

Children and Family Services



## Mentors Teach Sports and Life Lessons to Foster and At-Risk Youth at Sports Faire

HS Connection Staff

Foster and at-risk youth learned life lessons and the fundamentals of sports from professional athletes and mentors during the Annual Foster and Kinship Youth Sports Faire.

Nearly 400 County of San Bernardino foster, kinship and at-risk youth ages 11 – 18 attended the event at San Bernardino Valley College. The annual faire is designed to provide youth with experiences that promote physical fitness, healthy living, and community participation. This year's theme, "Tackling Life's Challenges Through Education, Physical Activity and Sports," mirrors today's economy and the challenges these youth face as foster, kinship and at-risk youth.



The faire kicked off with a high-powered welcome from Children and Family Services Director Randall Schulz followed by the presentation of the American Flag and pledge of allegiance by the Boy Scouts of America Troop 699, and the National Anthem sang by the Youth Choir of Greater Faith Grace Bible Church.

Opening ceremonies guest speaker Eric Arrington, a former football player who was paralyzed when he was hit by cross gun fire, spoke of how he tackled life's challenges despite being confined to a wheelchair and carries out his passion by coaching football.



Laura Brumund, a single-leg amputee, with the CA Family Life Center led the morning warm-up stretches before the youth attended the individual sports clinics which consisted of football, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, track and field, cheerleading/dance and volleyball. Professional, semi-professional and local athletes and mentors volunteered their time to mentor the youth at each sports clinic.

Hugo Castellanos, a Supervising Social Service Practitioner with CFS, was the co-chair of the event and the football component lead.

"For the foster youth, this event allows them to get connected to athletes," said Castellanos. "They have an opportunity to ask questions, not only about sports, but life itself and we tie life skills to all the sports components."

Youth registered for the event received a free item of sports equipment, lunch sponsored by In-N-Out Burger, a list of free sports programs in a variety of cities for youth to pursue their favorite sport and an In-N-Out sports bag loaded with many other items. While the youth were at play, foster and kinship parents and care providers attended training that met state requirement hours.

County of San Bernardino  
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Sponsorship of the Faire was provided in part by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Children and Family Services, Children's Fund, Children's Network, Clark's Nutrition, Cucamonga Christian Fellowship, Food 4 Less, In-N-Out Burger, San Bernardino County Probation Department, Department of Public Health, San Bernardino Valley College and its athletics department, and many more national and local business partners.

