



In This Issue

Greetings LIFETIME Family
Become a LIFETIME Voter!
Education Works!



Upcoming Events

Northern California:

Election Potluck-

Sat Nov 1
In Oakland

Election Debrief

Thurs Nov 20
In Oakland

Year End Celebration

Sat Dec 13
In Oakland

Parent Leadership Summit

Fri Jan 9 - Mon Jan 12
In Sacramento

Southern California:

Become a LIFETIME Voter - Information Session

Sun Nov 2
In Artesia

Election Debrief

Sun Nov 23
In Artesia

To RSVP call [Lakisha Neal-Chatmon](tel:510-325-5160) (510-325-5160) for Northern California events and [Angelica Ceballos](tel:562-712-9658) (562-712-9658) for Southern California events .

Greetings LIFETIME Family!

As a former CalWORKs student myself, let me start by congratulating all of you who have graduated, those of you who are currently in school, and every parents who is considering attending college in the very near future - your education is the path out of poverty for your family! For many of us, back to school is a return to the joys and stresses who has to balance the competing demands of school, family, and work, all while struggling to make ends meet. It is a lot for anyone to carry, but it must be done, can be done, and will be done in the effort to improve our families and communities. So if you need support in achieving your educational goals, contact our PEER Program; we are ready and eager to support you!

Because access to education is so important for our families, the state budget cuts to community colleges, CSUs and UCs, along with federal reauthorization of welfare and the Higher Education Act, make this year's election even more monumental. So while we all go into school-mode, I want to remind you all to vote on November 4th. And if you want to do more during this historical election season, then join us in our efforts to increase the number of low-income parent voters who will head to the polls for this historic election. Together we will build a stronger community voice for the things that mean the most to us - getting an education and getting our families out of poverty. Contact [Lakisha Neal-Chatmon](#) for Oakland activities, [Angelica Ceballos](#) for Long Beach activities, or visit our website for more details about how you can help with our first-ever voter turnout project!

Yours In Solidarity,

Sylvia Cabrales, Mills College '00
LIFETIME Board Chair



Parent Leaders at the Marguerite Casey Foundation's Equal Voices for America's Families Convention in Los Angeles, September 6th 2008

Raise Your Voice - Become a LIFETIME Voter!

The election is fast approaching, with a historic presidential election only days away - so be sure to vote on November 4th and make your voice heard! That's what LIFETIME has been doing, after witnessing Congress give billions of dollars in corporate welfare to Wall Street. The time is now for our families to strengthen our fight for economic security! So join LIFETIME today, and support our work to win welfare policies and budget priorities to invest in low-income families and our communities!

Contribute to LIFETIME's Newsletter

In upcoming newsletters, **LIFETIME** is looking for parent leaders to share their stories of struggle and success in completing their degrees - or in making a difference in the lives of other low-income families. If you have a story or testimonial that you'd like to share, we'll feature it in an upcoming edition! For more info, contact our Development Coordinator [Patrice Douglass](#).



With such excitement around this election, LIFETIME has seized the opportunity to strengthen our voice and connect with our community. In September, over 50 parent leaders and their children joined 12,000 other low-income families at the Equal Voices for American Families Convention in Los Angeles, sponsored by the [Marquerite Casey Foundation](#). At the convention, parent leaders gained critical leadership skills representing our issues at this multi-city national event to unveil our collective strategies for improving the quality of life for working families.

In addition, we've been out on the streets, staffing the phones and knocking on doors to make sure that everyone is prepared and ready to vote. Since September, we talked to over 600 low-income people during our voter registration drive, most of whom we're already registered to vote. In addition, we registered 130 new voters, and had another 300 voters sign a pledge (created by our partner, the [California Partnership](#)) to support the kinds of policies we need created in Washington and Sacramento that will achieve economic security and ladders of opportunity for our families. Through increased voter participation, LIFETIME's working to build a stronger community voice for economic security and educational opportunities for our families.

And our election work won't stop there. Directly following the election, LIFETIME will hold debriefing sessions in Los Angeles and the Bay Area to discuss the new President's position on poverty and other issues affecting our families. Also, save the date for LIFETIME's Parent Leadership Committee Summit January 9th - 12th in Sacramento, where we'll bring LIFETIME parent leaders and their children to Sacramento to voice their priorities for the 2009 state budget - and state welfare policies that will get our families off welfare - and out of poverty - for good!

Congratulations!

Peer Advocate **Dawn Love** and Parent **Leader Carol Crooks** have been selected to participate in the Alameda County Leadership Academy.

LIFETIME congratulates both ladies on this amazing opportunity! Well done **Dawn** and **Carol**!



Interns Dawn Love and Lakisha Neal-Chatmon, doing outreach to other student parents about how they can continue their education under the new CalWORKs rules

Quick Links

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[Campaigns & Events](#)

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Education Works!: Go to School, Stay in School

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community better than you found it". -Marian Wright Edelman

At LIFETIME, we work hard to play our part in leaving our community better than we found it! Though our Education Works! Campaign, LIFETIME is working to educate low-income parents - and the programs and agencies that serve them - on the welfare rules that allow low-income parents to pursue postsecondary education and training as their welfare to work activity. Since August, LIFETIME peer mentors have conducted eight workshops and provided information, support and advocacy services to help 130 student parents stay in school. For more information on upcoming workshops, please check our [online calendar](#)!

Through our direct services, LIFETIME knows that parents often face barriers to their success - many times it's the welfare department itself. One such parent, Kevin, a 42-year old single father of five beautiful children, connected with LIFETIME for support. Here is his story:

I decided to go back to school to fight for social justice and equality for single fathers like myself and many others. My commitment to this goal stems from the injustices I have experienced while on welfare as a single father. After becoming disabled with lung disease due to chemical exposure in the workplace, I was looking for in-home care assistance for myself and my girls during my recovery. I was told by several programs that I didn't qualify and when I followed up with social services, my worker told me to turn my children over to foster care if I couldn't take care of them. At the same time, my welfare time clock was ticking, even though I should have been exempt due to my medical condition. I appealed, and thanks to LIFETIME and the diligent work of Peer Advocate [Dawn Love](#), the county fixed my case and gave me time back on aid dating back to 1998 and reissued \$1700 in cash aid and food stamps. LIFETIME believes in equality for all parents and their children. They have helped me tremendously.

Kevin is a Sociology major at Ohlone College and plans to graduate in 2010. He wants to continue his education at CSU Eastbay to later open a drug and alcohol treatment center that supports fathers. You go Kevin!!!

If you're a CalWORKs parent, LIFETIME is here to help you succeed in school and achieve your dreams! If you or anyone you know needs help with CalWORKs and/or education issues, please call our PEER Program Coordinator [Sayoko Watson](#) for help at (510) 352-5160 x307.

Employment Opportunities at LIFETIME!

Are you inspired by LIFETIME's work? Would you like to join our team?

If so, you're in luck! LIFETIME is currently hiring for the following positions:

[WEJ Program Coordinator/Organizer](#)
[Executive Assistant to the Executive Director](#)
[Bilingual PEER Advocates and Organizing interns](#)

Please click the links for more information on the positions and instructions on how to apply.



Remember, it's through the support and contributions of each of you that allows LIFETIME to continue its important work. Click on the "Donate Now" button to support LIFETIME's mission to empower low-income parents to determine, pursue, and achieve their goals for education, employment, and economic security.