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REACH ASHLAND YOUTH CENTER [www.REACHASHLAND.org](http://www.REACHASHLAND.org)

A project operated by Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **REACH RESCUE GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS OF EMT TRAINEES** **16 Youth Qualify for National Registry Exam to Become Licensed Emergency Medical Technicians**

**December 11, 2014 (San Leandro, CA)** – On Tuesday, December 16, the REACH Ashland Youth Center will graduate its first cohort of REACH Rescue program participants from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of Edendale Middle School at 16160 Ashland Ave, San Lorenzo, CA 94580.

“I am proud of everyone’s commitment to the REACH Rescue Program. One of my favorite parts of the day is seeing them here very early and ready to work. I know we will all benefit from this multi-level investment,” said Pedro Naranjo, Executive Director of the REACH Ashland Youth Center.

REACH Rescue is a youth development, mentorship, and job training program modeled on the highly successful EMS Corps program through the Health Care Services Agency’s Health Pipeline Partnership. It is a highly selective, rigorous academy that trains aspiring emergency medical professionals who are from the community and ready to serve. It is a 5-month long paid (stipend) program whose mission is to increase the number of underrepresented emergency medical technicians. The program provides an opportunity for young men and early adult reentry clients, from 18-26 years of age to become competent and successful health care providers.

Upon receipt of the certificate of completion from the REACH Rescue EMT program, trainees will be qualified to apply to take the national registry exam and become licensed EMT’s. This certification is a pathway into careers in medical, fire, paramedics, and law enforcement professions.

The program is administered at REACH by Soulciety whose Co-Director of Operations, Aaron Horner says, “REACH Rescue’s EMT Program is the most in-depth training program that Soulciety has offered. Graduates are now well on their way to becoming medical professionals and in changing the face of healthcare.”

Program funders include Kaiser Permanente, REACH Ashland Youth Center, the Alameda County Social Services Agency’s Workforce Investment Board, and Oakland Unite.

A second cohort will begin in January 2015 with funding for the program secured through 2018.

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REACH serves youth ages 11-24 who live throughout Alameda County with a focus on the Ashland Cherryland unincorporated communities that are known for poverty, crime, and chronic health conditions.

Soulciety’s mission is to empower the lives of at-risk and underprivileged youth by promoting physical, mental, and emotional growth and well-being through job placement and training, leadership development, innovative mentorship, health awareness and community service.