

# OCBF Empowering Youth to Make Positive Choices

## Orange County Bar Foundation

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[www.ocbarfoundation.org](http://www.ocbarfoundation.org)

### What is the Orange County Bar Foundation?

The Orange County Bar Foundation (OCBF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to its mission of keeping at-risk youth in school, healthy and drug-free through education, counseling, mentoring, and family strengthening.

### Our Legacy

The Orange County Bar Foundation has been built upon a legacy deep within the local legal community. OCBF was initially established as the philanthropic arm of the Orange County Bar Association. Due to the success and growth of our work supporting at-risk youth, the Orange County Bar Foundation became an independent nonprofit agency in 1981.

Over the past 30 years, the Orange County Bar Foundation has successfully provided direct services to at-risk youth and their families. We know that second chances and healthy choices are more easily achieved when the whole family is involved and when there is hope for a positive future.

### Academic and Career Development



The Higher Education Mentoring Program works to reduce financial, gender, and racial barriers to higher education.

The **Higher Education Mentoring Program** provides Latino high school juniors and seniors from the city of Santa Ana with the academic, social, and financial support needed to graduate from high school and succeed in college. Participating youth receive:

- Individual & group mentoring
- Academic advising
- College application & financial aid assistance
- Financial literacy curriculum
- Monthly college readiness workshops
- FAFSA workshops
- College tours & career panels
- Self-esteem & leadership classes
- Scholarship opportunities
- Internship opportunities

The Higher Education Mentoring Program offers students continued support throughout their undergraduate studies, including financial aid assistance, linkages to leadership and volunteer opportunities, and guidance with resumes and employment. In addition, program graduates are given the opportunity to return as mentors.

Contact: Santiago Sandoval, ext. 100 – No cost

*"Thanks to the Higher Education Mentoring Program, I succeeded in going to college. The program was a place for me to find comfort and to learn exactly what I needed to do to not only get into college, but to graduate. Getting to where I am today was a difficult journey, but I received help from the Higher Education Mentoring Program every step of the way."*

- Program participant and recent college graduate

With the goal of investing in tomorrow's leaders, **Project SELF (Summer Employment in Law Firms)** provides high school juniors from Santa Ana with paid, hands-on summer internships at local law firms and businesses. Project SELF, in partnership with the Association of Legal Administrators, works to reduce the risk of juvenile delinquency by offering youth:

- Positive alternatives for spending their summers
- Access to professional career environments in spite of socioeconomic or cultural limitations
- Support from positive adult role models & mentors

Contact: Nancy Garcia, ext. 108 – No cost



Executive Director  
Karen Ruan, ext. 101

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Associate Director  
of Educational Services  
Martha Madrid, ext. 107

Associate Director  
of Clinical Services  
Nazly Restrepo, MSW,  
ext. 102

## Health Education

**Madres Unidas** offers Latina mothers various risk reduction services by health education groups. Culturally appropriate, bilingual services include:

- HIV/AIDS health education & risk reduction
- Coping & assertiveness skills training
- Referrals for free HIV/AIDS testing
- Emphasis on ethnic/gender pride
- Substance abuse education
- Behavioral self-management
- Support group sessions

**1 in 5 new HIV infections in the U.S. are among Latinos**

*"This program has helped me to educate my children and to have more open communication with them about important health topics."*

- Madres participant

**¡Cuidate!** is an HIV risk reduction program for Latino youth, aged 12-18, who attend continuation/alternative schools in Santa Ana. This culturally-based program focuses on "taking care of oneself and one's partner, family, and community." This is accomplished by working with youth to develop the requisite knowledge, attitude, and skills to reduce their risk of HIV infection. ¡Cuidate! also addresses several significant adult preparation issues, including adolescent development, healthy relationships, educational and career success, healthy life skills, and financial literacy.

## Juvenile Diversion Programs

(English and bilingual /bicultural Spanish services offered)



For over 35 years, **SHORTSTOP** has provided an alternative to incarceration, offering youth offenders the opportunity to receive diversion services in place of formal prosecution for first-time, minor offenses.

SHORTSTOP breaks the cycle that turns youth into repeat offenders by providing intensive legal education and emphasizing personal accountability. Youth and parents participate in several evening program sessions, where volunteer attorneys, legal professionals, and paroled convicts dramatically present the "legal facts of life" in a courtroom setting.

Through SHORTSTOP, youth are given the chance to learn from their mistakes and move forward without serving jail time or having a criminal record. The program is statistically proven to be a successful wake-up call. Over 90% of the youth that successfully complete SHORTSTOP do not recidivate for at least a year.

**Contact: Adam Sattar, ext. 114 / Natalie Sanchez, ext. 120**  
**Sliding Scale**

*"As a probation officer, I've seen my share of repeat offenders who began their lives of crime well before they completed high school. By reaching out to young offenders early and intensively, we can help steer kids away from crime and toward success."*

Colleen Preciado  
former Orange County Chief Probation Officer

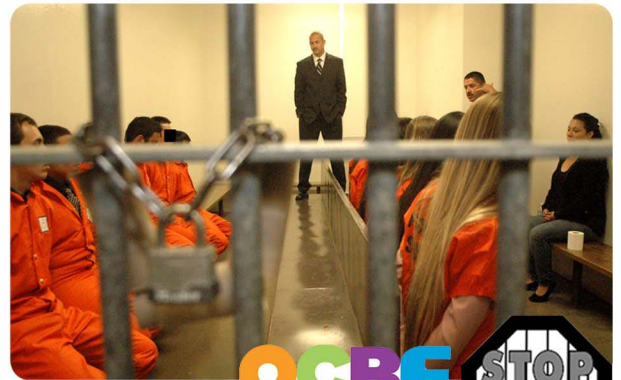
**Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT)** is an evidence-based treatment model, developed by the Center for Family Studies at the University of Miami. BSFT provides counseling services that have been proven effective in treating early drug use, dysfunctional family relationships, conduct problems, and associations with antisocial peers, all of which are recognized risk factors for drug addiction. Outcomes include:

- Children: improved self-concept; reduced conduct & emotional problems
- Adolescents: reduced drug use, conduct problems & antisocial peer relationships
- Families: improved family functioning

**Contacts for Health Education Programs:**

**Martha Madrid, ext. 107**

**Frances Torres, ext. 122 – No cost**



Based on our successful SHORTSTOP model, **STOP SHORT of Addiction** is an intensive, state-certified substance abuse program that works with first-time juvenile offenders who are in the early stages of substance abuse. Parental participation is mandatory.

STOP SHORT of Addiction provides an effective alternative to incarceration. It integrates legal education, group substance abuse treatment, and individualized restorative justice plans. Services address personal accountability, decision-making, family communication, peer refusal skills, and conflict resolution.

The Spanish version of STOP SHORT of Addiction offers up to 12 weeks of additional family therapy services, as needed and as resources allow. Family therapy is provided through our Brief Strategic Family Therapy program.

**Contact: Martha Veliz, ext. 119 – Sliding Scale**

*Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Orange County Bar Foundation does not discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age.*