

Press Release

Event Date: Friday, July 27 at 5:30 pm
Interviews and footage: Youth Participants
Unveiling at 7 pm
Pacoima

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**Pacoima Gang Reduction and Youth Development Unveil
“Mi Vida, Mi Cultura”
A Mural Addition for the Community**
“Youth identify self and encourage growth through art”

(Pacoima, CA) Why would a business allow a group of young teens to paint on its wall? The answer will appear at a mural unveiling of “Mi Vida, Mi Cultura” (My Life, My Culture), Friday, July 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Myke’s Café located at 13171 Van Nuys Boulevard, Pacoima 91331.

The young artists who worked on the mural are all participants in EL Nido Family Centers’ Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) program in Pacoima. Myke’s Café owner, Rafael Andrade, knew he needed to do something to the mural that was faded and tagged on the restaurant he just bought. He wanted something to go with his new restaurant; colorful and playful, with the personality of the youth today. He wanted to make a difference in the community and he knew that a new mural could help strengthen the core of Pacoima youth.

Luck be it for artists Kristy Sandoval and Ramiro Hernandez, who taught a mural program for El Nido Family Center’s Gang Reduction Youth Development Program. Both artists had a vision of creating more visual inspiration for a community in need of it. Myke and his wall were the perfect match.

“We are working together to build A.M.U.S.E. (Arts Manifesting Unity and Social Equality), bringing workshops on Mural Design and Painting that will help the youth with self-identity and encourage growth through art. We wanted to start these workshops with artists and youth in our hometown, Pacoima,” says Sandoval.

GRYD is funded through the Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles. Program goals are to reduce gang participation by identifying youth (10–15) who are at high risk for joining gangs. A key strategy is to link youth and families with a broad range of services, engaging them in constructive activities, connecting them with positive social supports and empowering them as agents of change. GRYD Programs are all over Los Angeles, in GYRD Zones identified by the City. The Pacoima GYRD serves youth and families living in the Pacoima/Foothill region of the northeast San Fernando Valley.

Admission is free. Tasty treats available for purchase at Myke’s Café. Music. Street Parking available.

For more information, interviews or photos, please call E L Doran Public Relations at 818.238.9005 or email eldoranpr@sbcglobal.net. Visit El Nido Family Centers website at elnidofamilycenters.org.

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