

Multi-Faceted Violence Prevention in East San Jose

East San Jose PEACE Partnership's Journey

A partnership dedicated to supporting resident power. The East San Jose “Prevention Efforts Advance Community Equity” (PEACE) Partnership, whose backbone organization is the Santa Clara Public Health Department, focuses on trauma and violence prevention through a broad set of interventions that encompass intimate partner violence (IPV) education and screening, affordable housing expansion, anti-displacement work, youth leadership development, and more. PEACE operates with a strong equity lens centered on projects that will improve the health and wellbeing of marginalized residents, such as combatting lead exposure and increasing city funding for underserved children and families. They facilitate community dialogue around responding to and preventing violence, including police violence and violence around the country. By facilitating strong working relationships between residents and a variety of agencies and organizations, PEACE assists the community in building and implementing a unified, equity-oriented approach to violence and trauma prevention. PEACE centers community trust building and transparency in their work, providing Spanish translation, financially supporting community initiatives, facilitating collaboration between disparate sectors, and maintaining a strong racial equity focus.

Developing a holistic set of interventions. The PEACE Partnership kicked off in 2018 with the development of a portfolio of interventions (POI) that encompassed 13 priority areas identified by the community that focused on decreasing violence and building resilience across the three neighborhood zip codes. These priority areas include anti-gentrification and displacement policies and practices, safe firearm storage, neighborhood beautification, universal preschool, and interventions that promote the social health of communities. In the years following the formation of the POI, the PEACE Partnership engaged in additional strategies, including a results based accountability (RBA) process, that helped PEACE partners to “understand how to address violence from a community-based resiliency approach, to ground our interventions at the level of ESJ neighborhoods by uplifting existing assets, and to focus our efforts on the root causes of violence,” according to a member of the leadership team.

Addressing root causes in all intervention areas. PEACE leaders operate with the knowledge that addressing only the symptoms of the problem will not produce a solution. For example, PEACE’s anti-displacement work not only provides direct support to residents, but also effectively informed development of housing programs based on community input and advocated for the needs of small businesses impacted by displacement, among other actions.

Building and sharing a Wellness Fund. In addition to the development and implementation of its 13-pronged POI, the PEACE Partnership successfully developed and implemented a community Wellness Fund. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the PEACE Partnership was able to utilize this fund, supplemented by additional external funds, to distribute over \$600k to vulnerable individuals, families, and businesses in East San Jose.

Sustainable strategy grounded in adaptation and community trust. Over the course of its growth and development, PEACE leaders and partners learned the value of reflecting on progress and challenges and taking a pause on certain strategies that do not meet expectations. They learned that building trust and relationships take time and made community outreach and listening sessions a priority to ensure that strategies implemented reflect community priorities and promote collaboration and alignment across partners. PEACE leaders and partners also understand that future sustainability requires continued trust building and power sharing with residents and partners in decision-making.

This visual journey map displays highlights from East San Jose PEACE Partnership’s activities, an abbreviated timeline of its growth, and some key impacts they have made in the East San Jose community.

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East San Jose PEACE Partnership's Journey Visualized

Establishing a Framework

From its inception, the PEACE Partnership has held as its north star the **simultaneous goals** of **seeking equity by reducing violence** and **reducing violence by seeking equity**. As high levels of violence and disinvestment created **widespread trauma** in East San Jose communities, the PEACE Partnership set out to **tackle it at the root**.

**High rates
of violence in impacted
zip codes**
Nearly **double** the county average

Widespread
trauma in ESJ
communities

PEACE Partnership's Key Ingredients

"The new partnerships fostered by PEACE Partnership will make it possible to lift the voices of those most affected by violence and trauma and improve the health and well-being of Santa Clara County for many years to come"

-PEACE Partnership website

Community Voice: Community members hold positions of leadership, interventions align with community priorities, and growing resident capacity is a central priority



Focus on Trust: Commitment to resident power facilitates trust and enables the ACH to serve as a community convener



Holistic Model: Understanding that violence stems from a broad range of social and environmental factors



Equity and Data: Racial and health equity, including data on disparities, are at the center of all strategies



Wellness Fund: A flexible and substantial funding source to meet community needs

== Lasting community transformation

Timeline of Actions

Examining
Root Causes



Mobilizing
Community Voice



Shifting Power to
Community

2018

POI developed

13 interventions identified through a community engagement process, leading to the development of a Portfolio of Interventions

Launched workgroups, conducted outreach, and formalized partnerships

Established a Wellness Fund

The PEACE Partnership set their POI into action through the formation of focused workgroups who developed targeted strategies and interventions from preventing displacement to preventing intimate partner violence (IPV).

In addition to defining a POI, they established a Wellness Fund to pool braided funding.

2019

Workgroups ramp up

Expanded coalition to prevent intimate partner violence, planned symposium, and created a plan to integrate screenings and clinical interventions

Gained traction on anti-displacement work and received recognition from the Director of Housing

PEACE Partnership workgroups engaged in a broad range of activities related to their respective interventions, from trainings on leadership development to relationship building across siloes.

Through these varied and complimentary actions, they received increasing support and recognition from a range of local stakeholders.

2020

COVID and equity focus

Conducted a racial equity results based accountability process with over 150 participants

Established a COVID Relief Fund combining funds from the Wellness Fund with additional money raised

Distributed over \$600k to over 730 vulnerable individuals and families in East San Jose and helped 30 local businesses stay afloat

In 2020, PEACE pivoted in response to the needs raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. As additional equity issues were highlighted, PEACE workgroups developed strategies to improve racial equity.

A substantial intervention was direct support to residents in the form of monetary assistance to help weather the impacts of COVID-19.

**2021
& beyond**

Backbone of recovery

Continued to support recovery efforts in response to the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on community wellbeing

Beginning to align PEACE work with state violence prevention initiatives

Increased attention to housing instability, including advocacy for long term tenant protections, and building community capacity, particularly among ESJ youth

The PEACE Partnership put some of their activities on hold as they continued to support community recovery, including advocacy at the state level for the needs of low-income residents.

Today, PEACE is continuing to ramp up its anti-displacement and community and youth capacity building work as it further aligns its efforts with state violence prevention initiatives.

Major Accomplishments to Date

At the sunset of the CACHI grant period

- ◆ Developed a holistic POI with a set of 13 complimentary interventions based on community input.
- ◆ Brought together previously siloed partners to break down barriers and create a coalition to meet community needs and address violence from multiple angles.
- ◆ Established a flexible Wellness Fund that enabled the formation of their COVID Relief Fund, which distributed substantial aid to almost 1,000 vulnerable residents.
- ◆ Recruited and retained resident members, including youth, and invested resources in the development of resident and youth leadership.
- ◆ Built and maintained a robust data strategy, regularly using both formal and informal data sources to evaluate PEACE's approach and adjust accordingly.
- ◆ Revolutionized the approach to violence prevention in East San Jose through recognizing root causes and developing a holistic framework for interventions.

In the Words of PEACE's Partners...

- ◆ "Through the years, PEACE's Wellness Fund became a bright light in ESJ and the County. Our governmental partners across jurisdictions reach out to us to learn how they can develop their own Wellness Fund, replicating a creative funding model that bypasses traditional governmental procurement processes, restrictions and red tape. The Wellness Fund was well-known throughout the County, and showed others the value and impact of a flexible funding pool for serving the community." - Community Partner
- ◆ "We have been working with the community for a few years; health and justice issues have been important to us. Since engaging with East Peace, we now have a model that does professional work and that leads by empowering the voiceless in our community."
-Community Partner