

## **Solutions to youth violence problem will be focus of Sept. 13 forum sponsored by Union-Tribune and UCSD**

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**SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH VIOLENCE PROBLEM WILL BE FOCUS OF SEPT. 13 FORUM SPONSORED BY UNION-TRIBUNE AND UCSD**

Five workshops offering practical suggestions for preventing youth violence will be presented during Solutions 97, a community forum sponsored Sept. 13 by The San Diego Union- Tribune and the University of California, San Diego, in the Price Center, UCSD campus.

The 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. meeting is free and open to the public; however seating is limited to the first 700. Deadline for registration is Sept. 2.

"We need to give our youth the opportunities and guidance to make the right choices on the challenging path to adulthood--a path too often cut short by violence," noted UCSD Chancellor Robert C. Dynes. "This forum will give us a chance to discuss how we can work together as a community on behalf of our young people."

Karin Winner, Union-Tribune editor, added that "The community programs we will highlight at Solutions 97 demonstrate that much is being done to help youth in San Diego County. But much is left to do. Together, we can make a difference. Please join us to learn how you can help."

Winner and Joseph W. Watson, UCSD Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs, will open the forum following registration and a continental breakfast.

The keynote address will be given by Joseph E. Marshall Jr., Ph.D., executive director and co-founder of the Omega Boys Club in San Francisco. Marshall started the club 10 years ago with about 15 youths to counter the culture of violence and drugs he saw in the classrooms where he taught. Since then the club has helped thousands of girls and boys and been featured nationally on television shows such as The Oprah Winfrey Show and CNN, and in publications such as The New York Times Magazine.

"We've always had a basic goal," Marshall says, "and that is to keep kids alive and free, shun violence and prepare for the work world or college." Marshall hosts a nationally syndicated call-in radio show that allows teens to discuss the pressures they feel, giving him a national platform to spread his message of unity and peace. Additionally, he has written a book that serves as a blueprint for any neighborhood that wants to start an Omega Club for its own youth.

The workshops will include:

How to start a teen center. Identifying teen needs, planning a center, securing funding and staff, attracting teens.

Meeting after school needs. Identifying after-school needs, learning how to form a community coalition to create programs.

What parents can do. Learning where to get help and how to provide it to others.

How to be a mentor. Understanding the commitment involved in being a mentor and ways to volunteer to be one.

Providing school-to-career education. Learning what providing school-to-career education involves and how to participate, whether you work in business or education.

"Whether you're a parent, teen, business or professional person, or a volunteer working with youth, this is your chance to learn how you can help," noted Mary Walshok, UCSD associate vice chancellor. "Each of us has the ability to meet some of the needs of our youth," adds Karen Lin Clark, Union-Tribune Solutions editor. "Are we willing?"

To obtain a registration form or additional information, call (619) 822-0510 or Fax (619) 822-0700.

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