Curry Senior Center’s Peer Outreach Program
333 Turk Street San Francisco CA 94012
www.CurrySeniorCenter.org 415-885-2274
Client Narrative: Andres and Marcos
Latino Clients
“Ofrenda a mi Madre” (Offering to my Mother)
Music and lyrics by Marcos Alvarez

Title Unknown
To reach the heaven, is my biggest wish
And I am going to achieve it
And remain in the glory.
Hearing the gods pronouncing my name.
And all of my songs uniting hearts
And hearing them sing
Holding hands like good brothers
Let’s make peace, to live in peace
Let’s cultivate peace, let’s enjoy peace

Come and be conscious
Hate and violence have done much damage
And many innocent are now not present as a result of evil
Forget your resentment that your soul and love
and you will know how to love
Come and give me your hand
You and I are brothers
Let’s live in peace
Let’s make peace
Let’s make peace
Live a king in peace
In the Spring of 2015 five older adults were hired and trained to conduct outreach to isolating seniors living in the Tenderloin of San Francisco. A neighborhood known for its high crime rate, drug use, homelessness, and where thousands of seniors live alone in Single Room Occupancy hotels.
Learning Question 1

• Will using a peer-to-peer system effectively engage, empower, and instill protective factors for adverse mental health outcomes for socially isolated adults living in the highly depressed neighborhood of the Tenderloin in San Francisco?
Learning Question 2

• What support is needed for the Peers in their own professional development, wellness, and recovery while working as Peer Outreach Specialists?
The target population: Seniors 55 years and older living in the Tenderloin / Civic Center Neighborhoods of San Francisco who are not engaged in services, not attending activities in the community, and have little or no support through significant relationships in their lives.
Recognizing the diverse population of the Tenderloin, we strive to hire a team which reflects the culture of the neighborhood.
Challenges to Outreach

• How do we find seniors who are isolating? How is this determined?
• How do we engage without being intrusive?
• How do we cultivate resources which are culturally appropriate and client centered?
• How long does it take to develop a trusting relationship?
Outreach Strategies

• Senior Centers
• Meal Sites
• Social Security Representative Payees
• Social Work Agencies
• Drop in Centers
• Activities
• Supportive Housing Hotels
Barriers to Socialization

Mental Health
Physical Ability
Body functioning
Substance Use
The Neighborhood
Trust

Culture
Homelessness
Proximity
Safety
Poverty
Client Narrative: Paul and Christopher
Homeless Clients
Client Narrative: DeMarco and Roosevelt
African American Clients
Soul Food Friday

Understanding that many African American seniors are not connecting with services and are disproportionately suffering health consequences, we created Soul Food Friday.

Over the course of one year we attracted 140 unduplicated African American seniors.
Client Narrative: Barbara and Maurice
Disabled Clients
Guitarras

In our attempts to reach out to the monolingual Latino community of seniors, we created an event which incorporates music.

After three events held once a month, 43 individuals have attended.
Películas

Once a month classic vintage Mexican Movies are shown at a local hotel complete with English subtitles.

After two events held once a month, 8 seniors have attended.
Client Narrative: Paul and Michael
LGBT Clients
Support Group: ‘You Can Have your Cake and Eat it Too’

Clients come out and eat a homemade cake, enjoy a cup of good coffee, socialize, and discuss what they would like to see provided for seniors in the community.
Issues Facing Seniors in the Tenderloin Today

- Safety
- Separation from family
- Unpredictability of drug dealers and users in the streets
- Fear of losing Social Security benefits under new federal administration
- Concerns of Health Coverage
- Lack of money to survive

- Mobility
- Lack of Social Opportunities
- Lack of respect for elders
- No housing options
- Simply trying survive in the Tenderloin
- Health issues
Client Narrative: Frank and Pat
Senior Clients
Demographics

Participants by ethnicity, n=49, FY16/17
- White, 33%
- African-American, 22%
- Latino, 18%
- Unknown, 11%

Participants by gender, n=49, FY16/17
- Male, 63%
- Female, 37%
Committed to Connect
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