

High School Graduation Commencement Program

Class of 2016



Tuesday, June 21, 2016 Douglas Dollarhide Community Center 301 North Tamarind Avenue Compton, CA 90221

YouthBuild

CHARTER SCHOOL OF CALIFORNIA

Class of 2016 - The Graduates

Oscar Arellano Romero Estefany Avíla Villatoro Esmeralda Castelo Elvira Celis Izquierdo Laura Duran **Ruby** Enciso* Amber Gonzalez Rícardo Guízar Derrick Harris Austín Huffman Alajae Jenkins Vanessa Lupían Willmer Matamoros Ieremíah Merríweather Julie Monterroso Anthony Neal** Sandra Quíntero Ballesteros Christian Rivera Iose Toro* Melíssa Tovar **Outstanding Transformation Iazmín Arvízu Herrera Stephanie Carrasco* ** Abram Castíllo **Yaír Contreras Campos** Iessíca Encíso* Jennífer Farmer Alejandro Gonzalez Bryan Halcromb María Hernandez Steven Huízar Lomeli Jennífer Lujan Javíer Marquína Christian Melano Candelarío Miranda Esteban Munoz Vícente Orozco Edward Richardson Jose Sanchez Kimberly Torres Marítza Yera * Class Speaker

"Graduation is not the end, it is the beginning!" ~Orrin Hatch

Congratulations Class of 2016!

Program

Processional	Graduates
Pledge of Allegiance	Amber Gonzalez
Spiritual Reflection	Jeremiah Merriweather
Welcome	Derrick Ayson
Compton YouthBuild Pledge	Kimberly Torres
Commencement Address	Sylvana DeSantis, Orlando Hutcherson, Roberto Rodriguez, Janitzia Villalobos
Member's Journey	Stephanie Carrasco Jessica Enciso Ruby Enciso Jose Toro
Graduation Remarks	Kim Hughes
Presentation of Diplomas	Tizoc Brenes, YouthBuild Charter School of CA
Closing Remarks	Sara A. M. Silva
Recessional	Graduates

Compton YouthBuild Pledge

Good leadership is taking responsibility to make sure things go right for your life, for your family, for the program and for the community. We recite the Compton YouthBuild Pledge to take ownership over our choices and decisions.

We are Compton YouthBuild Leaders!

We take complete responsibility for our health, happiness and success in life.

We motivate and encourage each other.

We do not blame others for our problems or predicaments.

Low self-esteem, self-limiting beliefs or the negativity of others will not interfere with progress towards our goals.

We will transform ourselves, families and communities through leadership development and education.

We do make a difference!

We are ready for the "What After"!

We are Compton YouthBuild!

Dedications



Oscar Arellano

"You can't control how smart you are, how funny you are, how good-looking you are. The one thing you can control in your life is how hard you work." - Ian Brennan The things that I am most grateful for during the long journey towards my high school diploma are the friends and relationships that I have gained along the way. I am grateful for my family pushing me everyday to get up early in the morning, and for never giving up on me. I am grateful for the

teachers and the entire staff at Compton YouthBuild. Whether they helped me with an assignment, or just gave me some simple words of advice, everything that they told me was knowledge, and I soaked it all in. I am grateful for the new experiences and the learning that I have gained at YouthBuild. I have been able to grow as a person, as a leader, and as a valuable member of the community. Despite all of these great things, the one thing I am most grateful for during this journey, is the education I have received. Never have I seen such tangible results from education in any other school, or program. The knowledge and skills I gained at YouthBuild are things I will carry with me for the rest of my life, and that is what I am most grateful for.



Jazmin Arvizu

F.E.A.R has two meanings Forget Everything And Run OR Face Everything And Rise the choice is yours. I am grateful for making it this far and graduating and having my family's support. I am grateful for all my teachers that have helped me throughout this year. Also my partner and my siblings that have kept me motivated to keep going. I will remember all my teachers and the things they have all taught me and all the friends that I have

made and all the great moments we had.



Estefany Avila Villatoro

I was told many times that I was not going to make it. People were always doubting me, including my own family. My goal wasn't to prove anybody wrong, but to prove to myself that I could do whatever I set my mind to. I'm over filled with joy of my accomplishments that make me the woman I am today. Even though it wasn't easy, it payed off and now I'm here today graduating and giving my parents the joy of seeing me walk this stage to get

my diploma. I am grateful for my friends Kimberly, Gerson, Jeremy and Jonathan H. Also my family because if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be where I am. Also Mrs. Silva and Mrs. Hughes they are my second family. All of Compton YouthBuild staff and special thanks to Mario! Thanks for all your positivity.

Dedications



Yair Contreras Campos

"It's never too late to reach your goal" On this very day I want thank God, first for giving me a hope to never fall again and for not letting me give in too easy. I also want to thank my family, my kids who are my motivation to succeed and my joy. Last but not least, I want to thank the CYB directors and staff. They have been there for me even when I felt like giving up or when something was wrong with me they always try to make me feel better. One

thing I will always remember is the good moments I've experienced and the members I met at CYB. In the end I thank God for everything.



Stephanie Carrasco

"Don't let today's troubles bring you down. Don't let life's little obstacles keep you from trying. Don't let your fears keep you from dreaming. Don't give up for any reason. Believe in yourself." unknown I'm grateful for being able to walk the stage and get my diploma because I have been waiting for it for a long time. I'm grateful for all the teachers who helped me through my journey to accomplish the goal of receiving my diploma. Also to certain

people who believed I could make it and pushed me a little harder, even when I wanted to give up. I will always remember the awesome staff and people I got to meet at Compton YouthBuild and the experiences that CYB has given me that made my life change and helped me believe I could make it to whereever I want to be in life.



Esmeralda Castelo

Finally! After all this time I can say i did it!! To start off I would like to appreciate my sisters and boyfriend for everything they have done for me and for always believing in me. Without you guys I would have never made it and today I'm glad to make you guys proud of me. Mom, muchas gracias por todo lo que has echo por mi y por siempre estar ahi, te quiero mucho! y que nunca se te olvide que eres la persona mas importante en mi vida. To

Arjelia and Sergio, thank you guys so much for everything you guys have helped me on and always being there for me. And last but not least thank you to all the staff for their help and support.

Abram Castillo

"It's not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country", John. F Kennedy. I am grateful for many things, but the most important things would have to be the home I have, the clothes on my back, and most of all for being part of such a unique school. I'm so grateful for being part of Compton YouthBuild. I am grateful for many people. The most important would have to be a caring and always supportive mother. My program coordinators for giving me the opportunity to receive my high school diploma, and for not giving up on any of us, including me. Most of all, I am grateful for my father who is not present today, but without him, me and my family wouldn't have what we have today.



Jessica Enciso

new journey.

"The future belong to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt I am grateful for finding YouthBuild and their wonderful staff, who always believed in me. I want to give a special thanks to my family for always being there for me through this journey. I had so many great times at CYB and I will always remember the amazing people I have met, and the many opportunities to show support to my community.

Laura Duran The day that I've been waiting for so many years has finally arrived, graduation day! I am pleased to have been given this opportunity from this amazing program to accomplish one of my life goals. I also want to thank Isabel, Jaqueline, Flor and Alejandra who have been a great support to me and helped me make the decisions I've made. I am not starting a new chapter; I'm beginning a new book in where I hope that all continue to be a part of

This second chance YouthBuild has given me has been a great stepping stone in continuing my education and with this bittersweet goodbye I wish the best to all my peers and hope everyone can achieve their dreams.



Ruby Enciso

The hours of dedication, the struggles, and underestimating myself when things got difficult is what got me where I am today. Success does not comes easy, there is always a challenge... I have dreamed about this day for three years and finally today, I am living the dream. I worked hard to be here and although I fell a couple of times I always got up with my head up high and kept moving forward. I will not let people or myself put me down. No longer will I look back but instead I'll

keep moving forward. Thank You Mom, for being the greatest mom in the world and for always supporting me on everything.<3 Thank You Little, for being a sister that every little sister dreams of having. Without your help I wouldn't be graduating today.=D Thank You babe, for your unconditional love and believing in me <3 Gracias Daddy, para simper diciendome que la educacion es importante.(: Thank you to my brothers for being silly billys. (: Thank you Aliah, for always believing that I could do it and for always being my partner in crime<3 Thank you Jessica, for helping me with my class work.(: and lastly thank you to the staff at Compton YouthBuild for never giving up on me and for creating a place where I felt safe. Going to YouthBuild is an experience that I will never forget.



Jennifer Farmer

I am grateful for all of the times I shared together with my peers, laughing and joking around and getting to know one another. I am grateful for all of the dedicated teachers of Compton YouthBuild who never gave up on us, and always pushed us to do our best inside and outside of school. I am grateful for Mrs. Silva and Mrs. Hughes for being like another set of parents to me, and showing me there is a lot behind the eyes of a young quiet girl like me. I will

always remember the love and smiling faces that I saw each and everyday coming to school. It doesn't matter what you were going through at home because somehow when you walked through those doors it wasn't just school it was like family and everything bad you may have felt walking in, you would feel something way better leaving out.



Alejandro Gonzalez

Dos vicios tengo en la vida no son dinero ni fama... dos cosas hay en el mundo que me hacen perder la calma el lomo de un buen caballo Y las sancas de una dama - Ezequiel Pena I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with the amazing staff at CYB. I am grateful for my family who have always guided me into what they believe is the best direction for me. siempre recordare los principios que me inculcaron desde nino.



Amber Gonzalez

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." Dr. Suess... Remember to always be true to yourself.





Ricardo Guizar

" You're so bright but you're so lost" - Playboi Carti I am grateful for YouthBuild giving me another chance to finish high school and get my high school diploma. I am also grateful for the staff that has been very helpful and friendly. They really go out their way to help and make sure you're good. Something I will always remember from this school is the motivation from Ms. V.

Bryan Halcromb

"If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." -Martin Luther King Jr. I'm grateful for the love, support and the respect that Compton YouthBuild has shown me. I'm grateful for all my teachers and the staff, my mom, my best friend and my girlfriend for not giving up on me. And I will remember all the laughs, fun and jokes we shared at Compton YouthBuild thank you



Derrick Harris

I am thankful for being able to get past this part of my life. I am also thankful for having more opportunities in life. I thank the staff for pushing me to succeed because if it weren't for them I might not have graduated when I was supposed to. I will always remember Ms. V, Mr. R, Ms. D because they are the main ones that showed me how to be responsible in life. I end this dedication by saying Graduation Day is finally here. Congrats class of 2016!



Austin Huffman

"Anything worth doing is worth overdoing; moderation is for cowards." -Shane Patton I am grateful for all the opportunities that Compton YouthBuild has for the members. The people that I am grateful for is my mom and my dad for putting me on the right track even though I can be stubborn. I will always remember Compton YouthBuild and how it helped me on the way to something great!



Steven Huizar "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." Henry David Thoreau I am grateful for the opportunity that has opened for me last year. I am glad I was able to achieve my goal, obtaining my diploma after many years of doubt. I am grateful for my mother for pushing me and never giving up on me. I am grateful for the wonderful staff at Compton YouthBuild for always seeing the best of me. They are the most wonderful people I have ever met. I

thank them for all their assistance and guidance. During my time at CYB I will always remember all the compassion, love and respect I've received from the program. Attending CYB was an extraordinary experience.



Elvira Celis Izquierdo

Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination and dedication . Remember all things are possible for those who believe. I am grateful to my God that I found Compton YouthBuild program because my teachers helped me to prepare to go down my next road. I am thankful for my family, teachers, friends and my boyfriend because they have supported me and

helped me to achieve my dream to receive my High School Diploma. I will remember always to believe in myself because with hard work in school, I can achieve my dreams.



Jennifer Lujan

I am very grateful for many things. For one I am grateful to be receiving my diploma. I am grateful for having people who support me through it all, like my family especially my Mother, my teachers like Ms.Villalobos and Ms.DeSantis, and friends. I will continue to reach my goals even if I have to stand on my own because I will accomplish them. "If your dreams don't scare you, they aren't big enough". Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



Javier Marquina

"If that boy don't grind, then that boy don't shine." This quote is meaningful to me because an important person in my life once told me this. It means you have to go out there a get what you want because no one in life will come up to you and offer you everything you need. If you don't do anything to improve your life then who's fault was that? I am grateful for waking up everyday to only show improvement in my everyday life. Mentally and

physically, always pushing myself to do better and pushing my limits. I am grateful for everyone in my life that helped support me on my journey towards my goals in life. Especially my mother Sandra Muñoz because she's been by my side through sickness and health. I can truly say that she's been my motivation and inspiration to do better in every aspect. I will always remember every obstacle that I overcame to become the person who I am today. A smart intellectual individual with high expectations and morals.

Willmer Matamoros

Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them. If you spend too much time thinking about a thing, you'll never get it done. To hell with circumstances; I create opportunities. -Bruce lee This quote inspires me to do what needs to be done to accomplish my goals.



Christian Melano I'm grateful for my families support, grateful to myself because I wanted to give up but now I am graduating with my high school diploma. I will always remember the times I've had at CYB and the ups and downs through the difficult and the happy times in and out of the program. A saying that is meaningful to me is... stay positive and do what you love because this world keeps going with or without you.



Jeremiah Merriweather

"No matter what happens just live your life. Been in the dark for so long now it's your time to shine. You gotta make every moment yours, live life and choose your course, and if you fall get back up and stand tall." -Jeremiah Merriweather In Compton YouthBuild, more than anything, I am so grateful for the love that is shown in various ways. I'm grateful for all of the staff (past and present) because everyone is a huge part of my support

system whether it was encouraging words, a hug, the company, or all of the above. I will always remember that the first day I got here I was a shell and Compton YouthBuild helped me break out of that shell.



Candelario Miranda

Throughout the vear. I have been working verv hard looking forward to mv graduation. All this vear I have been struggling to reach mv goal. I had my ups and downs trving to reach mv destination but. I never gave un. All the struggle I went thought has finally paid off. I'm verv happy because I can finally say that I graduated and I'm verv proud of mvself and of what I have accomplished in mv life. This is not only an accomplishment for mvself but also for mv son because I know he will be happy with a better future. I have accomplished one of mv goals

in this chapter. I'm grateful for mv familv for being there by mv side and for telling me to never give up on mv dream. It is time for me to move to mv next chapter in life and follow my dreams and build a better future for my family



Julie Monterroso

I was told many times that I was not going to make it. People were always doubting me, including my own family. My goal wasn't to prove anybody wrong, but to prove to myself that I could do whatever I set my mind to. I'm over filled with joy of my accomplishments that make me the woman I am today. Even though it wasn't easy, it payed off and now I'm here today graduating and giving my parents the joy of seeing me walk this stage to get

my diploma. I am grateful for my friends Kimberly, Gerson, Jeremy and Jonathan H. Also my family because if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be where I am. Also Mrs. Silva and Mrs. Hughes they are my second family. All of Compton YouthBuild staff and special thanks to Mario! Thanks for all your positivity.



Esteban Munoz

"Change is the Law of Life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." - John F Kennedy What I am grateful for is the opportunity Compton YouthBuild gave me because I have learned leadership, and I have also managed to create my own family with the Compton YouthBuild community. I am grateful to everyone who has managed to keep me going. Friends, Family and CYB staff/community who I consider

part of my Family. I will always remember the trust and commitment I have come across at Compton YouthBuild. It was a fun ride and that is what I am grateful for. I Love you Mom!



Anthony Neal

I'm grateful for YouthBuild for showing me that I can be successful in life if I work at it. If you are not willing to risk the usual, you will have to settle for the ordinary. I'm grateful for Ms.Silva Sara because she pushed me to ask for help even though I try not to. She is very supportive of me and helps me to support others around me and I thank her so much for changing my life. I will always remember my teachers and staff at Compton YouthBuild for loving

and caring for me and for helping me outside of school in my life and I love them all so much.



Vicente Orozco

A soul driven by passion overcoming obstacles, patience was the key and now my journey begins. So I leave you off with this quote, "Find what you love and let it kill you" -Charles Bukowski. Why? Because what is life with love or loved ones? A colorless world, no emotion just plainness. So find happiness within yourself and in others. Im grateful for still standing here alive today and I'm thankful to all those who have given me support when i was

struggling. First off, I would like to thank Compton YouthBuild and its' staff, my fellow peers for motivating me to keep pushing and lastly my oldest brother, Hubert Raul Orozco R.I.P. for always giving me hope and guidance even in the time you haven't been here. The future is near, history has been made today in the present and the past doesn't affect us anymore. But I will always remember the struggles of waking up in the morning and those late nights trying to sleep when feeling stressed out. Keeping my goal in mind was the perseverance I needed to complete my dream, but most of all carrying a positive attitude.



Sandra Quintero Ballesteros

The mind may become one's worst enemy, but when you are more than willing to accomplish a dream; believing in yourself and inspiration can become your best weapon.



Edward Richardson

One of my favorite quotes is from Muhammad Ali he said - "If you ever dream of beating me, you'd better wake up and apologize". Muhammed Ali R.I.P was a legend and that's all I want to be. I want to be the best at whatever I do. I am very grateful for Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Silva for giving me not one but two chances at YouthBuild and now I am graduating. I will always remember my first day entering YouthBuild and my last days here. The

program became more than just a program, it became a family.



Christian Rivera

Dear Compton Youthbuild Staff, Thank you for your support and patience in educating me so I could become a better person. Thank you for your time and being genuinely kind to me, leading me towards the path to success. You all deserve much more respect and thanks than what others give you credit for. You all have helped me immensely and I cannot express how grateful I am. You assisted me in making decisions that were best for me and I'm

glad I decided to attend Compton YouthBuild. Thank you especially to Mrs. Hughes, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Desantis, Mrs. Silva, and Ms. Villalobos for believing in me, for your advice and for allowing me to have unforgettable memories throughout the year. I remember the good times we spent cleaning and painting around the community and having fun events. Finally, I want to thank you for preparing me for the outside world. Sincerely, Christian Rivera



Jose Manuel Sanchez

A verse that is meaningful to me is "Beauty in the struggle happiness in the success because without the struggle there's no progress" -J Cole ...I am grateful for all staff that were there for me when it was much needed. I'm thankful for all my peers for motivating me to do better. Who am I grateful for is myself because I never imagine getting this far in life. I'm thankful because I never gave up even when I wanted to stop trying. I'm also grateful for

my mother, for always being there for me and giving me the support I needed to finish one of my goals in life. GRACIAS MADRE MIA!! I will always remember all the great times I had with my fellow peers and all the times staff when out of their way to help me become the man I am today. Thank you to everyone who pushed me towards my goal and everyone that supported me through my journey. It will always be appreciated!



Jose Toro "Take every chance you get in life, because some things only happen once." unknown I am grateful for the extra chances I have received, and that I didn't always deserve because of my foolishness. Thank you to all the staff and life coaches that help me get through this year. It was rough but I succeeded with every opportunity that was given to me. And to my favorite teacher, VIVA LA REVULACION.



Kimberly Torres

"Mav vour neighbors respect vou. Trouble neglect vou, Angels protect vou, And heaven accept vou." -Drake I am grateful for many things, such as my family and friends who have been very supportive with my education. I am grateful for my best friend Marvuri who has been there for me in my time of need and who has seen me struggling and helped me when I needed help. I am also grateful for my grandmother Elba Gonzalez who past away in 2014. Ever since she passed, she has been my greatest

motivation and I know I am making her proud. I also am grateful that my parents never gave up on me, so shout out to them <3 A big shout out to my teachers for all the love and support they gave me and and for helping me get through senioritis haha. A special shout out for Ms. DeSantis because she is a real one for always taking charge of things and holding it down when Mrs. Silva and Mrs.Hughes leave to handle their business. I love vou Ms.D <3 Shout out to Jessica "Sunshine", Julie, Jonathan, Melano, and Tweedle Dee (Jeremy) and Tweedle Dum (Gerson) and Pollo. I will always remember everyone and how we are a family and I really appreciate all the staff for making this place, which I call home, so friendly. I will also remember going on the retreat because it was such a great opportunity and I met many new people from other YouthBuilds thanks to Compton YouthBuild. I will never forget anyone and everything I have experienced here.



Melissa Tovar

'You just decide what your values are in life and what you are going to do, and then you feel like you count, and that makes life worth living. It makes my life meaningful." I'm grateful for all the support that has been given from staff members. Since the time I enrolled at the program I have learned from them, and have given me the strenght to continue fighting for success. I am grateful for not just one person, I am grateful for the entire staff. To start of with I learned from Ms. Villalobos that "as women we are

strong, and that we are very valuable." Ms. DeSantis for always being there for me when I needed it the most. Mr. Rodriguez who made me understand that a vote does count, and the importance of it! He has also made politics more interesting for me. I will always remember being part of Compton YouthBuild and meeting people I never thought would be a great impact on my journey.



Maritza Yera

I am grateful for many things, one of them being Compton YouthBuild. Compton YouthBuild has motivated me to become a better person who now cares about education. I am grateful for the ones who show me love constantly and have been by my side through the ups and downs. My mother Lisset, my father Manuel, my boyfriend Jonathan and all of the Compton YouthBuild family! I will always remember the amazing people I have met and I will

forever be thankful for the wonderful opportunities that YouthBuild has given me! With much love..

Compton YouthBuild

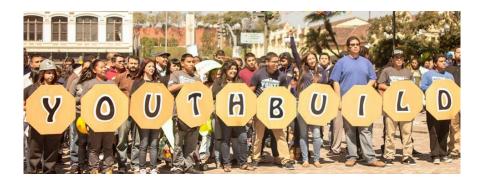


Compton YouthBuild's mission is to provide rigorous educational and occupational opportunities for at-promise people who are invested in creating a sustainable future for themselves, their families and communities. Compton YouthBuild seeks to build economic sustainability for traditionally marginalized youth, families and communities by providing no-cost education, occupational programs, resources, and guidance. Compton YouthBuild is sponsored by EntreNous Youth Empowerment Services, Inc. and provides a comprehensive approach to youth development that enables young people ages 16-24 to secure their high school diploma while learning occupational skills by obtaining training in a variety of vocational fields and by participating in leadership development activities in their communities.

YouthBuild USA

The purpose and mission of YouthBuild USA is to unleash the positive energy of low-income young adults to rebuild their communities and their lives, breaking the cycle of poverty with a commitment to work, education, community, and family.

YouthBuild USA was founded in 1978 with an emphasis on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive community of adults and youth committed to each other's success. Compton YouthBuild is a licensed affiliate of YouthBuild USA and proudly partners to bring rigorous and meaningful opportunities to the young people of Compton and surrounding communities.



YouthBuild Charter School of CA (YCSC)

The mission of the YCSC is to offer youth ages 16-24, in California YouthBuild programs, a unique educational opportunity that results in a high school diploma and well-rounded preparation

for success in careers, post-secondary education, and life. YCSC operates eighteen sites with over 1600 students. YCSC is a fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges.



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Compton YouthBuild is thankful for the incredible support our members receive from friends, colleagues and partner organizations. Special thanks to:

The amazing young people of Compton YouthBuild The teachers & staff of YouthBuild Charter School of California The entire team at Compton YouthBuild The Board of Directors and staff of EntreNous Youth **Empowerment Services** Congresswoman Janice Hahn Mayor Aja Brown Senator Isadore Hall Assemblyman Mike Gipson William Alamo Frank Alvarez Evelyn Aurozo Derrick Ayson Dr. Cornia Benavides Mika Black Eric Boyd Dore Burry Judith Carey-Fisher Ruben Caputo Kelsey Castellanos Michelle Chambers Dr. Marisela Chavez Officer Triston Fraizer Ben Garcia Lupita Garcia Oscar Grant Neil Holmes **Benjamin Holifield** Frank Hughes Kyron Kopanos Jeff Jaggers II Gabriela Lopez Heather Mazzei Kimberly McKenzie Jeudy Mom Lela Pompey Revna Rauda-Trout Aubrey Relf Ana Resner Niko Salas Dr. Kofi Sefa-Boakve Victor Silva Christina Simmons Tiffani Thomas Erica Urenda The American Red Cross Field of Dreams Learning The Green Olive The Grocery Outlet, Compton LA Sheriff's Dept., Compton Pizza Studio **RUTH YouthBuild** PV Jobs SANAA – UCLA St. John's Medical Clinic WINTER YouthBuild YouthBuild USA & Staff

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