



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Contact: Hindolo Brima, Media and Communications Specialist
(916) 808-5972 • FAX: (916) 808-7643
email: HBrima@cityofsacramento.org
915 I Street, Fifth Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember Bonnie Pannell and local teens to open a new teen center more comfortable, high-tech, and interactive than others: Friday, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sacramento, California, December 17, 2008—The generation that is accustomed to flat screen TVs, iPods, astonishingly fast internet speeds, and interactive learning experiences will have all of that at *The Basement*, what can only be described as the next generation in teen centers. *The Basement* resembles the lobby of a plush hotel, with comfortable sofas, high-tech gadgets, and a spacious interior. Designed as a safe place for teens to enjoy themselves, it will also provide life-skills workshops and academic support tools. *The Basement* will officially open during a ceremony on **Friday, December 19th, from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.** at the **Pannell Meadowview Community Center - 2450 Meadowview Road.**

"Our young people have consistently told us they need a place of their own that is safe, fun and an alternative to gangs. This teen center is a response to that need. It was developed with the input of teens, for teens. I look forward to their enjoyment of *The Basement*," said Councilmember Pannell, whose financial support was instrumental in the center's creation.

The Basement offers something for all teens. Teens who are video-gamers will love the huge, flat-screen television and Playstation 3, Xbox 360, and Wii game consoles; those looking to learn a new skill can learn to cook or sew; those who want to stay in shape can take part in a dance lesson or use the Pannell Center's state-of-the-art exercise room and gym; those who simply want to relax can do so on comfortable couches and chairs; most important, all teens can use the teen center's computers to do homework, conduct research, and print reports.

"*The Basement* means a lot to me," said Rhoderick Patdiff, a 13-year-old student who helped design the center. "It's a safe place where I can make food, play games and just hang out with my friends."

The Basement will be open on select days during the holidays. Starting in January, it will open on Thursdays and Fridays, from 4 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Details:

Event: Opening of *The Basement*, the next generation in teen centers
Date: Friday, December 19th
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (**Ribbon Cutting – 7:15 p.m.**)
Location: Pannell Meadowview Community Center - 2450 Meadowview Road

Media-related inquiries can be forwarded to Hindolo Brima, Media and Communications Specialist, Department of Parks and Recreation, at (916) 808-5972.

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