Urban Releaf

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Advisory Board

"Building Healthy Communities One Tree at a Time"

National Forestry Conference Spotlights UFEST Program

On November 14th, Director of Education Gregory Tarver, Jr. delivered an outstanding presentation spotlighting our Urban Forest Education and Stewardship Training Program at the Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Sacramento. He explained its design and how it can be used as a model in educating staff and
community members. Urban Forest Mentor Jamal Davis presented on the demographics and conditions in Oakland. In particular, Jamal informed the audience of the poor air quality, low-income levels and high rate of crime suffered by West Oakland residents. Another Mentor, Hakim Davis shared his experiences with the program including leading tree planting events, public presentations and training activities.

### Tree Climbing Workshop with Urban Releaf Staff

Professional tree climbers led Urban Releaf staff in a training session at Lake Merritt on November 3rd. Crew members learned the techniques to ascend up into the branches of giant oak trees. The activities exposed both youth and adults to various career opportunities as a certified arborist, and we participated in interactive exercises in team building. We would like to thank Eric Folmer, Joe Zermeno and Steward Winchester for providing us with a great experience.

### 31st Green Street Research & Demonstration Project Update

The 31st Green Street Project has made significant progress this fall. We have completed 2 more major rounds of tree planting with the help of over 100 volunteers and community members. This means that we have engaged over 1000 volunteers on this nationally recognized project. The 2 blocks, previously devoid of shade trees, have now been truly transformed. The project team plans to implement a bio-retention monitoring device at a designated pilot site soon. Partnerships included: Oakland Civicorps, Weekend Training Academy, East Bay Americorps volunteers and residents.
Introducing Our New Team Members

Urban Releaf welcomes Jim Gillespie as our Director of Tree Operations. As a certified arborist with over 9 years experience in urban forestry, Jim brings a high level of expertise in coordinating tree planting and maintenance activities as well as overseeing personnel.

We would also like to welcome Jordan Robinson to our team. Jordan will be planting and maintaining trees while receiving training in arboricultural techniques and professional development skills.

St. Mary’s Center Tree Planting

In celebration of the Eradication of Poverty Day hosted by St. Mary’s Center, our staff led 75 elders in planting trees along San Pablo Avenue. Aristocrat and maple trees were installed in front of a preschool and a few businesses. St. Mary’s Center has been a long time advocate for trees and our organization, and we greatly appreciate their support.

Golden Gate Neighborhood Tree Planting

Urban Releaf partnered with Rebuilding Together Oakland to revitalize the Golden Gate district of North Oakland on October 13th. Hundreds of volunteers assisted with a variety of tasks, which included: tree planting, home repair and a neighborhood clean up. Our volunteers planted several different species of trees along 5 city blocks. Residents and community members showed appreciation for our greening efforts. Thank you to Rachel Matthews for recruiting volunteers for this large-scale day of public service.
We are Looking for Board Members

Do you love trees? Are you an advocate for the environment? Do you want to see more job opportunities? Then, join us by becoming a member of our Board. Contact us if you are interested in learning more.

Thank You to Our Funders

Upcoming Tree Planting Events

Claremont Avenue Greening Round 3
Date: Saturday, December 15, 2012
Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm
Meeting Location: Corner of Claremont Ave & Clifton Street

5th Annual MLK Day of Service Tree Planting Event
Date: Monday, January 21, 2013
Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm
Meeting Location: 27th and Market Street, West Oakland

Help us help more youth plant trees!

Donate to Urban Releaf through PayPal.