



## Gang Alternatives Program (GAP)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FORD FREEDOM UNSUNG AWARD TO HONOR GANG ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY

*Kevin Frazier to host awards event, actress KeKe Palmer to serve as program ambassador*

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (June 14, 2013) – The [Gang Alternatives Program](#) (GAP) has been selected to receive a Ford Freedom Unsung Award, presented by Ford Motor Company, in the organization category, for their work to prevent young children from joining gangs. GAP will be one of 20 Los Angeles honorees to be recognized by Ford at a special reception and program on June 19, 2013 at The GRAMMY Museum at L.A. LIVE.

"I am grateful to receive this wonderful award from Ford," said Dr. Douglas L. Semark, Executive Director of the Gang Alternatives Program. "Ford's honoring of our work with the children, families, and neighborhoods we serve validates their plight, while also highlighting the commitment and caring of everyone at GAP. Ford recognizes that people matter."

Ford Freedom Unsung in Southern California, a prestigious award, part of the national Ford Freedom Unsung program and made possible by a grant from Ford Motor Company Fund, salutes individuals and organizations that have positively impacted communities with achievements that inform and inspire others. Award categories include Community, Education, Military, Youth and Organization. The honorees were selected from more than 130 nominees and are distinguished Americans who dedicate their lives to improving their communities and the world.

Award-winning actress KeKe Palmer, known for her commitment to bullying prevention and other youth issues, will serve as the program's youth ambassador. Kevin Frazier, co-anchor of "The Insider," will serve as master of ceremonies. The recognition program will include a special performance by actor/singer Sheryl Lee Ralph.

The Gang Alternatives Program has championed the advancement of over 200,000 African American, Hispanic, and other minority children and families in Los Angeles by providing them with a way to say "no" to gangs and "yes" to a positive lifestyle. With a presence in nearly one-fourth of the elementary schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, GAP provides a school-based youth gang prevention curriculum for 2nd, 4th, and 6th grades. GAP offers three [Beyond the Bell After School](#) programs, a proven effective school-based gang prevention education program in 45 elementary and middle schools; the Alternative Services for Youth program for emancipating fostered teens, and summer youth job programs. In addition, GAP provides a [graffiti abatement program](#) in Los Angeles City and County, bulky item pick up services, and community clean up services.

### About Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company, a global automotive industry leader based in Dearborn, Mich., manufactures or distributes automobiles across six continents. With about 175,000 employees and 65 plants worldwide, the company's automotive brands include Ford and Lincoln. The company provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company. For more information regarding Ford and its products worldwide, please visit <http://corporate.ford.com>.

### About The Gang Alternatives Program:

GAP, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation, provides services and programs to promote a gangfree lifestyle to young people and their families. Since 1986, GAP's leadership in primary prevention in anti-gang strategy has been instrumental in violence reduction and community rebuilding. Headquartered in Wilmington, California, GAP, the only gang prevention program in Los Angeles focused on keeping elementary school children out of gangs, serves communities from Watts to Wilmington, Lennox to Lomita, El Sereno to San Pedro, and Harbor City to Boyle Heights. For more information on GAP and The Gangfree Life® log on to [gangfree.org](http://gangfree.org).

**Media:** If you are interested in attending this event or if you would like photos please contact Edna Sims, Ntouch Communications (L.A.) 310.827.9727 or email [esppr@me.com](mailto:esppr@me.com). The special reception, by invitation only and closed to the public, will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19th at The GRAMMY Museum at L.A. Live, 800 W. Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90015.

The Executive Director of GAP, Dr. Douglas Semark, is available for interviews about GAP's gangfree lifestyle and GAP's Summer Youth Employment Program. Contact: Roxanne Lane, Media Liaison.