



# Urban Beat

The E-Newsletter of Urban Services YMCA, July 2007

## The Safety Network's March for Peace

On Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, over 200 residents and community leaders of San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood marched through the streets demanding an end to gang violence. The march was organized by Ms. Shanell Williams, our Safety Network Community Organizer, and was a direct response to the recent shootings involving eight young people ages 11 – 19.

With the community outraged about the violence in the neighborhood, Shanell felt moved to reenergize families and show that there was more to the community than guns and turf wars. Shanell explained, "I wanted to send a clear message to the community that people are motivated to help and that we're willing to meet residents where there at."

The group marched through the Western Addition, stopping at the sites where gunfire took place, and chanted "Peace in the Streets!" as they marched. Onlookers clapped, cheered, and felt the energy of the participants shaking hands and holding up signs. According to Shanell, "Families living in the area feel like they're living in a bubble with no way in and no way out. They're watching people self destruct." No rally will be enough to stop idle youth from finding trouble, she said. Still, she insisted the Wednesday rally had an impact, "by lifting up people's spirits so they can keep fighting."

With Safety Network Community Organizers linked to each San Francisco Police Station in the City, it's clear that violence and gangs aren't just Western Addition issues, they're San Francisco issues. Urban Services YMCA is committed to making an impact in the communities we serve, and it's programs like this that help us make a meaningful difference in the lives of youth and families. If you would like to learn more, please visit our website or contact Shanell Williams, Community Organizer, at 415-292-3030.



### In This Issue:

- Safety Network
- Ebay Foundation
- Wine Event
- Board of Managers

Urban Services  
YMCA

"Building a World of  
Opportunity"



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Urban Services YMCA is a branch of the YMCA of San Francisco,  
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities

## Urban Services Receives eBay Foundation Grant

July 2007 – The eBay Foundation recently awarded a CHAMPION A CHARITY grant of \$2,500 to Urban Service YMCA. The grant was made possible as a result of Ms. Shelley Scipione, an eBay Inc. employee, who “championed” funding for our organization. Funds will support our advanced afterschool enrichment programming throughout San Francisco with an emphasis on programs located in Bayview Hunters Point, the OMI/Excelsior, and the Western Addition.

eBay Foundation’s CHAMPION A CHARITY program encourages employees to become involved with and advocate for nonprofit organizations that to improve the quality of life for all. A competitive program through which grant decisions are made by an employee committee, eBay Foundation CHAMPION A CHARITY grants are only made to organizations recommended for funding by eBay employees.

Shelley Scipione is a longtime board member of Urban Services, and is dedicated to the work of our organization.

## Wine Event a Huge Success!

With over 150 guests in attendance, Urban Services YMCAs 5th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction was a huge success! Thanks to our generous supporters, Urban Services was able to raise \$20,000 for our community-based programs! A very special thanks are in order for [Esurance.com](http://Esurance.com) who have generously sponsored our event three years in a row. We could not have pulled this off without their support. [Esurance](http://Esurance) provides online auto insurance quotes where you can get insurance rate comparisons, and buy your auto insurance policy instantly.

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