# Partnership Page

June 2013

## Inspiring SOFTBALL DREAMS

On June 5, 2013, Angel Alvarez led her team onto the softball field at Algin Sutton Recreation Center to celebrate Opening Day for the 6th Annual Natasha Watley Softball League (NWSL). Angel is the captain and team pitcher. This year will be her third year participating in the all girls league and she plans on showing off and strengthening her softball skills she's worked on over the past three years. Participating in the NWSL has inspired Angel to have dreams of eventually playing softball in high school and college. Girls like Angel are the reason why the Natasha Watley League was created. The RAP partnership was designed to provide girls living in underserved communities with the opportunity to learn, play and love the game of softball. Over 180 girls from South Los Angeles will participate in the summer league for the next nine weeks. The nine participating recreation centers for 2013 are Algin Sutton, Baldwin Hills, Central, Green Meadows, Jackie Tatum/Harvard, Jordan Downs, Rosecrans, Van Ness and William Nickerson. NWSL has already provided first-time softball experiences for hundreds of young girls over the past five years and this year the tradition will continue.

## Urban Youth in the Outdoor World

Thanks to a $7000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association's Green Parks—Green Kids Program and a $1500 donation from The Friends of Griffith Park a new Urban Wildlife Program was created to reconnect urban youth to their natural environment. The Urban Wildlife Program is an environmental education program designed to raise the level of urban youth's environmental interest and awareness through actively experiencing the wonders of the natural outdoor world, learning about the urban forest ecosystems and understanding how they ultimately affect our lifestyles and environment. 1,800 kids from 13 recreation centers will participate in four hour outdoor sessions that included local history, hiking crafts, fire ecology and team building exercises.

## New Opportunities

On June 5, 2013 the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners passed the Department's new Naming Policy and Sponsorship Recognition Policy. The passing of the two policies will help bring the Department new revenue and partnership opportunities; as well as provide new guidelines and procedures for staff. Financial support from naming and sponsorship opportunities with private and public organizations can also expand and enhance recreational and operational services .