

Teens Make a Difference Day – a way that the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations Can Connect with LA youth!

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations was recently approached by Connect L.A., a non-profit organization committed to bring diverse groups together through sharing resources and expertise on worthwhile projects.

“We were delighted to get involved in this exciting project,” said Richard Verches, Chief Deputy Director in charge of the program work. This was previously organized in October, 2006 and was a great success.”

The event is connected to the national “Make a Difference Day”, now in its 14th year of existence. The L.A. effort was largely supported by the L.A. Recreation and Parks and “Beyond the Bell”, one of LAUSD’s principal after-school programs. The results were impressive: 3,000 teens participated at 107 locations throughout the county.

“This year, we hope that our Campus Action Teams (part of the Commission’s Zerohour: No haters here!” program, can increase the visibility and participation of schools and community organizations by connecting the “Teens Make a Difference” day to the Commission’s “Zerohour” program, now active in six county high school campuses.

Juan Huezo, a recent UCLA graduate, heads up the effort as Program Director for this project. He is assisted by Xochi Rodriguez, a high school student, who brings a teen’s perspective to the project.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for me to get involved in something both meaningful and exciting,” says Huezo.

“The Zerohour schools will be responsible for promoting this program to the Campus Action Teams,” says Robin S. Toma, Executive Director of the Commission. “All our staff will be asked to promote the project at all community meetings that they attend. It is really important to strengthen the relations between diverse racial, ethnic and religious communities.”