



DataCenter UPDATES

Issue No. 33 | Fall 2011

www.datacenter.org

Unlocking the power of knowledge for social change

RESEARCH UNLOCKS THE POWER OF YOUTH

Student voices are being heard and heeded in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)! Da Town Researchers, the student research and evaluation team of OUSD, has been working with DataCenter since 2009 to conduct Youth Participatory Action Research with their peers. In Spring 2011, under the guidance of Aaron Nakai and Tony Robinson, their research-based recommendations were incorporated into the OUSD Strategic Plan. Administrators, teachers and parents are now committed to youth suggestions like interactive learning, ethnic studies, college preparatory plans and counseling for all students. In the 2011-2012 school year Da Town Researchers, in collaboration with I-SEED, will work to ensure that their recommendations begin to be implemented across the district. Stay tuned!



TOXIC BEAUTY NO MORE!

Nail Salon Workers Advocate for Their Rights and Safety

By Anne Ryan | Communications Associate



Nail salon workers use chemicals that pose health and safety risks. (Photo: Angie Muldowney, Creative Commons Attribution)

From coast to coast, the friendly ladies who pamper others everyday are coming together to ensure their own health and safety. DataCenter is supporting two communities of nail salon workers to gather powerful information and advocate for themselves.

The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (CHNSC) launched a campaign with their report, *Toxic Beauty No More!*, which documents the health and safety problems experienced by nail salon workers. Experiences include: health issues related to toxic chemicals, ergonomic pain, mental health issues and unsafe working conditions. DataCenter helped design multiple interactive exercises that engaged Vietnamese workers in the findings and helped them discuss strategies for their campaign.

Continued on p. 3