



## **NEWS RELEASE Revised**

Contact: Jamie Hintzke, 925.876.2380  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Jamie.Hintzke@acgov.org

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### **Alameda County Redevelopment Agency and Health Care Services Agency Project Places Last Iron Beam *The Ashland Youth Center***

San Leandro, CA - The last 30-foot iron beam is set to be put in place of the two story frame of the Ashland Youth Center building. Clark and Sullivan Construction is hosting a "Topping Out" ceremony for the Ashland Youth Center. The community is invited to celebrate this milestone by signing the beam with their own personalized message.

The Ashland Youth Center is a \$25 million dollar project of the Alameda County Redevelopment Agency and Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. Eight years ago local youth were frustrated with lack of services and positive activities in the Ashland Cherryland area. The youth advocated, met with local groups and policy makers and voiced the need for a safe place for youth, to be able to receive health services and youth development programming in their own neighborhood. Their efforts have come to fruition.

Pedro Naranjo, Executive Director, Ashland Youth Center states, "The Ashland Youth Center is the epitome of what is possible when young people and adults combine their intellect and love to transform their communities."

"I am thrilled that we can celebrate the hard work by the community to reach this moment and the many wonderful things still to come with completion of the state-of-the-art facility dedicated to addressing the critical needs of young people", remarked Nate Miley, President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

A "Topping Out" ceremony has taken different forms throughout history, but over the centuries still hold a significant meaning to modern steel construction workers. A pine tree is to be placed at the top of the steel structure to show there were no lives lost during the construction and to honor timber as an original construction material. Ironworkers raise an American flag to show respect and loyalty to flag and country and workers sign the last beam with hopes and wishes for the new building.

"Clark and Sullivan would like show our appreciation to Alameda County, the Community and everyone who has been involved with the project. We invite the community to give their best wishes by signing the beam and participating in the ceremony," said, Ted Foor, Project Manager for Clark and Sullivan.

The 31,500 square foot youth center is slated to be open December of 2012 and is currently the largest youth center being built in the country. **Monday, April 16, 2012, 3:30-6:30 PM. Official program will begin at 4:00, 16335 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St., San Leandro. [www.ashlandyouthcenterproject.org](http://www.ashlandyouthcenterproject.org) . Date change from April 10 due to rain.**

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