# **STRONG Nonprofit East Contra Costa**

# 2017 - 2018 Program

# COHORT MEMBERS ROSTER

**Brighter Beginnings**3478 Buskirk Ave.

Suite 105

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

### Website: [www.brighter-beginnings.org](http://www.brighter-beginnings.org)

### Org Description Since 1984, Brighter Beginnings has been fighting the root causes of poor health & supporting healthy births & Successful childhood development by partnering with parents and helping to build strong healthy communities. Today, Brighter Beginnings is proud to provide services in the areas of Family Healthcare, Early Childhood Development, Teen Family Support, and Community Strengthening in both Alameda & Contra Costa County. More than 50% of Brighter Beginning staff are bilingual in order to ensure that access or language are not a barrier. The Family Health Clinics provide affordable healthcare to individuals and families who need it the most in the areas of primary healthcare, prenatal & well-baby care & mental health services. The Early Childhood Development programs promote healthy births, child development, and healthy relationships through home visits. The Teen Family Support Services programs support expecting and parenting teens to have healthy births, reach school/work goals, and achieve personal development for the parents & babies.

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**Contra Costa Senior Legal Services**2702 Clayton Rd., Ste. 202

Concord, CA 94519

**Website:** [**www.ccsls.org**](http://www.ccsls.org)

**Org description:**

Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CCSLS) is a private, nonprofit agency located in Concord, California, that has been providing free legal services to seniors since 1976. These services have enabled many seniors to stay in their homes, to become eligible for and retain public benefits, to recover real and personal property wrongly taken from them, and to obtain relief from physical, financial, and emotional abuse. Last year, CCSLS provided individual assistance to nearly 1,000 seniors and provided outreach and training to hundreds more.

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**Delta Learning Center**275 W. Tregallas Rd

Antioch, CA 94509

**Website:** <http://www.deltalearningcenter.org/>

**Org description:**

The Delta Learning Center has provided individualized, one-on-one tutoring to thousands of students in Contra Costa County since 1976. DLC is dedicated to eating the educational needs of all students in the community. We ensure the highest quality individual academic support by employing only fully-credentialed teachers.  DLC will always provide the best possible tutoring service for the lowest possible cost to students of all ages.

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**Loaves and Fishes**835 Ferry Street

Martinez, CA 94553

**Website:** <http://www.loavesfishescc.org/>

**Org description:**

The mission of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa is to provide community based food programs and partner services that focus on basic needs. We nourish lives! Since 1983, Loaves and Fishes has served over 4.4 million meals to many thousands of hungry people throughout Contra Costa County. We have recruited thousands of volunteers and built an organization that has grown to serving over 160,000 meals and distributes over 200 tons of groceries each year.

According to the Contra Costa Times we are one of the most cost-effective charitable organizations in the Bay Area and are second only to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties in efficiency. We serve meals from five of our sites and provide meals to three partners at four of their sites throughout east and central Contra Costa County – where we’re needed most!

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**Mz Shirliz Transtional Inc.**1830 Manzanita Drive

Concord, CA 94519

**Website**: [www.mzshirliz.org](http://www.mzshirliz.org)

**Org description:**

Mz Shirliz Transitional is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit Corporation established in 2009 by Founder Shirley Lamarr. Our mission is to transform the lives of people whose alcohol or drug addiction has led them to criminal behavior and incarceration. We provide clean and sober transitional living for previously incarcerated people who have nowhere else to go. Mz Shirliz has been a home and a “spring board” into a more prosperous future and teaching people how to give back to their community. In the past 3 years we have served more than 350 people.

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**One Day at a Time**331 Pine St.

Brentwood, CA. 94513

**Website**: [www.odatec.org](http://www.odatec.org)

**Org description:**

ODAT youth build better relationships with peers, improve relationships at home and also perform better academically. Some of the participants that are part of the ODAT family find themselves facing difficulties in life and just want a safe place to have a voice and be heard, cared for and encouraged to find the strength to make better choices. ODAT also partners with many other community resources and organizations in order to provide wrap around services. One Day at a Time believes that adult mentoring, effective coping and adjusting methods, and responding to issues positively, will provide the framework for youth and young adults to successfully navigate through life. The organization works hard to empower underserved youth in order to prevent or deter them from negative or undesirable behaviors. We do this by building the *inner core*. Our vision is to help youth and young adults become the best version of themselves that they can be.Additionally, in 2010 ODAT partnered with John Muir Health to offer the Beyond Violence program to youth and young adults in East Contra Costa County that are seriously injured and are victims of intentional violence and end up at John Muir Trauma Center, Walnut Creek. ODAT’s Intervention Specialist works with these clients for a year and provides resources, referrals and wrap around services to reduce or prevent future re-injury, retaliation and recidivism linked with violence.

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| Jose Juan “Johnny” Rodriguez  Executive Director  [johnny.rodriguez@odatec.org](mailto:johnny.rodriguez@odatec.org)  925.437.3574 | Genoveva Zesati  Development Manager  [admin@odatec.org](mailto:admin@odatec.org)  925.240.1359 |

**People Who Care**2231 Railroad Ave

Pittsburg, CA 94565

**Website**: [www.peoplewhocarechildrenassociation.org](http://www.peoplewhocarechildrenassociation.org)

**Org description:**

In 2016, People Who Care (PWC) Children Association celebrated seven years of providing the PWC Clinical Success After-school Program that was created in direct response to the heightened school drop-out crisis, truancy, delinquency, and youth incarcerations in East Contra Costa County. Our after-school program has served more than 1,200 youth providing Peer Counseling and Mental Health Services through our Community Service and Youth “Green” Jobs Training Programs for youth ranging in age 12 to 18 highly at-risk of crime and gangs since its inception. The majority of our clients reside in Pittsburg and surrounding communities in East Contra Costa County, CA.

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**Village Community Resource Center**633 Village Drive

Brentwood, CA 94513

Website: [www.vcrcbrentwoodca.org](http://www.vcrcbrentwoodca.org)

**Org Description:**

At Village Community Resource Center (VCRC) we believe ALL children deserve an equal opportunity to succeed in school, work, & life. Therefore, we support student social-emotional & academic development while helping families move towards self-sufficiency.  Our family resource specialist works with families to develop partnership plans, identify and provide links to available resources, and helps families acquire the skills needed to increase family capacity and move out of poverty. Our mission is to provide information, support, & coordination of resources to empower & improve the quality of life of disadvantaged children & their families in a culturally sensitive environment.  We accomplish this through family focused, bilingual, health, social service, and academic programming.

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| Kirsten Rigsby  Executive Director  [kirsten@vcrcbrentwoodca.org](mailto:kirsten@vcrcbrentwoodca.org) 925.626.7892 | Solomon Belette  Director, Sanford Institute  [sbelette@jfku.edu](mailto:sbelette@jfku.edu)  510.867.1216 | Tamara Osivwemu  Board Member  [info@tamaraoconsulting.com](mailto:info@tamaraoconsulting.com)  925.978.7850 |

**White Pony Express**3380 Vincent Road #107

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

**Website:** [www.whiteponyexpress.org](http://www.whiteponyexpress.org)

**Org description:**   
White Pony Express (WPE) has the mission to help end hunger and poverty in Contra Costa County by relaying the abundance all around us to those in need. WPE has experienced skyrocketing growth, while having a tremendous impact on hunger and poverty in Contra Costa County. In just three and a half years, WPE has become the largest clothing distributor in the county through its unique Mobile Boutiques and direct distributions to shelters, veteran facilities, and others serving the underprivileged. Yet, WPE is even better known for its amazing food rescue and distribution program. Today, this program distributes 5,000 pounds of fresh food a day, seven days a week—the equivalent of 1,500,000 meals a year the hungry would otherwise go without. The clothing program distributes 12,000 articles of new and like new clothing a month. We have distributed clothing sufficient for 30,000 wardrobes for low-income people in the past three years. Everything we distribute must meet a quality standard of being good enough to have in our own homes or give to our own close loved ones. We are known by the high standards we bring to all of our projects, events, and programs. We seek not only the end of hunger but food parity.

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**Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter**1543 Sunnyvale Ave.

Walnut Creek, CA 94597

**Website:** [www.cccwinternights.org](http://www.cccwinternights.org)

**Org description:**

Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter is a project of the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. We are a homeless family shelter that operates from October until early June. Families live in tents in fellowship halls of faith communities and are fed three meals a day. On weekdays children go to school and parents and young children can go to the Oasis, a daytime shelter at St. Vincent de Paul’s in Pittsburg where there are showers and opportunity to search the internet for jobs and housing. Maximum capacity is 30 and families are helped by our staff to find housing and become self-sufficient.

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**Your STRONG Nonprofits Team**

**Byron Johnson** is a senior project director at CompassPoint where he designs, manages, and provides skills-based coaching and consulting to nonprofit boards, staff, organizations, networks, and government agencies in the areas of board development, executive transitions, strategy, and succession planning. Byron is a current resident of Richmond and a proud Oakland native and a graduate of Oakland Tech, Byron is excited about CompassPoint’s recent move to “The Town.” The issue areas he’s most passionate about and interested in resolving include stemming the tide of violence and exploitation (particularly in disenfranchised communities), promoting individual and collective health, and striving for economic and social equity.

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**Jeanne Bell** is the executive director at CompassPoint. As ED, Jeanne leads an integrated practice of twenty people who use teaching, coaching, consulting, peer learning, and research to advance social equity work in the Bay Area, throughout California, and across the country. She is a leading thinker and engaging national speaker on nonprofit finance and strategy. She supports CompassPoint clients as they set and adapt strategies to better respond to their constituents and to a dynamic operating environment. A native San Franciscan, Jeanne’s degree in Ethic Studies from UC Berkeley gave her a foundational perspective on racial justice—more broadly, social justice—that continues to inform her work today. She is driven by CompassPoint’s commitment to work with social equity organizations that in turn work with their communities to creative positive social change.



**Spring Opara** is an associate project director for CompassPoint. She is responsible for creatively providing project management support by designing systems and protocols to manage the implementation and execution of Cohort Leadership Programs (CLP) and consulting contracts. Spring has worked for several nonprofits in the Bay Area including WestEd, The Toigo Foundation, The Dental Health Foundation, and The Link to Children (TLC), all of which have allowed her to develop a plethora of skills and opportunities to support work that has a positive impact in her community. Spring served five years in the U.S. Air Force, where she received numerous medals. She was honorably discharged in 1984 with the rank of E/5, SSgt. Spring is a published writer of both fictional short stories and poems. She was the Women’s Initiative Simple Steps to Success 2010 valedictorian and, in her spare time, works to empower women by facilitating workshops on how to grow your own business.

**Maro Guevara** is the communications associate for CompassPoint. In his role, Maro contributes to CompassPoint's communication strategy, develops and edits blogs, manages the organization’s social media channels, assists with fundraising, writes case studies, manages website content, and designs for online and print materials. Maro has worked as a freelance copyeditor, copywriter, graphic designer, actor, producer, and social media manager. And as a volunteer, he’s tutored with Reading Partners, worked as an online organizing intern for Tenants Together and served as a translator for the International Red Cross. Originally from Panama City, Panama Maro currently lives in San Francisco.