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Hundreds of Parents Mobilize and Transform their Community

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After months of community meetings across *Best Start* Metro Los Angeles/First 5 LA, a partnership of parents identified respect as the cornerstone value of a thriving community. Approximately 400 parents from diverse cultural backgrounds in Pico-Union, Koreatown, USC North, and South Park in Downtown Los Angeles mobilized to identify solutions to problems faced in their homes and communities.

To counter violence, isolation, and feelings of fear and powerlessness, parents created the **Pledge Towards a Culture of Respect**, outlining their personal commitment to transform their communities by transforming themselves. The principles of this community-wide effort are: mutual respect, the positive upbringing of children, and equality for all people.

The partnership convened as members of Best Start Metro LA, an investment of First 5 LA, that brings together parents, community-based organizations, and non-profits to collectively develop strategies to support young children, families and the communities where they live. In Best Start Metro LA members' words, they "pledge to practice these values of respect, raising of children and equality so that they can be shared among families, communities and through generations, and create a Culture of Respect."

The partnership has organized and mobilized Best Start Metro LA members around a series of family events where each attendee will have an opportunity to make their Pledge Towards a Culture of Respect. The events are free and for the whole family on the following dates and locations:

- Saturday, April 9th, 10am-2pm, Pico Union Vest Pocket Park, 1827 S Hoover St, Los Angeles, CA 90006
- Friday, April 22nd, 5-8pm, All Peoples Community Center, 822 E 20th St, Los Angeles, CA 90011
- Saturday, April 30th, 12-4pm, Richardson Family Park, 2700 S Budlong Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90007
- Saturday, May 7th, 10am-2pm, Norwood Street Elementary School, 2020 Oak St, Los Angeles, CA 90007
- Saturday, May 14th, 10am-2pm, First Baptist Church, 760 S Westmoreland Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90005
- Sunday, May 15th, 11am-2pm, Venice Hope Park, 1521 S Hope St, Los Angeles, CA 90015
- Saturday, May 21st, 11am-2pm, Menlo Family Housing, 1230 S Menlo Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90006

Media interested in attending the above listed events should contact Adilene Valenzuela, Manager of Community Relations at Pathways LA, (213) 806-9661, avalenzuela@pathwaysla.org to coordinate media passes and visit [Facebook.com/Best StartMetroLA](https://www.facebook.com/BestStartMetroLA) for updates.

About

The Pledge Towards a Culture of Respect is part of an effort steered by parents. Best Start Metro LA is an investment of First 5 LA, in partnership with Para Los Niños, and coordinated by Koreatown Youth + Community Center in partnership with: All People's Community Center, California Science Center, Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Children's Bureau, Esperanza Housing Corporation, Korean American Family Services, Pathways LA, Peace Over Violence, and Worksite Wellness LA.

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