



## Children and Family Services (CFS)

# Super Stars Mentor 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 9th Annual Foster and Kinship Youth Sports Faire.

Nearly 400 San Bernardino County foster, kinship and at-risk youth ages 11-18 attended the event at Wilmer Amina Carter High School in Rialto. The annual faire is designed to provide youth with an opportunity to learn the fundamental skills of team sports, sportsmanship and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Opening ceremonies included welcoming remarks from Children and Family Services (CFS) Director Marlene Hagen and concluded with inspirational words from Steven Benedict, track athlete and motivational speaker, and Oracene Price, mother of Venus and Serena Williams.

Youth attended football, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, track and field, cheerleading/dance, volleyball and tennis clinics. Professional, semi-professional, and local athletes, including the Ontario Fury, and Vincent Brown Jr. of the Indianapolis Colts, volunteered their time to mentor the youth at each sports clinic.

“One of the objectives of the event is for all youth participants to build positive connections with coaches and mentors as they learn the basic fundamentals of each sport. We hope that each youth carries that positive experience on to their community and enroll in organized sports to further their interest,” said Sports Faire Chairman Hugo Castellanos.

The youth achieved new experiences that bolstered their self confidence. From making a goal on the soccer field to catching a football, you could hear the joy in their voice as they shouted with pride, “did you see that?; I did it!”.

At the end of the day, foster youth took home sports equipment to encourage continued activity and gained a wealth of life lessons from the mentors who volunteered at the faire.



Many partners contributed to the success of the faire with donations from In-N-Out Burger, Children’s Fund, and Clark’s Nutrition to name a few. These collaborations and partnerships

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support the Countywide Vision to work together with community organizations and agencies toward a common goal. You can learn more about the Countywide Vision by visiting [www.sbcounty.gov/vision](http://www.sbcounty.gov/vision).



Youth hits baseball.



Youth play defense in soccer game.



Youth learns how to control a tennis ball.



Youth takes baton around the track.



CFS Director Marlene Hagen with key note speakers Oracene Price and Steven Benedict.



Youth perform morning stretches in cheer and dance.