



PRESS RELEASE

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## **PathPoint Reaches Out to Serve 260 At-Risk Youth in Ventura County through the ARRA Summer Youth Employment Program**

**Summer Youth Employment Program 2009:** Funded by the County of Ventura Workforce Investment Board, through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act and Workforce Investment Act, PathPoint is awarded the contract to serve 260 youth between the ages of 14-24 residing in Ventura County in the communities of Ventura, Ojai/Oak view, Santa Paula, Fillmore/Piru, Camarillo/Somis, Moorpark, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Westlake and Oak Park.

Prioritized enrollments will be given to youth that are public assistance recipients (CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, Food Stamps or Foster Care), and includes veterans and/or eligible spouses.

To be eligible for this program, youth must meet one of the following barriers to employment:

- Deficient in basic skills
- School drop-out
- Homeless
- Runaway
- Foster Child
- Pregnant or Parenting
- Offender
- Requires additional assistance to complete their education or secure employment; includes youth with disabilities, gang affiliated, limited English language and substance abuse.

PathPoint, in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo, Boys & Girls Club of Ventura, Ojai Unified School District, Moorpark College, Ventura College and Ventura Unified School District, will offer each youth a variety of services to include the development of an Individual Service Strategy (ISS), a Work Readiness Activity (at a minimum of 8 hours), a Subsidized Work Experience Opportunity (at approximately 30 hours per week, at an average of 5 week at minimum wage), and case management and supportive services such as uniforms, work clothing/shoes and public transportation.

**Who we are:** The mission of PathPoint is to provide comprehensive training and support services that empower people with disabilities and disadvantages to live and work as valued members of our communities. For over forty-five years, PathPoint has provided *employment services, day programs, and independent living programs* for low-income people with special needs. Incorporated in 1964 as a

nonprofit organization in Santa Barbara, we provide life skills, vocational training, and placement services to people who require special assistance. PathPoint today is a leader in providing vocational and residential support services. In 1985 PathPoint expanded into Ventura County. Through person-centered planning and individual service delivery, we serve those with:

- Physical disabilities (traumatic brain injury, quadriplegia, stroke, etc.)
- Cognitive disabilities (intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, seizure disorders and/autism)
- Mental illnesses (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression)
- Economic disadvantages (at-risk youth and low-income seniors)

Headquartered in Santa Barbara, PathPoint has division offices and programs in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Los Angeles counties. In 2007-2008, PathPoint served 2,301 participants throughout the five counties, including **708 in Ventura County alone**. PathPoint employs 80 full-time and 13 part-time/on-call individuals throughout the Ventura Division. We are proud to report that PathPoint employees have contributed over \$2,000 through automatic payroll deductions to support our programs over the year. PathPoint is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, 100 percent of who make financial contributions to PathPoint. We are pleased to note that two of our board members reside in Ventura County.

***PathPoint programs:*** The Ventura County Division of PathPoint offers a wide variety of employment programs, day program services, and independent living programs for people with disabilities and disadvantages, at-risk youth, foster and emancipated youth, and low-income seniors. This division has, altogether, 14 programs throughout the county. Our programs currently serve 708 participants, including 161 with intellectual disabilities (formerly called mental retardation), 14 with Cerebral Palsy, 5 with Epilepsy, 34 with Autism, 34 with Down syndrome, 3 with hearing impairments, 18 with other developmental disorders, and 88 with psychiatric disorders. Of the 708 individuals in our programs, over 350 participate in our youth services programs for at-risk youth.

***Recognitions:*** PathPoint enjoys a distinguished history of achievement, good management, strong operations, and stable financial conditions. In November 2007, PathPoint achieved a three-year accreditation from CARF, which is its highest award. In August 2008, the Harrington Group (CPA) gave PathPoint an Unqualified Auditors Opinion for FY 2007/08 and assigned PathPoint a “Low-Risk Audit” (only available after multiple years of unqualified opinions).

***Other pertinent information:*** In addition to our vocational programs, PathPoint offers residential services to help individuals live independently in the community. PathPoint provides personalized instruction and supports on issues of personal health and hygiene, budget and money management, household maintenance, nutrition, meal preparation, and home safety. By providing individualized support to low-income individuals in their own homes, PathPoint ensures health and safety, promotes strong social networks and positive life outcomes. In both vocational and residential program areas, PathPoint staff provides extensive case management, individual and family supports, crisis intervention and resolution, and emergency response.

To learn more about PathPoint services please visit our website at [www.PathPoint.org](http://www.PathPoint.org)

*Connecting people, purpose and communities since 1964, PathPoint (formerly known as Work Training Programs, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax Id # 95-2371668, providing comprehensive training and support services that empower people with disabilities or disadvantages to live and work as valued community members. PathPoint serves 2,300 people in the communities of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kern and Los Angeles.*