programs to maximize his/her potential. We believe that the quality of education and opportunities provided are reflected in the achievements of our participants. The dedication of our Board of Directors and staff, ensure that our program participants and their families receive uncompromised services that will improve their quality of life.

To this end, we continue to set new goals and reach them. As we move forward in excellence, we thank each

of you for your ongoing loyalty, support and feedback. There is still much to be done. WE NEED YOU!!

*Knowledge  
is Power!  
We're Bright  
Futures  
Scholars!*



**Dr. Sandra E. Thomas**  
Dean of Scholars

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## 2012 Bright Futures Scholars Events:

**January 7, 2012:** BFS Meeting

**February 4, 2012:** BFS Meeting

**April -6, 2012:** Leadership Retreat

**April 7, 2012:** BFS Meeting

**May 5, 2012:** BFS Meeting

**June 2, 2012:** Graduation Rehearsal

**June 3, 2012:** BFS Graduation

## Special points of interest:

- **February: Scholars Month!**
- **Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise! Health education, at all levels, is provided to our scholars to assist in maintaining healthy living and positive life choices.**
- **Graduation will be held on Sunday June 3rd at the Pasadena Convention Center**



California Congressman  
29<sup>th</sup> District  
Adam Schiff



California Congresswoman  
32<sup>nd</sup> District  
Judy Chu



California State Senator  
District 21  
Carol Liu



California Assembly Member  
District 44  
Anthony Portantino



Los Angeles County Supervisor  
5<sup>th</sup> District  
Michael D. Antonovich



Mayor of Pasadena  
Bill Bogaard



Altadena Council Chair  
CEO Quality of Life Center, Inc.  
Dr. Sandra E. Thomas



Los Angeles County Sheriff  
Leroy D. Baca



Pasadena Council Member  
District 3  
Chris Holden



Pasadena City Manager  
Michael J. Beck



Pasadena Chief of Police  
Phillip L. Sanchez

**2011-2012  
Mentors**



Altadena Sheriff's Station Captain  
John Benedict



California Highway Patrol  
in Altadena  
Captain Steve Strull



Los Angeles County Fire Chief  
Daryl L. Osby



PUSD  
Superintendent  
Jon Gundry



PCC Superintendent/  
President  
Dr. Mark W. Rocha



Pasadena Water and Power  
General Manager  
Phyllis Currie



Pasadena Superior Court  
Judge Philip Soto



Superior Court Judge  
Michael Carter



Superior Court  
Judge Lia Martin



Altadena Sheriff's  
Station Captain (Ret.)  
Steve McLean



Altadena Sheriff's  
Station Captain (Ret.)  
Captain Roosevelt Blow



**Welcome Bright Futures Scholars!**

It was a warm Saturday in the Altadena/Pasadena area, but that did not stop hundreds of Scholars from attending their first Bright Futures Scholars (BFS) meeting that on the 1st of October. All participants were welcomed to the orientation which included new and returning scholars from all PUSD middle and high schools. Bright Futures Scholars is one of many programs offered by Quality of Life Center, Inc, a charitable non-profit 501(c)(3), which was founded in 2004. The specific purpose of its BFS program is to academically aid and mentor students from the Altadena, Pasadena, and bordering communities.

Young men and women, ranging from grades 6-12th, participated in the Bright Future Scholars Leadership Development Program. As scholars signed up, grabbed their shirts, and took their photos they were directed to the auditorium where Dr Sandra E. Thomas, who is the Dean of Scholars and staff greeted them with open arms. Once the scholars and parents

settled in, Dr. Thomas began addressing them with a brief introduction of the program along with a few words of wisdom on how "education is vital" for their future.

Under Dr. Thomas' leadership, the BFS program educates youth to become leaders of, not only their communities but also the nation. With today's economic challenges many, though academic achievers, lack the mentoring or resources needed to allow them to flourish. Fortunately, BFS offers the mentoring along with the resources, so it is no surprise that "100% of students in this program all enroll in a college" says Dr. Thomas. What sets BFS apart from similar programs around the nation is the support from its many dedicated community leaders such as those shown on page 2.

During the first meeting were also introductions by the Leadership Steering Committee (LSC), BFS Students-self introductions, Pasade-

na City College students, and parents and guests. "This first meeting of BFS was a roaring success!" said LSC chairman Jordan Harris. "Several of the experienced scholars are looking forward to the upcoming events that the leadership committee will be planning," she added. April's Washington DC Leadership Retreat is one of numerous events Scholar's are looking forward to. Other events taking place during this exciting year are the city council meetings, Board of Education PUSD meetings, TV tapings airing on Channel 32, Pajama Movie Night, and of course Graduation rehearsal along with many other educational and fun events. With so much for the Scholars to look forward this year it is no wonder the auditorium was filled with exciting faces including many proud family members.

As the meeting drew to a close the scholars gathered together for a group photo and a final farewell until their next meeting. Their parents observed with great satisfaction as

their scholars had now taken their first step towards a bright future (pun intended). We can talk endlessly about stimulating the economy, adding jobs, securing our borders but such changes are either only short-term or make little to no difference." Education is a very important aspect in life, our community, and society" says Harris. "I don't think I would have the knowledge or ability to comprehend certain subjects or issues that I am experiencing in life without a proper education." As the scholars looked at each other they became aware that on that warm Saturday they were all there united for a common interest: to improve the quality of life.





*2011-2012 Bright Futures Scholars at the November 6th meeting with mentors from the Sheriff's Station.*

### **Bright Futures Scholars Annual Christmas Celebration**

Christmas began early for the Bright Futures Scholars as they gathered on Saturday, December 3rd at the Altadena Community Center for an event full of activities, games, prizes, food, and a surprise guest appearance. The Bright Futures Scholars Christmas meeting, put together by the Leadership Steering Committee and the Pasadena City College Student Work force, consisted of three games and activities with several raffles in between. Prizes included stuffed toys, candy canes, Santa Clause hats, and the grand prize: a flat screen TV.

But before any games, activities or raffles took place, there was an announcement to remind us how fortunate we are during these holidays to have food on our table and gifts in our living rooms. Some families, however, are not as fortunate, but the Altadena Sheriff Station Toy Drive will make sure that some 350 families will have a white Christmas this year. Therefore, the Quality of Life Center, Inc. made sure to aid the Sheriff Station by spreading the word that during these holidays, members of our community need us.

Following the announcements, the Scholars were separated into groups for the game of charades, during which the teams (pears, bananas, oranges and apples) would compete against one another for an overall team prize. The game was beyond humorous as Scholars acted out Christmas words and phrases such as "Christmas tree", Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer" and "Hot Chocolate". The Candy Cane Hunt followed and it involved the Scholars going on the hunt in front of the Community Center to find as many candy canes as possible, some hidden in the bushes, stairs and the oddest of places (hanging from tall trees). The Scholar with the most candy canes would win a special prize.

In between the games several gifts were raffled, one which included a flat screen TV. A group photo followed along with a group photo of all the winners of the raffles. With the year coming to an end, the meeting was a great success and allowed the Scholars to end on a grand plateau after having worked very hard throughout the year. It was a chance for them to win prizes, enjoy themselves, receiving words of wisdom, and see each other one last time before the long Christmas break.





**Bright Futures Scholars New Years Resolution “Putting Our Best Foot Forward”**



For many people the beginning of a New Year usually means committing to a New Year’s resolution. We have all been there, done that: We want to lose a few pounds for the upcoming summer season, improve our grades in school, our savings or investment accounts, or simply make more leisure time for ourselves. While the aforementioned resolutions are great for personal development, we often time find ourselves seeking for more even after we have accomplished those goals. Perhaps we have not fully contented ourselves? When the Bright Futures Scholars attended the first meeting of the year, their New Year’s resolutions were about to change. The Scholars were about to realize, early in their lives, that the best New Year’s resolutions is, sometimes, the one where you give back to the community in the form volunteerism.

significance within volunteerism and the legacy that can be created by leaving pieces of your heart here and there. For the year ahead of us, we can only expect many Scholars to focus not only in improving their grades and earning a little more money, but also to brighten the future of those in our communities, as From listening to dedicated leaders from our community, the Scholars have received a more complete understanding of the significance within volunteerism and the legacy that can be created by leaving pieces of your heart here and there. For the year ahead of us, we can only expect many Scholars to focus not only in improving their grades and earning a little more money, but also to brighten the future of those in our communities, as well as ourselves. As Martin Luther King Jr. best puts it "life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"



## Bright Futures Scholars Schedule 2011-2012

*updated 5/25/12*

October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	April 2012
<p><b>Oct 1, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Robotics</b></p>	<p><b>Nov 5, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pasadena City College Superintendent /President Dr. Mark W. Rocha</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PUSD Superintendent Jon Gundry</i></p>	<p><b>Dec 3, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Celebration!</b> <b>(Let's Get Moving!)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Altadena Sheriff's Station Captain Steve McLean</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Altadena Sheriff's Station Captain (Ret.) Roosevelt Blow</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Highway Patrol Officer Captain Steve Strull</i></p>	<p><b>Jan 7, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>California Congressman Adam Schiff</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>California State Senator Carol Liu</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>California Assembly Member Anthony Portantino</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 17 Altadena Town Council Outing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 23 Pasadena City Council Outing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Scholars Month</i></p> <p><b>Feb 4, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pasadena Superior Court Judge Phillip Soto</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Judge Michael D. Carter</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hon. Lia Martin</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Feb 28 PUSD Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>Mar 3, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mayor of Pasadena Bill Bogaard</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>City Manager Michael Beck</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chief of Police Phillip Sanchez</i></p>	<p><b>Apr 7, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>April 1-6</b> <b>Washington D.C. Retreat!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>LA County Sheriff Leroy Baca</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Altadena Sherriff Captain John Benedict</i></p>
May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	August 2012	September 2012	October 2012	November 2012
<p><b>May 5, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pasadena Council Member Chris Holden</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pasadena Water and Power General Manager Phyllis Currie</i></p>	<p><b>June 2, Sat 1-4</b> Graduation Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>June 3, Sun 1-4 PM</b> <b>GRADUATION</b> Pasadena Convention Center, Green Street</p>	<p>Limited Summer Activities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loma Alta School (watch your emails)</p>	<p>Limited Summer Activities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loma Alta School (watch your emails)</p>	<p>Bright Futures Scholars Staff Development</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leadership Team Development</p>	<p><b>Oct 6, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting Orientation</p>	<p><b>Nov 3, Sat 1-4</b> BFS Meeting</p>

*February is the month when the brilliant academic achievers in the Bright Futures Scholars program are acknowledged for their efforts.*

**CONGRATULATIONS BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARS!**





**Quality of Life Center, Inc.**

# Thank You!

*on behalf of the 2011-2012 Bright Futures Scholars,*

*Bright Futures Scholars Alumni,*

*The Quality of Life Center, Inc. Board of Directors and Staff.*

*The Quality of Life Center, Inc. wishes to express its sincere appreciation to our mentors, supporters, partners, advocates, and friends for your commitment of time, expertise, and financial assistance, which ensure that our programs provide the skills, knowledge and opportunities needed for all participants to succeed.*

*We truly value the role you play in helping us improve the Quality of Life for all associated with our center.*



**Bright Futures Scholars during the Washington D.C. Retreat  
with Congressman Adam Schiff**





**Animo South LA Charter**  
**Principal Antonio Garcia**  
 11100 South Western Avenue  
 Los Angeles, CA 90047  
 (323) 779-0544

**Currently participating are:**

**11th grade**

Eric Smith

**Blair IB Magnet School**  
**Principal Trudell Skinner**  
 1201 S. Marengo Ave.  
 Pasadena, CA 91106  
 (626) 441-2201

**Currently participating are:**

**7th grade**

Aleena Drummond  
 Attila Hengedus Jr.  
 Juan Rivas  
 Ryan Callahan

**8th grade**

Beverly Johnson  
 Sumayyah Muhammad  
 Symphony Brown

**9th grade**

Amairany Gonzalez  
 Preston Araki

**10th grade**

Daniel Hegedus  
 Devon Stephens  
 Iyana Banks  
 Saily Amador

**11th grade**

**12th grade**

Amber Moore

**Carnegie Middle School**  
**Principal Verna B Stroud**  
 21820 Bonita St.  
 Carson, CA 90745

**7th grade**

Asiah Arch  
 Isaiah Arch

**Carson High School**  
**Principal Windy Warren**  
 22328 South Main Street  
 Carson, CA 90745  
 (310) 847-6000

**Currently participating are:**

**12th grade**

Tywon White

**Eliot Middle School**  
**Principal Peter Pannell**  
 2184 N. Lake Avenue  
 Altadena, CA 91001  
 (626) 396-5680

**Currently participating are:**

**6th grade**

Brenda Sanchez-Pina  
 David Ochoa

**7th grade**

Amari Wilson  
 Brian Paul  
 Heidy Mejia  
 Jose Garcia  
 Nicole Chaves  
 Paulina Flores  
 Samantha Cruz  
 Sean Goldson Jr.  
 Tyree Carter

**8th grade**

Anahi Diaz  
 Brittney Harris  
 Camilla Larkin  
 Cheyenne Goddard  
 Dajuan Brown  
 Leonel Buneo  
 Michaela Jordan



*“To Dream the Impossible  
 Dream” This is our Quest!*

**John Muir High School**  
**Principal Sheryl Orange**  
 1905 N. Lincoln Ave  
 Pasadena, CA 91103  
 (626) 798-7881

**Currently participating are:**

**9th grade**

Daylon Davis  
 Logan Patton  
 Malik Pearson

**11th grade**

Elcin Ruiz

**10th grade**

Erick Marroquin  
 Jewelia Murrell

**12th grade**

Royal Craig

**Los Osos High School**  
**Principal Chris Hollister**  
**6001 Milliken Avenue**  
**Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737**  
**(909) 477-6900**  
**Currently participating are:**

**12th grade**

Devon Stephens

**Narbonne High School**  
**Principal Gerald Kobata**  
**24300 Western Ave**  
**Harbor City, CA 90710**  
**(310)257-7100**  
**Currently participating are:**

**9th grade**

Peighton Mercier

**10th grade**

Briana McCormick

**Marshall Fundamental School**  
**Principal Keith Derrick**  
**990 N. Allen Ave**  
**Pasadena, CA 91106**  
**(626) 798-0713**  
**Currently participating are:**

**6th grade**

Sarah Quan

**7th grade**

Anna Guerra  
 Dexter Myers  
 Diego Alvarenga  
 Elan Garfias  
 Giovanni Vargas  
 Ilse Shimizu  
 Ireene Nelson  
 Isabelle Lepasant  
 Kahlil Herron  
 Mariah Benn  
 Samil Siddiqi  
 Scarlett Posadas

**8th grade**

Aramis Carson  
 Arman Dashyan  
 Bryson Moore  
 Christopher Simmons  
 Cory Woodard  
 Dana Chavez  
 Joshua Quan  
 Miaya Potter  
 Priscilla Solis  
 Valerie Arebalo

**10th grade**

Brandon Salmon  
 David Solis  
 Javier Yanez  
 Joaquin Robles  
 Marissa Zuniga

**11th grade**

Gilbert Gonzalez  
 Madeleine Lepasant

**9th grade**

Genesis Rogel  
 Katherine Salmeron  
 Malik Powell  
 Mariana Porras  
 Natalie Martinez  
 Samantha Zaldana



# Scholars, Strive for excellence!



**Pasadena High School**  
**Principal Gilbert Barraza Jr.**  
**2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.**  
**Pasadena, CA 91107-1898**  
**(626) 798-8901**  
**Currently participating are:**

**9th grade**

Andrew Loeza  
 Aolani Dunlap-Speed  
 Aram Karikian  
 Hillary Santos  
 Ibeth Ochoa  
 Karesha Martin  
 Luis Honorato  
 Miguel Ordaz  
 Nikka Batisla-Ong  
 Stefanie Jennings

**11th grade**

Hanan Worku  
 Jordan Harris  
 Melvin Vasquez  
 Trinity Skinner

**12th grade**

Hanan Worku  
 Jessica Guerra  
 Samuel Batisla-Ong

**10th grade**

Aimee Nava  
 Amanda Becerra  
 Andrew Bonilla  
 Bryant Luna  
 Christian Bedoyan  
 Daniela Garcia  
 Evin Davis  
 Kyle Irving  
 Michelle Guerra  
 Nataly Quintana  
 Sebastian Jordan  
 Victorian Lepasant

**McKinley Middle School**  
**Principal Marisa Sarian**  
**325 South Oak Knoll Avenue**  
**Pasadena, CA 91101**  
**(626) 396-5630**  
**Currently participating are:**

**6th grade**

Damian Contreras

**7th grade**

Daniel Cobian  
 Dashia Saunderlin  
 LaTiara Allen  
 Rhema Taylor  
 Tyler Bradley

**8th grade**

Dalton Ludt  
 Jamie Kim  
 Juharah Worku  
 Maya Rollins  
 Taylor Contreras

**Robert E. Peary Middle School**  
**Principal Dr. L. Gail**  
 1415 W. Rosecrans  
 Gardena, CA 90247  
 (310)225-4200  
**Currently participating are:**

**6th grade**

Carey Page III

**Warren Lane Elementary**  
**Principal Dawnyell Goolsby**  
 9330 South Eight Ave.  
 Inglewood, CA 90305  
 (310) 680-5330  
**Currently participating are:**

**7th grade**

Marcus Gates

**Santa Fe Middle School**  
**Principal Ron Letourneau**  
 148 W Duarte Road  
 Monrovia, CA 91016  
 (626) 471-2700  
**Currently Participating are:**

**7th grade**

Amy Abel



**Sierra Madre Middle School**  
**Principal Gayle Bluemel**  
 141 W. Highland Avenue and  
 160 N. Canon Avenue  
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
 (626) 355-1428  
**Currently participating are:**

**7th grade**

Angela Banuelos  
 Jahmelah Maat-Hotep

**8th grade**

Brandon Mai  
 Giselle Salas  
 Layla Farahani  
 Madison Vlcek  
 Maral Ouzovnian

**Washington Middle School**  
**Principal Dr. Merian Stewart**  
 1505 N. Marengo Ave.  
 Pasadena, CA 91103  
 (626) 396-5830  
**Currently participating are:**

**7th grade**

Isabel Pimentel  
 Jonathan Martinez  
 Liseth Gonzalez

**8th grade**

Cassandra Cueva  
 Jazmin Hernandez  
 Sofia Carvajal

**South Pasadena High School**  
**Principal Mrs. Jane Anderson**  
 1401 Fremont Ave.  
 South Pasadena, CA 91030  
 (626)441-5820  
**Currently participating are:**

**9th grade**

Christina Tanwongprasert-Call

**Woodrow Wilson Middle School**  
**Principal Sarah Rudchenko**  
 300 S Madre Street  
 Pasadena, CA 91107  
 (626) 396-5800  
**Currently participating are:**

**6th grade**

Elizabeth Levicke

**7th grade**

Ke'Ara Spencer  
 Michael Astourian  
 Oliver Rodas

**8th grade**

Isela Gonzalez  
 Ivory Estrada  
 Krystal Rodas  
 Kyle Espirata  
 Moriah Preeto  
 Rolando Carpio Jr.  
 YoungHoon Kang

**St. Michael Catholic Charter School**  
**Principal Mr. Jim McMains**  
 1027 w. 8TH St  
 Los Angeles, CA 90044  
 (323) 752-6107  
**Currently participating are:**

**7th grade**

Ramon Pereda



Quality of Life Center, Inc.

## Bright Futures Scholars

3544 Canon Boulevard  
Altadena, CA 91001-4008  
Phone: 626-798-5433  
Fax: 626-798-5422

## The Bright Futures Scholars Support Program in Detail

- The Program extends itself to all targeted high achieving (3.0 GPA) students, including low-income students completing high school against insurmountable odds. The goal is to provide these young people with the tools necessary to quest for success.
- A vital component in this program provides "group mentoring" as well as "individual mentoring" from our communities finest. Committed mentors include congressman, senators, assembly members, mayors, county supervisors, physicians, clergy, corporate CEO's, attorneys, scientists, engineers, artists, educators, law enforcement officials, managers and administrators.
- Bright Futures Scholars participate as Junior Council Persons (representing their mentors and schools all over the nation). Monthly Scholars television tapings are aired on Public Access Television, and can also be viewed online all around the world.

Bright Futures Scholars meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of every month from 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Altadena Community Center on 730 E. Altadena Dr. Altadena, CA 91001. Telephone: 626-398-6174



We would love to hear from you. Please, contact us if you would like more detailed information about our programs, the center, or how you can help.

**We need YOU!**

**CEO Dr. Sandra E. Thomas**

**Personal Email:** [sanethomas@att.blackberry.net](mailto:sanethomas@att.blackberry.net)

**For General Information:** [qualityoflifecenterinc@yahoo.com](mailto:qualityoflifecenterinc@yahoo.com)

**For all other staff, use [qualityoflifecenterinc@yahoo.com](mailto:qualityoflifecenterinc@yahoo.com) and put ATTENTION (staff member's name) in the subject line.**

**Office Manager** Greg Middleton

**Finance Manager** Kelli Buhr

**Program Coordinator** Susie Dixon

**PCC Staff**

Klara Hoonanian, Knar Meloyan, Vanessa Andrade, Alexandra Ross, Chaya Stewart, Ebony Vaughns