



City **YOUTH** Now

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer is here, and City Youth Now has been on the move! From celebrating our 76th Annual Rise Awards to launching exciting summer programs and creating unforgettable experiences for our youth, it's already been an incredible season.

We're just getting started! Thank you for being part of our journey and for continuing to support our mission. We can't wait to share everything else this summer has in store!



Summer 2026



SURF THE WAVE

Last Friday, our youth had an unforgettable day learning to surf through our Surf the Wave program in partnership with **City Surf Project**! For many, it was their first time on a surfboard, making it a day filled with new experiences, confidence-building, and fun.

A special thank you to **City Surf Project** for helping our youth step outside their comfort zones and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Interested in learning more about our programs and services? Reach out to us at info@cityyouthnow.org!



SOFTBALL GAME RECAP

On June 13, we had a fantastic Saturday at our 33rd Annual CityWide Softball Tournament, bringing together government agencies and community partners for a day of friendly competition, teamwork, and fun—all in support of City Youth Now's mission.

Congratulations to the **San Francisco Recreation & Park team** for taking home this year's championship trophy!

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and cheered on the teams. We can't wait to see you all back on the field for next year's tournament!



ARTS PROGRAM

Our 3-Day Art Empowerment Program is happening **NOW**! In partnership with Soul Seated, this interactive workshop series gives youth and young adults the opportunity to explore creativity, build confidence, and express themselves through meaningful art activities in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Participants also enjoy incentives throughout the series and have the chance to connect with peers while discovering new ways to tell their stories through art.

Interested in joining one of our upcoming classes? Reach out for more info!

THANK YOU, JOHN KNOX

39 Years Supporting Youth in San Francisco

Last month, we celebrated the retirement of John Knox—a devoted Juvenile Probation Department staff member, longtime City Youth Now volunteer, and a true legend in our community. Over the years, John's dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to young people have helped shape countless lives and strengthen the work of City Youth Now.

Our mission would not be possible without incredible volunteers like John, who truly embody what it means to serve with heart. We are deeply grateful for all he has done and wish him a joyful and well-deserved retirement. Although, knowing John, we have a feeling we'll be seeing him back in the office soon—as an official full-time volunteer!





2026 Rise Awards Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 76th Annual Rise Awards on May 14! It was an evening full of celebration, featuring exciting raffle prizes, a live performance, and the recognition of our incredible youth scholarship recipients. This year, we were proud to award **more youth scholarships than ever before**, helping even more young people pursue their educational and career goals.

Thanks to your generosity, we also raised over **\$50,000** to support City Youth Now's programs and services for our youth and young adults! We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and for helping us invest in the future of the youth and our community!

2026 Scholarship Awardees

Congratulations to the 2026 City Youth Now Scholarship Award Winners!

- ◆ \$2,500 Diane Handlos Memorial Scholarship: *Ella*
- ◆ \$2,500 FitBod, Inc. Scholarship: *Ariamna*
- ◆ \$2,000 Unison Foundation Scholarship: *Zayn*
- ◆ \$1,500 Daniel Yee Memorial Scholarship: *Aaliyah*
- ◆ \$1,500 Sari Wade Memorial Scholarship: *Kaylee*
- ◆ \$1,500 Joan Coyne Memorial Scholarship: *Tionnie*
- ◆ \$1,500 DPO Yalon Marathon Scholarship: *Ismael*
- ◆ \$1,500 Atlas Project Scholarship: *Orepa*
- ◆ \$1,500 Toboni Group LLC Scholarship: *Luis*
- ◆ \$1,500 Martinez Growth Scholarship: *Keven*



READINESS SKILLS ACADEMY

In partnership with STEPS & the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department (JPD), City Youth Now launched the **Readiness Skills Academy** in January 2026 to reimagine how we prepare youth for employment. Before beginning their internships through our Youth Partnering for Education and Employment Program (YPPEE), our youth interns build essential skills in job readiness, financial literacy, communication, and workplace expectations—ensuring they have the confidence and tools to succeed.

Since January, we've completed **three cohorts**, graduated over **25 youth**, and placed **more than half** of our graduates at internship sites that align with their career goals.

"The classes were fun, and I learned a lot about savings and what to say/not to say in internships." — RSA Youth, Cohort 3

Our next cohort begins in **August**, and we can't wait to welcome the next group of youth! Interested in being a host site for our youth to get first-hand experiences? Contact **Jasmine** at jasmine@cityyouthnow.org to learn more!

