

**YOUNG BURLINGTON LAUNCHES TAY ON THE ROAD TO HOPE,
WELLNESS AND RECOVERY**
By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



On October 18, 2012, LACDMH celebrated the launch of the Young Burlington housing project, hosted by Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services (WORKS). Young Burlington was created specifically for Transitional Age Youth (aged 18-25) who are formerly homeless and have mental health issues. The development features 21 multi-family, environmentally friendly one-bedroom units dedicated to providing permanent supportive housing for TAY.



The morning program featured speakers from WORKS, LACDMH, local dignitaries and the residents themselves. Deputy Director Tony Beliz, Ph.D., spoke on behalf of LACDMH, encouraging the residents to persevere on their

road to hope, wellness and recovery.



A three-story mural entitled “Totem,” designed by internationally acclaimed artist, Synthia Saint James, is featured in the courtyard. Saint James and the residents sold home-made artworks, donating a percentage of the sales to Young Burlington. The courtyard also contains multiple planters where resident-maintained fruit trees and vegetables help TAY eat well.



Resident artist Courtney, a 22 year-old youth from West Palm Beach Florida, has lived at Young Burlington since last December. Courtney was diagnosed with Bipolar disorder as a teen. Her schoolmates made fun of her and beat her up because of her sexual preference. Her parents did not understand the disease or what was happening with Courtney's behavior. Her father threw her out of the house when she turned 18.

She was homeless for two years until someone lured her to Los Angeles, promising a job. That turned out to be a scam and she spent another two years on the street, where she was sexually abused and depressed. She found Pacific Clinics and after several months was placed at Young Burlington. Courtney is happy to finally have her own place. She is dealing with her depression and has learned to "stop being negative." She now wants to go to school and be an artist.