

# Your community.

A nice place to live. But in jeopardy from drugs, gangs, crime, violence, overcrowded housing, and run-down schools.

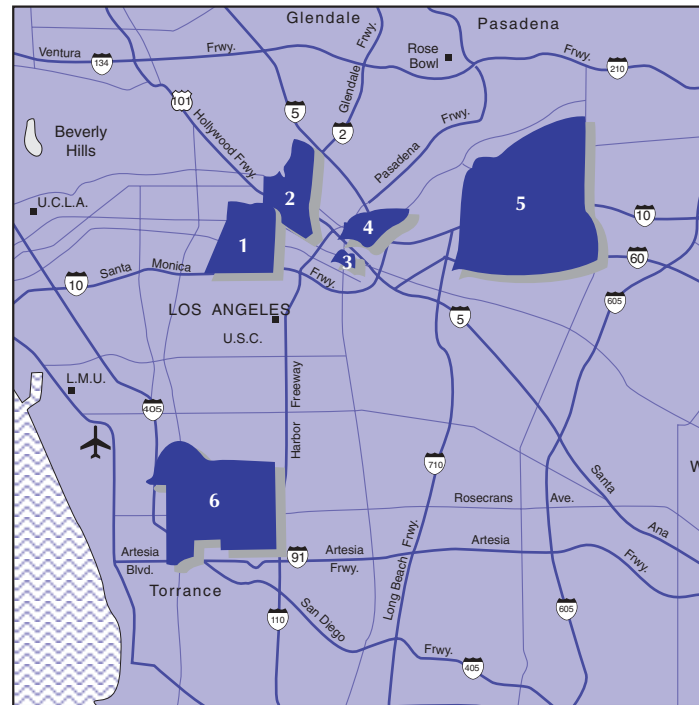
Want your community to be a better place to live and work?  
Of course you do.

Is there anyone that can help?  
Of course there is.

*You.*



## *E/WCP serves these Southern California communities:*



- |                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Wilshire/Koreatown              | Korean             |
| 2. Echo Park/Silverlake/Westlake   | Filipino           |
| 3. Little Tokyo                    | Japanese           |
| 4. Chinatown/Lincoln Heights       | Chinese/Vietnamese |
| 5. Monterey Park/Alhambra/Rosemead | Chinese/Vietnamese |
| 6. Hawthorne/Lawndale/Gardena      | Vietnamese         |



**East/West**

Community Partnership

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# East/West COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

ORGANIZING  
COMMUNITIES  
FOR  
CHANGE



# Together, we can change our communities.

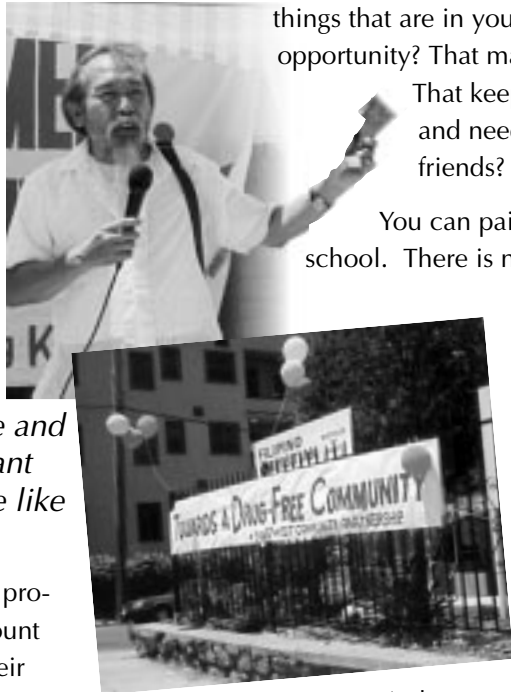
Communities are made of individuals, families, traditions, cultures and history. Each part of a community contributes to the whole, and affects the other parts, both inside and outside the community. But the most important part of a community are the people — people like you.

Everyone wants to live in a “nice” community — safe, protecting, clean. Friends, neighbors and loved ones to count on. Everyone wants a better life for themselves and their children. It’s the “American” dream.

**East/West Community Partnership (E/WCP)** is a federally funded program of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) to help fight substance abuse. Its mission is to organize a grassroots effort to reduce the incidence of conditions and issues which contribute to alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.

For many people, however, the American dream has become a nightmare of drug dealers, run-down schools, crime, and graffiti. It’s frightening. You see it every day. It’s true that these elements are a hurtful part of your community — but they are neither the most important nor most powerful part of your community. Who does have the power? People like you.

Because the “nightmare” forces seem so pervasive, it’s hard to believe that you can make a difference. It’s tempting to ignore them — live your daily life, mind your own business, and hope things will get better. But how can you ignore



things that are in your face everyday? Things that rob you of opportunity? That make you feel unsafe in your community?

That keep you from getting the things you want and need? Things that hurt your family and friends? You can't.

You can paint over graffiti or volunteer at a local school. There is no shortage of things you can do. The problem is that when you make progress on one issue, another rises up to take its place.

This is because of the very nature of communities — everything is interrelated. Drugs cannot exist without users. Customers wouldn't exist if it weren't for boredom, alienation, and a lack of something better to do.

As long as the root causes of the problems exist, the problems will continue.

The solution — the long term, *right* solution — is to stop standing alone. Work with others in your community for your community. Develop a plan. Fight the problems, organized and coordinated, one at a time. The results will come.

## Bringing people together to attack problems at their roots

E/WCP uses a strategic community-based approach which attacks the root causes of the problems. First, E/WCP listens. The community's priorities become E/WCP's priorities.

Then E/WCP helps community members fight back, attacking the problems that are the biggest threat. The plans and tactics developed are specific to the unique priorities and concerns of your community.

**Founding Community Partners**  
Asian Pacific Family Center  
Asian Youth Center  
Chinatown Service Center  
Indochinese Youth Center  
Little Tokyo Service Center  
Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program  
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans

## Among the tactics to help communities organize for change are:

- **Area Task Force Development.** Organize groups of community members to identify what the community needs and plan how to meet those needs. Help build partnerships within the community to foster community support and development.
- **Skills Building.** Train people to be more effective at getting what they need. Foster independence and the ability to maintain ongoing projects. Train people to train others.
- **Maximize and Coordinate Community Resources.** Ensure that resources remain available and properly focused. Help service providers retain and develop new resources to meet community needs. Collaborate with existing resources (individuals and organizations) and make referrals. Understand and facilitate combining resources to address problems.
- **Develop, Maintain And Distribute Information.** Develop and maintain a contact list of people and organizations that can help. Maintain reference materials. Develop databases of information on communities and Asian Pacific Americans in general. Maintain files on current issues affecting targeted communities.
- **Solidarity, Advocacy, & Empowerment.** By developing unity among various organizations of communities through support networks, a formidable voice promoting justice for the people is created. Giving people the tools to influence policy and make changes in their environment, helping them improve the quality of their lives.

Find out how E/WCP can help you organize your community for change. Call (213) 625-7705 and ask for a Community Organizer. We want to hear from you!

