

YOUTH PROGRAMS



SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

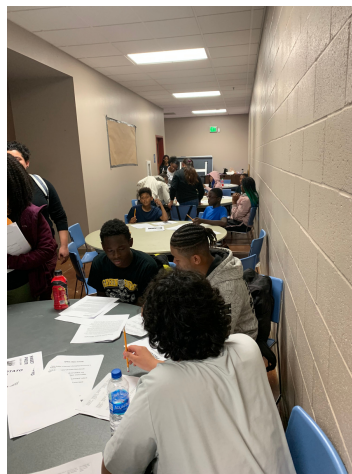
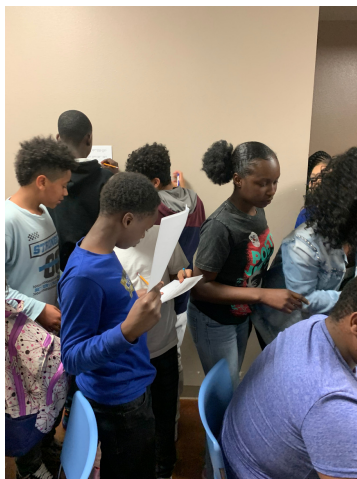
The Sweet Potato Project II at West Fresno Family Resource Center (WFFRC) is a community-based program that aims to prevent and/or reduce school drop-out rates, gang involvement, and substance use. The program targets African American youth, ages 12 to 15. This food-based collaborative project provides support services, education, and training in urban agriculture, business skills, healthy choices, life skills, and mental health issues.

A colorful poster for the Sweet Potato Project II. The top half has a yellow background with the title 'SWEET POTATO PROJECT II' in large, bold, blue, green, and red letters. Above the title, it says 'WEST FRESNO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTS'. To the left of the title, there's a circular graphic with three silhouettes of people. Below that, an orange circle says 'HURRY! LIMITED SPACE' and a blue circle says '\$50 MONTHLY STIPEND'. The bottom half of the poster has a dark background with white and yellow text. It says 'ENROLLING NOW MONDAY'S AND FRIDAY'S FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM'. Below that, it lists the location 'MAXIE PARKS COMMUNITY CENTER' and the address '1802 E. CALIFORNIA AVE, FRESNO CA, 93706'. It also says 'OPEN TO AGES 12-16 Y.O.' and 'OFFERING HANDS ON TRAINING IN' followed by a list: '- AGRICULTURE', '- BUSINESS', '- MARKETING', '- COMMUNICATION', and '- LEADERSHIP'. At the bottom, it says 'FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL PATRICK HAMILTON (PROJECT COORDINATOR) AT (559) 621-2967'. The bottom of the poster features several logos: 'West Fresno family resource center', 'Sweet Potato Council of California', 'FRESNO STATE Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship', 'CALIFORNIA REDUCING DISPARITIES PROJECT', 'PARCS COMMUNITY SERVICES', and 'FRESNO STATE Central Valley Health Policy Institute'.

SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Phase I February 24th & March 2nd, 2020

Informational sessions were held at the Maxie L. Parks Community Center from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Over 20 participants and parents attended each day. March 10, 2020, was the first day of the program. Over 60 participants attended filling the lobby and hallways at Maxie L. Parks Community Center.

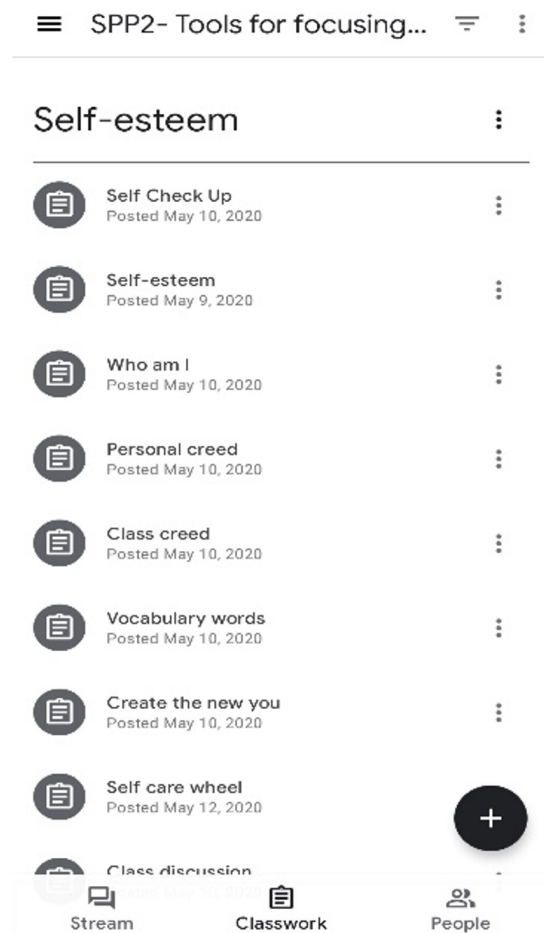


SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Phase I

April 2020 – May 2020

In April of 2020, California mandated the Shelter in Place Law to protect its citizens from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Consequently, all social events and gatherings were canceled, forcing the Sweet Potato Project to shift completely to virtual meetings. The youth continued to participate by joining our online curriculum through Google Classroom. A total of 31 students enrolled in the project.



SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

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Phase I June, 2020

In June 2020, California lifted the Shelter in Place for a small period of time. During this time, Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church facilitated the program with space and the opportunity to continue the program inside the church. Youth and staff followed all the proper procedures and guidelines during this time. To ensure everyone's safety, the youth were separated into two different sessions. There was a morning and afternoon session to accommodate different times for the youth. In the different sessions, the youth participated in leadership, entrepreneurship, and mental health activities.

Welcome back family!

**Starting Wednesday June 10, 2020,
our class will be back in session.**

**Meetings will be held at Greater Faith
Missionary Baptist Church 260 E St,
Fresno, CA 93706. Due to COVID-19,
class will be broke into two sessions.**

**Starting at 8:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.,
and from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Every
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.**



SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Phase I July, 2020

In July 2020, the members participated in the Youth Leadership Ropes Course. The California State University, Fresno Ropes Course Team, conducted these activities. Through these activities, the youth learn how to improve teamwork skills and increase communication among each other to enhance productivity.



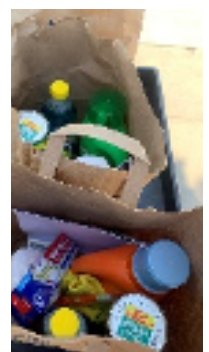
SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Phase I

August & September 2020

The Sweet Potato Project II youth volunteered at West Fresno Family Resource Center's (WFFRC) 18th Annual Back to School Backpack Giveaway. This event took place at Maxie L. Parks Community Center serving over 1,000 families.

Due to COVID-19, the event was solemnly drive-by. All participants were required to stay in the vehicle to promote safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The youth were responsible for distributing food, cleaning supplies, care products, and school supplies to those who attended this socially distanced event.



SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Phase II October 2020

The youth participated in the Mary Ella Brown Community Center's Drive-Up Halloween Trunk or Treat Event. This event served more than 300 families with healthy food, cleaning supplies, and COVID-19 testing.



SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

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Phase II November 2020

On November 7th, 2020, The Sweet Potato Project II in Southwest Fresno harvested all the Sweet Potatoes. With the assistance of Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, the sweet potatoes on two acres of land were harvested. The youth utilized entrepreneurial and business skills during the harvest to take orders and produce the best product. Overall, there were approximately 40,000 pounds of sweet potato at the end of the harvest.

Media Link: <https://abc30.com/sweet-potato-group-fresno/7769932/>

A poster for the Sweet Potato Project 2. The background shows a person in a blue shirt harvesting sweet potatoes in a field. The text on the poster is as follows:

Sweet Potato Project 2
Today's harvest changing tomorrow's future
\$0.40 a lb.
ORDER NOW
Orders are to be picked up at the Mary Ella Brown
Community Center.
1350 E Annadale Ave. Fresno Ca 93706
Every Tuesday from 2:00 - 5:00 PM, and Saturday from
12:00 - 2:00pm
For more information call
Patrick Hamilton (Project Coordinator)
Andre Smith (Project Assistant)
at 559-621-2967

West Fresno family resource center

SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Phase II: Sweet Potato Harvest November 7th, 2020



Thank You, Dr. Joaquin
Arambula, Assemblymember
District 31, for your support to
the youth and the community in
West Fresno.

SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

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End of the Year Ceremony December 2020

At the End of The Year Ceremony, the youth had an opportunity to share their experiences in the Sweet Potato Project. Upon completing the program, all 31 youth received a certificate of completion, a \$200 gift card for a shopping spree, and a trip to the Tulare Outlets to spend their well-earned monetary award. The monetary award was provided by the sweet potatoes harvested and sold to the community, Valley Children Hospital, and Fresno PAL.



SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Civil Engagement: Back To School

Sweet Potato Project Members volunteering at The Back-To-School Event Food at Maxie L. Parks Community Center on 8/15/2020. The youth provided more than 1,300 backpacks and school supplies to students.



SWEET POTATO PROJECT II

Civil Engagement: Victoria West Park

Sweet Potato Project Members Volunteering at a Food Distribution and COVID-19 Testing Event at Victoria West Park 8/29/2020

