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February 5th 2016: Power 4 Youth

Power 4 Youth began in response to the Los Angeles riots of the '90s. A group of Long Beach ministers got together to try to understand what might have caused such a breakdown of community. In 1999 they began Power 4 Youth as a grassroots effort to reach kids "on the edge" — those who were not in trouble, but whose success depended on having a positive influence to balance the negative challenges they faced. The program began with six at-risk teens and six mentors, operating as a project of the Presbyterian Church. Although founded by a church, there has never been any religious component. Tod

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## **Featured Guest**



#### Val Parke

Val joined Power4Youth as Program Coordinator at the program's inception in the summer of 1999 as the first staff member to join the team. After Power 4 Youth became its own 501(c)(3), Val was promoted to Executive Director. Her professional background consists of over twenty-five years in the non-profit volunteer management field, working primarily with youth-serving agencies.

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