

Building Resilient Youth



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APPROACHING
OUR WORK
THROUGH THE
LENS OF POSITIVE
YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT

Across the country, juvenile justice systems are evolving in response to research about adolescent brain development. Many are moving away from historically punitive frameworks which push young people deeper into system involvement. The needs of youth and families are complex and multifaceted. Effective approaches focus on addressing those needs which drive behaviors, while often minimizing or avoiding system involvement entirely.

Locally, the Santa Barbara County Probation Department is moving toward deeper implementation of a Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework, which increases resiliency by building on youth strengths and assets. The staff of the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) and Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) are on the front lines of this work.



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A PYD approach includes meaningful opportunities for youth to participate in activities. This develops youth competence and confidence, and strengthens their talents, while allowing youth to connect with caring and supportive mentors and adults. These photos capture those moments in action. As Kristina Brumbaugh, Manager of the Santa Barbara County Probation Department's Juvenile Institutions reflected-- "Youth in our care [are] making positive memories with adults, learning about our world...building a positive confident youth."

