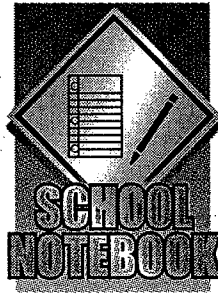


See Wilmington through eyes of a sixth-grader

They mill about with the poise of professional artists, discussing the fine points of their work displayed in the lobby of County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center near Torrance.

These 27 youngsters, all sixth-graders, are showing off photographs they took during a yearlong program at Hawaiian Avenue Elementary School in Wilmington.

Torrance native **Alina Bueno** developed the program, "Shoot with Cameras, Not Guns," during her graduate studies at the UCLA School of Public Health. She wanted to give children in Wilm-



ington a chance to express what they see as positive and negative in their community.

The students studied photography as a medium then they set out with disposable cameras to capture their lives and their neighborhoods.

They discussed the images and wrote essays about what the photos say about Wilmington. Their work was displayed at school, and now at Harbor-UCLA.

"That's how they are able to share their views and ideas

about Wilmington with the public," Bueno said.

"This is so people could see how our school and community is and they could help us paint the walls and get rid of the gangsters," said **Consuelo Elizarraraz**, 11.

Yesenia Castro, an 11-year-old who photographed a trash-filled alley near her home, saw change occur as a result of her work. She contacted the owner of the alley and showed her the photo. Not long afterward, Yesenia said, the alley was cleaned up.

Bueno, who has since completed her master's degree in public health, is trying to expand the concept to elementary schools and after-school programs throughout Wilmington, she said. She seeks grants to continue her

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program as part of her work as a health educator for the Childhood Injury Prevention Center at Harbor-UCLA.

Dozens of hospital personnel and community members, including Los Angeles Unified School District board member **Mike Lansing**, have turned out for the exhibit, which will be on display until Thursday.



Former students of Hawaiian Avenue Elementary School in Wilmington enjoy a laugh during a display of their photography at County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

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