



**Tuesday, November 21, 2023**

**Hello Oakland,**

***As part of the Office of the Inspector General's ongoing embrace of Oakland's motto, Love Life, I am proud to bring you the first volume of THE COMMITMENT TRACKER. In alignment with our continued commitment to advance community safety, this platform will spotlight innovative alternative responses, share information and resources, elevate opportunities for community members to connect, promote equitable accountability, and more.***

During Love Life Week's **Community Healing Summit**, we challenged every attendee to **live out our city's motto** on a regular basis. To aid this effort, in each e-blast, we will uplift opportunities for Oaklanders to fulfill their selected commitments. With the progression of this content, we plan to acknowledge and honor those who have delivered on their respective goals.

If you have not done so already, please fill out the **commitment card** for yourself. Also, don't forget forward information you would like highlighted in our next volume to **[oig@oaklandca.gov](mailto:oig@oaklandca.gov)**.

### **Opportunities To Fulfill Your Commitment:**

1. Attend A Community Event
2. Become A Better Neighbor
3. Donate To Those In Need
4. Heal Past Traumas
5. Participate In A Restorative Justice Circle
6. Share Information and Resources
7. Volunteer With A Non-Profit

Happy Holidays,

**Michelle N. Phillips**  
*Inspector General*



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**[Attend A Community Event](#)**

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## Giving Thanks This Holiday Season

Across Oakland, community members, small businesses, non-profits, and major companies are organizing to provide some holiday cheer via turkey giveaways, marathons, and more. Here are a few taking place in a location near you:

- **11/21: Community Day of Thanks, 11am-1:30pm** (multiple locations across Oakland)
  - 13th St Church of Christ - 1300 E. 24th St.
  - Agnes Memorial Church - 2372 International Blvd.
  - Arsola's Food Pantry & Community Services - 7901 Oakport St. Suite 1100
  - Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church - 3535 38th Avenue
  - Downs Memorial United Methodist Church - 6026 Idaho St.
  - Elmhurst Presbyterian Church - 1332 98th Ave.
  - Prescott Joseph Center - 1675 8th St.
  - Project Outreach/East Oakland Food Pantry - 1360 107th Ave.
  - Lake Merritt Methodist Church - 1255 1st Ave.
  - St. Elizabeth's Parish - 1500 34th Ave.
  - Wings of Love Church - 7007 MacArthur Blvd.
  - Zion Tabernacle COGIC - 2147 East 15th St.
  - Marriott - 1001 Broadway
- **11/22: Regina's Helping Hand Free Community Dinner, 2-4pm**
  - Center at Campbell Village - 8th & Willow Street
- **11/23: Oakland Turkey Trot, 6:30am-10am**
  - [Sign-up here](#)



**CITY OF OAKLAND SPONSORS:**  
Alameda County • Oakland Community Action Partnership  
Community Partner Sites

The City of Oakland  
32nd Annual  
Community Homelessness Services

# COMMUNITY DAY OF THANKS

Tuesday, November 21, 2023  
11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**Location For Distribution:**  
Marriott & Community Partner Sites

Citywide Free Holiday Turkey Meal Serving Seniors, Low-Income Families & Homeless Residents

Donations can be made by check payable to the City of Oakland Hunger Program & mailed or delivered to:  
City of Oakland Hunger Program  
500 Frank H. Ogden Plaza Suite 540  
Oakland, CA 94612  
For more information about this event or for general information on hunger and homeless programs call 510-986-2721



## Black Cultural Zone 2nd Annual Gumbo Festival, Partner Mixer, and Holiday Akoma Market

It's snuggle season, and there is nothing better a good bowl of gumbo! On Friday, December 1, at 5pm the **Black Cultural Zone** is partnering with some amazing organizations to have a fun and family-friendly festival, partner mixer and akoma holiday market. [RSVP here.](#)



Black Cultural Zone Presents  
2nd Annual  
**GUMBO FESTIVAL  
PARTNER MIXER  
&  
AKOMA HOLIDAY MARKET**



1955 BROADWAY, OAKLAND, CA  
December 1, 2023  
5:00 PM

Scan To  
RSVP



<https://tinyurl.com/GumboFest2023>

GUMBO BY  
CHEF LALA OF  
JUSLAEATS

## Oakland's Frosty Friday

The last First Friday of the year is going to be

Frosty! On Friday, December 1, **Oakland First Fridays** will kick off their holiday cheer on Telegraph between 22nd & 27th.

This is a public event, and open to all!



### ***Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir 38th Annual Holiday Concert***

Saturday, December 2, at 7pm, join the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir** for their 38th Annual Holiday Concert. Hosted by Kumasi Aaron, at the Paramount Theatre, guest performances include Jackie Tolbert and Half-N-Half. Tickets range from \$15-80, and can be purchased at [oigc.org/tickets](http://oigc.org/tickets).



### ***Jack London Holiday Tree Lighting***

Oaklanders are invited to the FREE Holiday Tree Lighting sponsored by **KTVU FOX 2** at **Jack London Square** on Saturday, December 2, from 5:45 PM to 8:00 PM located in the plaza near Plank. There will be live entertainment featuring:

1. Laser light shows
2. Photos with Santa, Frosty, Holiday Teddy Bear and The Peppermint Princess
3. Special performances by Oaktown Jazz Workshops' Performance Ensemble and The Lyric Performing Arts Academy



## **Become A Better Neighbor**

### ***Join Your Neighborhood Council***

Neighborhood Councils (NCs) are made up of Oakland residents working in partnership with the City of Oakland to address ongoing problems in their neighborhoods.



Join this amazing collective of passionate neighbors, by participating in their next meeting. Check out the [meeting schedule](#) to find out the best way to get involved.

### ***Apply for an Oakland Board or Commission***

The City of Oakland needs your input. Join an Oakland board or commission, to share your feedback on the City's legislation, policies, special projects, and more. [Click here](#) to see what openings are available.



## **Donate To Those In Need**

### ***Youth Alive's 2023 Holiday Gift Drive***

Youth Alive is holding its 2023 Holiday Gift Drive on Wednesday, December 6, from 9:00am-6:30pm. Bring in new, unwrapped gifts for children and families of all ages. Drop them off at 3232 Elm Street.

For any questions, please contact Denay Harris at [dharris@youthalive.org](mailto:dharris@youthalive.org).



### ***Oakland First Friday's Toy Drive***

**Oakland First Fridays** is spreading warmth and joy, one toy and coat at a time. Drop off your donation to 233 Telegraph Ave, Suite 109. by Friday, December 8.

Don't forget to join them for Frosty Friday!



### ***Lend A Hand Foundation's Joy of Giving***

On Saturday, December 16, the Lend A Hand Foundation (LAHF) is hosting its 24th Annual Joy of Giving Celebration, where it will be distributing free gifts, meals, and more.

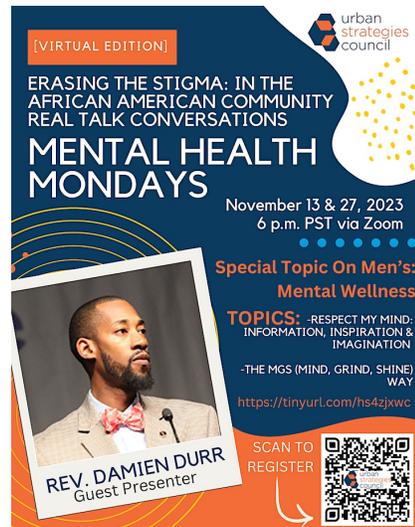
Visit LAHF for ways to contribute, and/or email Dee Johnson at [lahf1996@gmail.com](mailto:lahf1996@gmail.com) for more information.



## Heal Past Traumas

### ***Mental Health Mondays with Urban Strategies Council***

On Monday, November 27, at 6pm the Urban Strategies Council will continue their Mental Health Monday series with a virtual session on Men's Mental Wellness. Topics include practices including the The MSG (mind, grind, and shine), and a special guest presentation from Rev. Damien Durr. **Register now.**



### ***Healing Gun Violence in LatinX Communities: A Culturally Relevant Approach***

On Tuesday, December 12, Youth Alive is hosting a conversation around gun violence in the LatinX communities. From 6-8pm, they are partnering with the Kapor Center in Oakland to discuss ways to address this growing epidemic.



**Click here,** for more information.

## Participate In A Restorative Justice Circle

**Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth** hosts weekly circles for Black men and women, formerly incarcerated, and queer people of color. Visit their **website** to learn more about their upcoming circles, training, and other services.

(510) 931-7569  
 @RJOYOakland  
 @RJOYOak  
 blackmalecircle.org  
**BLACK MALE CIRCLE**  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**6PM-8PM**  
 173 Filbert St, Oakland, CA 94607

FOR MORE INFO MAIN@RJOYOAKLAND.ORG 510-994-4992  
**VIRTUAL CIRCLE**  
 SEE ZOOM INFO BELOW  
**SISTA CYPHER**

A POSITIVE REALM FOR CREATING ART AND UNITING AS WOMEN THIS BLACK, POC AND INTERGENERATIONAL CIRCLE IS YOUR NEXT STEP TO HEALING WHILE BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH OTHER ALIED WOMEN  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**5:30-7:30PM**  
**FOOD & STIPENDS PROVIDED**

<https://zoom.us/j/240553997>  
 ID: 240 553 997 or +1 609 900 6835 to call in

**QPOC Circle**  
 Every Tuesday 6pm-8pm  
 Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509827948>  
 Meeting ID: 865 0982 7948

@RJOYOakland.org

## Share Information and Resources

### Hidden Genius Immersion Program

The **Hidden Genius Project** is now accepting applications for their immersion program for Black male youth entering 9th, 10th and 11th grade. For 15th months, these young men will be exposed to tech, mentorship, entrepreneurship, leadership, networking, career development and more. **Applications** are due by February 19, 2023.

THE HIDDEN GENIUS PROJECT  
 INTENSIVE IMMERSION PROGRAM

**REVEAL YOUR GENIUS**

- Mentorship
- Entrepreneurship
- Tech Exposure
- Business Trips
- Leadership
- Networking
- Career Development
- College Advising

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**  
 LOS ANGELES • OAKLAND • RICHMOND, CA • DETROIT

**ELIGIBILITY:**  
 Black Male Youth  
 Entering 9th, 10th and 11th Grade  
 15-Month Commitment

- Two seven-week summers (full time during the summer)
- Afterschool and weekends during the school year

**WWW.HIDDENGENIUSPROJECT.ORG/APPLY**  
**APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 19, 2023**

### Youth Uprising's Free Food Program

Every Thursday from 12-2pm, **Youth Uprising** (YU) distributes free grocery bags to community members. Meet them at 878 MacArthur Blvd. in the YU Amphitheater.

For questions call (510) 777-0909 ext 0.

YOUTH UPRISING IS OFFERING

**FREE GROCERY BAGS**

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**12PM - 2PM**

**YU AMPHITHEATER**  
 8711 MACARTHUR BOULEVARD  
 OAKLAND, CA 94605

FOR QUESTIONS CALL: (510) 777-9909 EXT. 0  
 YOUTHUPRISING.ORG | @YOUTHUPRISING

## Volunteer With A Non-Profit

### Faith In Action East Bay Ceasefire Walks

The last two Ceasefire walks are on Fridays December 8 (First Mount Sinai) & December 15 (At Thy Word Ministry). Join **Faith in Action**

**East Bay** as they unite to build a culture of peace and healing to our communities.



Questions and/or Recommendations? Email [oig@oaklandca.gov](mailto:oig@oaklandca.gov)!

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City of Oakland, Office of the Inspector General | 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 6306, Oakland, CA 94602

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