

# MONTHLY NEWS

*The latest news and updates from SBX Youth & Family Services*



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**ACKNOWLEDGING  
BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH**

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**PROGRAMS FOR  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

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**EVENTS COMING UP IN  
FEBRUARY**

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**MENTOR'S CORNER:  
WORDS FROM OUR  
CURRENT MENTORS**

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## **A message from the Director of Black Empowerment**

**Akosua Atuahene**

To celebrate Black History is to embrace Afrocentric knowledge, culture and the sacrifices made to empower black people. Through strength, endurance, and creativity we will continue to create opportunities to become self-sustaining and self-aware while developing towards an efficient and collective community. Black History does not exist for a month, it exists for a lifetime.





## Black Fatherhood Program

We understand how a child's relationship with their dad impacts their life. Children with fathers who are more involved in their daily life have more positive outcomes and healthier development. Call us today to get informed and get connected at 951-247-1700 or register [here](#).

## Center Against Racism & Trauma

CART is an initiative centered in the IE that is focused on dismantling racism in all of its forms through antiracism trainings, consultations and community action days. CART will be releasing an Anti-racist video contest for a chance for a teen to win \$1,000! The terms and conditions for the video contest will be announced this month. CART is also hosting an event for the International Day of Elimination of Racism with none-other than IBRAM X. KENDI, the New York bestselling author of "How to be Anti-Racist". Details later to come.

## Mentor's Corner

### Interview with Youth Mentor Sherise Morse

#### What experiences in your life led you to be a mentor?

"I am an only child, and I always felt that I didn't fit in, family and school wise. I went to private school and I had to beg my mom to change me to public school! I didn't know how to dress myself because I've been wearing uniforms all my life. It was having to navigate those kind of things and find myself that I wish I had the support from someone that I could at least talk to."

**How has being a mentor impacted your life?** "When I first came in to mentoring I was still figuring out how relationships worked and what a good quality friendship was. Being a mentor has changed that. Now I'm able to have real convos with real people that I want to have around. I also get to learn from the students. The students are a big impact. It has really changed the way I interact as a human."

#### Can you tell me about a standout moment with a mentee?

One student I had for the last two months of his senior year and he wasn't in a good position to graduate. Someway, somehow we were able to get him to graduate ON TIME! I was shocked, because I knew all the work he had to do and I was worried that I wasn't going to be able to help. He pulled through very well. I remember him taking a picture with me on snapchat and he said, "Thanks to this lady I graduated". I almost cried. He put in the hard work and to see him get the benefits of it knowing what he had gone through...it was such a cool feeling. I've seen a lot of things happen with this job and there is nothing short when it comes to will power, mindset, and discipline. That's what these kids have taught me."

#### What would you like the communities you serve to know about our youth?

"That they aren't as fragile as we treat them and that with love and determination we can get them to bigger places than we ever could. As adults we treat them as little kids, they are put in a position where they are coddled almost, like a baby, we tell them what they need to do. We need to realize that with the right training, conversations, planning, and doing things with them they can improve the community and widen their process of how their society works. They can become a bigger force to help us which then takes away their fragility. Now we don't have to worry about them breaking under pressure, we literally walk them through and show them how it works. There is so much that our young kids can change in this world, we just have to give them the right platform and access to the right things. SBX is a major force in movement to supply that to our young people. I hope one day I get to see that it's normal for every student to have a mentor."

# Our Personal Hero Mr. Ernest Rhone IV

SBX began at Rialto High School in 1998 by a teacher – Ernest Rhone IV alongside a group of high school students. Together, they set out to develop future professional leaders under the principles of wisdom, brotherhood, sisterhood, service, endurance, excellence, and unity. Today, SBX is still led by the same teacher and high school students working towards the same goals and mission – to develop young people, serve families in the Inland Empire, and break the cycle of poverty and violence. So it is said, so it is done.



“  
Mr. Ernest Rhone IV is a dedicated educator, mentor, and founder of Sigma Beta XI, inc.  
Mr. Rhone is still committed to his calling and continues to labor in the youth development field while pioneering ways to connect, motivate, and develop youth in the Inland region.  
OUR PERSONAL HERO:  
MR. ERNEST RHONE IV

## Monthly Events

### Black History Month Keynote Address

Wednesday, February 24 @ 6pm  
RSVP [here](#).

### SB823 Educational Forum

Saturday, February 13th @12pm  
RSVP: [bit.ly/sb823forum](http://bit.ly/sb823forum)

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Celebrate Black History with MVUSD and the **California Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber**, at this special Keynote Address virtual event!



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24  
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
VIA ZOOM

[bit.ly/mvusdbhmcelebration](http://bit.ly/mvusdbhmcelebration)

## SB 823: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT

AND HOW IT WILL IMPACT THE IE WITH:

DIRECTOR FRANKIE GUZMAN, NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW, YOUTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE

POLICY DIRECTOR LAURA RIDOLFI, HAYWOOD BURNS INSTITUTE

DATA SPECIALIST TIA MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Guest Speaker:  
CA Assembly Majority Leader  
Eloise Gómez Reyes

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021 | 12PM - 2:30PM  
PLEASE CONTACT JUSTICE SANDOVAL FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[JUSTICESANDOVAL@SIGMABETAXI.COM](mailto:JUSTICESANDOVAL@SIGMABETAXI.COM)

Register: [bit.ly/sb823forum](http://bit.ly/sb823forum)



Contact SBX Youth & Family Services:  
Address: 14340 Elsworth Street, Suite B104 Moreno Valley, Ca 92553  
Office Phone: 951-247-1700 or Text Info to: 951-406-4466  
email: [admin@sigmabetaxi.com](mailto:admin@sigmabetaxi.com)  
[sigmabetaxi.com](http://sigmabetaxi.com)



I wanted the young African-American girls also on the bus to know that they had a right to be there

Claudette Colvin

In 1955 before Rosa Parks and the bus boycotts, 15 year old Claudette Colvin demonstrated strength in resistance and refused to give up her seat on the bus.



Let us be enraged about injustice, but let us not be destroyed by it.

BAYARD RUSTIN

Bayard Rustin was an LGBTQ and civil rights activist best known for being a key adviser to Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. He organized the 1963 March on Washington and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom



As an out African American trans-identified woman, I know firsthand the feeling of being marginalized, left-out, thrown under the bus. Those days are over. We don't just want a seat at the table—we want to set the table

ANDREA JENKINS

Andrea Jenkins won with 73 percent of the vote to become the first Black, openly transgender woman to be elected to public office in the United States in 2017.



Angela Davis

When children attend schools that place a greater value in discipline and security than on knowledge and intellectual development, they are attending prep schools for prisons.

Angela Yvonne Davis is an American Scholar, Political Activist and Author who emerged as a prominent counterculture activist in the 1960's and continues conversations on liberation.

# NOW

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Even when black folks make me angry, I know that the world has all the things that we deserve in the world. And that's driven by love

Tarana Burke

Tarana Burke is an activist, Community organizer, and executive who has founded the #Me too movement

Many years has it taken people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters and human beings

MARSHA P. JOHNSON

Marsha P. Johnson was a Black trans woman who was a force behind the Stonewall Riots and surrounding activism that sparked a new phase of the LGBTQ+ movement in 1969.



We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond

Gwendolyn Brooks

Gwendolyn Brooks is one of the most highly regarded, influential, and widely read poets of 20th-century American poetry.



The work that trans people of color are doing needs to be recognized by organizations. Not necessarily inclusion, but recognition

DR. KORTNEY RYAN ZIEGLER

Dr. Kortney Ziegler is an award-winning artist, writer, and the first person to hold a PhD of African American Studies from Northwestern University



It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences

AUDRE LORDE

a self-described "black, lesbian, feminist, mother, poet, warrior," made lasting contributions in the fields of feminist theory, critical race studies and queer theory through her pedagogy and writing



I always believe I can beat the best, achieve the best. I always see myself in the top position.

Serena Williams

Serena Williams holds the most



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## **black empowerment program**

A program for young African American students, ages 17-21, who have graduated high school. Youth will learn and develop life skills, mentorship, and financial literacy to become powerful individuals and better prepared to take charge of their future. For more information call us at 951-247-1700.

African-American middle and high school students in the Inland Empire build resiliency through understanding their culture, history and greatness. By exploring their identity and power as a people, they will develop positive lifestyles and solutions to life's challenges by recognizing their strengths, talents and abilities. Our approach helps develop an awareness and appreciation of Black culture. Call us at 951-247-1700 to learn more.

## **rites of passage**



**follow us on social media**

@sbx.youthaction 

SBX: Youth & Family Services 

@SigmaBetaXiinc 