

# POSSIBILITIES IN MOTION



## Where Are They Now?

San Diego VeloYouth (SDVY) has been serving at-risk youngsters for nearly 10 years and we are often asked if we know where our graduates are now and how they are doing. With the transitory nature of many of the families, it is difficult to keep track of our graduates, however we are happy to report that we do hear from some of them occasionally with a visit, showing up on Facebook or randomly finding us in our small community. It is heartwarming to learn of those who are doing well and we willingly share where they are now.

### **Daniel Flores - SDVY 2007, National City Middle School**

Despite the challenges of a difficult situation, Daniel showed lots of promise. He was active in the Boys & Girls Club, had a close family and returned as a peer Mentor to SDVY for three years after graduating from the program. After graduating from Sweetwater High School, Daniel completed 4 years in the Army. He has returned to San Diego where he is attending community college and competing in Spartan Events.

### **Hector Pinuelas - SDVY 2007, National City Middle School**

Hector continued with VeloYouth as a peer Mentor for several years, demonstrating the STARS values and helping young students become cyclists. He graduated from Sweetwater High School and entered the food services industry. He works as a chef at MO's Urban Bar & Grille in Hillcrest. He continues to cycle, using his bike for transportation and as a healthy outlet for stress.

### **Danny Oeuth, SDVY 2007, Horace Mann Middle School**

We were very pleased to meet Danny's cousin at one of our fundraisers at Vinavanti Urban Winery. He reported that Danny graduated from high school, is doing well and is living and working in La Mesa. The cousin told us how impressed the entire family was with the impact SDVY had on Danny and as a result, he wants to volunteer for us. This is one of those amazing, nine years later, full circle stories that keep us motivated.

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## Branching Out

Springtime makes us think of growth, blossoming, and new beginnings. Ten years ago SDVY planted seeds that quickly took root and the results are still flourishing. Our Board of Directors now has new branches to help balance the strong base that has come to serve and nourish San Diego's at-risk youngsters. Our combination of veteran directors - Tanya, Maryclare, Dave, Matt and Linda - along with our new directors, Rob, Bob, Rick and Jeff add strength and depth to our Program. Several community leaders heard our call, responded to our mission, and have brought their unique skills and interests that will help us expand. We also added an Advisory Board with teachers and other community professionals who will help us navigate our path of growth, continuing to be at our best while positively impacting vulnerable youth. With each newsletter we will introduce one of these talented individuals.



**Robert Panzera**

Rob is the owner and president of CCSD (Cycling Camp San Diego), a sport event management company in San Diego. He has been active in the cycling community since his teenage years, first on the east coast and now in California. He is excited to be part of the Board and adds logistics to fundraising efforts, along with enhancing marketing and promotion activities. He wishes to ensure SDVY furthers our growth in the communities we serve and he hopes to connect us to more people who can help fund the programs. Rob has the very important role of Webmaster and Social Media guru. Check out our new look at [VeloYouth.org](http://VeloYouth.org). Like us on Facebook to receive updates on the kids we touch.



**Congratulations** to 7 new graduates of San Diego VeloYouth from Chula Vista Middle School. The bikes they earned by giving back and paying it forward were delivered on March 17<sup>th</sup> - just in time to ride over spring break!

## Words of Wisdom

At SDVY, the biggest lessons learned are usually not about the bikes. Our program is about values and respect. It is amazing how quickly the message is heard and absorbed. We see changes in behavior, language, and attitudes because the program reaches out to each youngster's highest and best self. The kids overcome challenges on and off the bike. It is their time to prove themselves, to be of service, and it is their choice.

Some of the feedback we receive speaks volumes about the effect of SDVY:

*"I set a goal to create a better relationship with my mother.  
Cycling helps me relieve stress and focus more on bettering our relationship."*

- Aaron, Juvenile Court &  
Community Schools

# Gratitude

Gratitude comes in many colors and shows up daily at SDVY. The smiles on the faces of our athletes as they conquer fear and experience the freedom of cycling fill our hearts, making us grateful that they have found our program to bring new opportunities to their lives. We are filled with gratitude for our community partners and supporters who help us with fundraising and awareness. You are the folks who make the smiles possible.

Heartfelt thanks to **Vinavanti Urban Winery** for a beautifully hosted fundraiser in February; to Rich Walsh and **ViaSat**, corporate sponsors, for embracing Matt Hoffmann RAAM: The Movie; and to **Cycling Camp San Diego** and the St. Paddy's Palomar Punishment Ride for creating an opportunity for four students from Hoover High to volunteer and help raise funds. Gratitude colors our lives. Thank You!

Visit our new website

[VeloYouth.org](http://VeloYouth.org)



## Where Are They Now? *Continued from page 1*

### **Amy Huynh, SDVY 2014, Hoover High School**

Amy was one of six girls in our Program with Hoover High School. She earned a bike, completed the Program and continues to ride, despite a serious crash while riding her bike to work last year. Recently she volunteered at the St. Paddy's Palomar Punishment ride, braving 40-degree weather atop Mt. Palomar, to raise money for other at-risk kids, allowing them to participate in a SDVY Program. This is her way of giving back and paying it forward. She has completed all the requirements to graduate from Hoover and looks forward to attending community college in the Fall.

### **Frankie Aguilera, SDVY 2008, Chula Vista Middle School**

Frankie won a place in all of our hearts. As a hyperactive middle schooler, he was a natural for SDVY where he found focus and an outlet for his boundless energy. His mother was thrilled with the change she saw as he concentrated at school and slept better at night.

While in high school, Frankie served VeloYouth as a peer Mentor, Assistant Coach and Youth Board Member. His enthusiasm was contagious. After graduating from high school, he completed EMT training, moved to New York and is pursuing his music, playing hockey and working. He keeps in touch with an occasional phone call.

### **Davonte Wilson, SDVY 2015, Hoover High School**

We first met Davonte in 2013 at a SDVY session with the Monarch School for Homeless. He completed five of the six weeks when he was, sadly, expelled from school. We met him again at his new school, Hoover High, where he chose to renew his experience with SDVY. He recalled those moments when he felt support and encouragement and where he was part of a team. On his positive, new path, Davonte wanted SDVY to be one of his stops. He completed the program and is now on track to graduate from high school in 2017.

# About Our Organization

QOLC is a California-based 501(c)(3) founded in 2006. We operate with a volunteer staff and Board of Directors. QOLC is funded by in-kind donations, grants and private gifts. All monetary donations benefit the youth we serve.

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Positively Impacting  
Our World, One Life  
at a Time

Visit our website for photos and information: [www.VeloYouth.org](http://www.VeloYouth.org) The public is welcome to watch **SDVY** cyclists in action at the San Diego Velodrome in Balboa Park's Morley Field.



## Wish List

As a nonprofit organization, **San Diego VeloYouth** is limited by financial constraints. Dedicated people who believe in making a difference are vital to the ongoing success of the program. We welcome your support and have many opportunities for gifts of time, money or equipment.

- Volunteers to support young athletes – cheering and encouraging the kids. Cycling experience is not required.

- In-kind donations: Helmets, Cycling shorts, Jerseys, Bicycles in good condition, and Office Supplies.
- Monetary donations: QOLC is working towards our 2016 goal of raising \$120,000 for the purchase of: Bicycles & Equipment.

All donations are welcomed, appreciated and tax deductible TIN #20-5173974.

*"I love it so much!"*  
– Kandice, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Monarch School