

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 16 in a series.

# People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



## Meet Xavier Anderson.



Mumford High School in Detroit has produced a number of successful graduates, including movie and television producers (Jerry Bruckheimer), gospel recording artists, and many, many others.



**AGE:** "I'm 40 years old."  
**BIRTHPLACE:** "Detroit, Mich."  
**WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES?** "In 1997."  
**MARITAL STATUS:** "Single."  
**FAMILY:** "I have two older brothers and two older sisters."  
**RELIGION:** "Catholic."  
**FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:** "Meeting girls in elementary school."  
**EDUCATION:** "I went to Mumford High School and then got my GED at Cobalt Hall. I wanted to be a computer accountant, but when I was 20 years old I started having bouts of paranoia and visual hallucinations. Soon thereafter I was diagnosed with schizophrenia and have consistent visual hallucinations and occasionally an auditory hallucination. I'm taking my meds, which really helps."  
**WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD?** "I worked in a car parts factory back in northwest Michigan. It was a good job."  
**AWARDS:** "I got a first-place medal for the 100-yard dash."  
**IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** "I'd ask for more wishes, and then endless wishes. And with that I'd wish for health and strength."  
**IF YOU HAD A MILLION DOLLARS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?** "I'd invest in automobiles, like Cadillacs and Lincolns."  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** "I love Italian food, especially spaghetti and fettuccine."  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "*The Matrix*."  
**FAVORITE ACTOR:** "Arnold [Schwarzenegger], Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, Tom Cruise, Keanu Reeves."  
**FAVORITE ACTRESS:** "All of them!"  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "I love the new *Knight Rider*."  
**FAVORITE MUSIC:** "I like Latin rap, thug rappers, Fabulous, etc."  
**FAVORITE CANDY:** "Definitely Jolly Ranchers."  
**WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?** "*A Kenji Dictionary*."  
**DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS?** "Just a few. I'm staying with one right now at the Stanford Hotel."  
**WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU ATE?** "I had beef stew at Emmanuel Baptist."  
**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY?** "Pershing Square."  
**ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:** "Stay positive; don't get in trouble with the police."  
**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR?** "I liked George Bush; he was cool and calm. He always knew what he was going to do next. He was a straight talker."  
**WHICH ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU?** "The L.A. and Midnight Mission."  
**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?** "Just doing the same thing, hopefully no worse off."

*The Club gave Xavier a McDonald's gift certificate, some cash, snacks, and a Club tote bag.*

This interview took place March 16 at the corner of Los Angeles and Second Streets, in front of the Little Tokyo Branch Library.



Club CEO John Hawkins and his son, Noah (left), with Xavier.

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

## Newsbrief

### LED LIGHTING:

On Feb. 16, the City, in partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative, announced the largest LED (light-emitting diode) green street light program ever undertaken by a City, with the replacement of 140,000 streetlights to energy efficient lights.

"Public Works looks forward to playing an instrumental role in this program and is proud to lead the nation in these efforts," said Board of Public Works President Cynthia M. Ruiz.

As part of the process to convert the streetlights, the Public Works/Street Lighting is conducting a demonstration project to evaluate LED luminaries from different manufacturers. Four luminaries from a manufacturer have been installed side-by-side on residential streets in North Hills. In addition, the bureau is collecting feedback from the residents.

"This is a very important program for the City, and we are going to conduct a thorough and diligent process to determine which LED luminaries will be installed," said Street Lighting Director Ed Ebrahimian.

The demonstration will continue through the spring, and then in July, Street Lighting is scheduled to begin installing the first 20,000 LED lights over the next year, followed by 30,000 each succeeding year.

The conversion of the 140,000 streetlights will provide a 40 percent energy saving, reduce maintenance and energy costs, provide more durable and damage-resistant unit, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40,500 tons per year – the equivalent of taking 6,700 cars off the road.

LED lights have a life span of 10 to 12 years, compared to a typical streetlight, which lasts 4 to 6 years, and will be installed with remote monitoring units to automatically report direct to the bureau when streetlight is not working and needs to be repaired.



Public Works/Street Lighting's Tim Spradley inspects an LED light being tested.

### SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS ARE BACK:

Animal Services has reinstated its spay/neuter vouchers for low-income pet owners.

On March 10, Animal Services temporarily suspended distribution of spay/neuter vouchers due to a concern that increased demand was exceeding available funding. After a review of the program with several City Council offices and the Mayor's office, the Department developed a plan to restore distribution in a manner it believes is fiscally prudent, sustainable and consistent with the most pressing community needs and the City Council's guidance when it approved the landmark Spay/Neuter Ordinance in February 2008.

The Department is reinstating distribution of the \$70 certificate for qualified low-income residents (based on HUD Very Low Income level of \$30,300 annual income per household as mandated in the Municipal Code) and to senior and disabled residents also meeting the Very Low Income Level. Strengthened procedures are in place for Department staff to verify low income status when issuing coupons to ensure they are going to qualified pet owners.

Qualified residents can pick up a certificate at any LA City Animal Care Center. More information on program requirements can be found at: [www.lacity.org/ANI/serv\\_bigfix.htm](http://www.lacity.org/ANI/serv_bigfix.htm)

The Amanda Foundation Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic will continue free services for qualified low-income residents. There was no suspension in these services. Information regarding the Amanda clinic's visits to LA neighborhoods is available at: [www.lacity.org/ANI/events\\_schedule.htm](http://www.lacity.org/ANI/events_schedule.htm)