

Day of Service Kicks Off Academic Year

Sixty incoming public health graduate students started their experience at UC Berkeley with a day of service as participants in the School of Public Health's second Volunteer Mobilization Day, held August 25, 2006. The day's events began with a welcome from Berkeley mayor **Tom Bates** (who co-hosted the event), acting dean **Ralph Catalano**, and associate dean **Denise Herd**. Student volunteers were then deployed to sites throughout Berkeley serving youth, the homeless, elders, and others.

“By introducing the new public health graduate students to Berkeley immediately upon their arrival, we hope that they will find a wonderful and engaging community that extends beyond the walls of the university,” said Bates.

Volunteer sites included Bahia School-Age Program, the North Berkeley Senior Center, People's Park, Fred Finch Youth Center's Homeless Youth Collaborative, and school gardens at the Malcolm X School and at Berkeley Youth Alternatives.

The first Volunteer Mobilization Day was launched in August 2005 by **Dean Stephen Shortell** and Mayor Bates. “This is one of the most important Welcome Week events, because it provides an opportunity for our new students to be directly involved in their community,” said Shortell, “and that is a key part of public health.”



- 1** Berkeley mayor Tom Bates (left) and School of Public Health acting dean Ray Catalano welcome the student volunteers.
- 2** After the opening ceremony, volunteers head off to their sites.
- 3** Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA) provides an opportunity for public health students to work alongside youth participants in the BYA community gardens.
- 4** BYA development and policy director Kevin Williams (left) and his son join the volunteers.





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- 1** Volunteers work beneath the sunflowers in the Berkeley Youth Alternatives community gardens.
- 2** A residence for homeless youth operated by the Fred Finch Youth Center Homeless Youth Collaborative gets a fresh coat of paint.
- 3** Volunteers apply their skills at the North Berkeley Senior Center in the gift shop and
- 4** in the ceramics studio.



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