

## Riverside County 1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2009-2010

The Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in the 1<sup>st</sup> District of Riverside County. High Schools that are located within the 1<sup>st</sup> District include: Alvord, Arlington, California Lutheran, Citrus Hill, Corner Stone Christian, Elsinore, John W. North, Lakeside, La Sierra, Lincoln, Linfield Christian, Martin Luther King, Norte Vista, Notre Dame, Ortega, Poly, Riverside Christian, Sherman Indian, Temescal Canyon, and Woodcrest Christian High School.

Listed below are key projects that the Youth Advisory Council of 2009-2010 accomplished throughout the year. The council would also like to thank the community for their constant support through their endeavors and dedication to the youth in Riverside County.

- Mead Valley Fair-June 2009

The Council volunteered their services at the Mead Valley Fair. This event was geared towards community building. It also provided information regarding voter registration, arts and crafts for kids and live entertainment. YAC members helped volunteers set up booths and assisted with arts and crafts.

- Environmental Car-Wash-July 2009

The Council volunteered their services to host a Car-Wash at Mead Valley's community center. Proceeds went towards a future, clean-up.

- Summer Retreat-July 2009

This year's Youth Commission Annual Retreat was held in Desert Hot Springs with John Vandenberg as key note speaker. John presented focused on building leadership, communication and teamwork skills. Council members also participated in a jeopardy game which quizzed them on the Brown Act, the Youth Laws Booklet and the rules and regulations of the Youth Commission. Youth Advisory Council members also had a chance to discuss ideas for the Youth Summit.

- "Stuff the Bus," Operation SafeHouse-August 2009

Each year, Operation SafeHouse shelters more than 600 teens in need of a safe place to stay. The house provides emergency shelter, intervention and outreach services to youth in crisis. By providing a warm caring environment, youth can address their problems and are offered positive alternatives to becoming victims of the streets. Like many other nonprofits, the organization has been facing decreases in donations and grants while needs are increasing. In response, SafeHouse and Riverside Transit Agency, a partner agency, brainstormed ways to meet those needs. RTA suggested "Stuff the Bus;" this event drove buses around downtown Riverside to gather donations of pillows, blankets, bathroom tissue, paper towels, toothbrushes, cleaning supplies and food. From Monday, July 13 through Thursday, August 13, the Riverside County Youth Commission hosted a drive to directly support Operation SafeHouse's "Stuff the Bus." A total of 3,594 items were collected.

- Temescal Valley Faire-September 2009

The Council volunteered their services at the Annual Temescal Valley Community Faire. Council members monitored activities for children throughout the day. In addition, they passed out raffle tickets, sodas and checked in participants and volunteers. Supervisor Bob Buster provided a speech at the event.

- Santa Ana River Watershed Clean Up-October 2009

The Council members volunteered their time to host three booths at the clean-up. At the first booth, participants were given the opportunity to decorate reusable shopping bags in order to promote less plastic bag usage. The second booth featured "Enviro-Wiz," a game seeking the most environmentally conscious participant at the event. Prizes and reusable shopping bags, filled with goodies, were given to the players. A few of the topics included water conservation, energy and sustainability. The third booth provided information about the council and sought new council members.

- Youth In Government Day-October 2009

The youth engaged in their Annual Youth in Government Day. Council members were invited to shadow a Riverside County employee throughout the day to learn and understand the importance of County (local) government inter-workings. YAC members expressed the educational significance of this event and urge that this project continues in operation. 1<sup>st</sup> District YAC members are eager to participate at next year's event.

- Book Drive and Celebration of Children Literacy Event-October 2009

1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council sought to collect new children's books to give out at Riverside County Volunteer Center's "Celebration of Children" event held in Riverside. Donation boxes were placed at the following 1st District libraries: Lake Elsinore County Library, Lakeside County Library, Mission Trail County Library, and Wood Crest County Library. Boxes were additionally placed at First District's office in Wildomar and Mead Valley's Community Center, and council members placed boxes at schools and at parents' job-sites. Further, they handed out flyers in order to generate more donations. A sum of 558 books was collected from throughout First District.

- ◆ Celebration of Children Day Event-October 2009

1<sup>st</sup> District Council members volunteered their services at Riverside County Volunteer Center's "Celebration of Children" event. Council members helped set up the booths that would be used by various youth centered organizations that would be in attendance at this event. Council members also helped decorate, set up tables and chairs, and assisted face painting. YAC members felt gratified seeing the children receive the books that they helped collect. Overall council members felt it was a great event.

- Lakeland Village Clean-up-November 2009

YAC members facilitated residents to the correct Waste Management Truck where they could drop-off their unwanted waste. Council members were provided with a free BBQ lunch for their assistance.

- Canned Food Drive-November 2009-December 2009

The Council enacted a food drive in an effort to help the less fortunate during the holiday season. The drive proceeded for a month. Donation boxes were placed at the following locations: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Riverside County building, Lake Elsinore Sherriff Station, Mead Valley Community Complex Center, First District's Wildomar Office, Riverside County DPSS and Woodcrest County Library. YAC members also participated in various activities during this month. Thanks to those efforts and the donations received from the donation sites, First District council members successfully collected a total of 498 non-perishable food items. These items were donated to the non-profit "Helping Our People of Lake Elsinore" (H.O.P.E) for distribution to the homeless in the Lake Elsinore and Lakeland Village area.

- ◆ Scavenger Hunt-November 2009

Council members went door to door in the Orangecrest area seeking donations from families.

- ◆ Passing out fliers at Stater Bros-November 2009

Council members stood outside Stater Bros passing out fliers to shoppers hoping that they would keep their drive in mind while they did their shopping.

- Mead Valley's Breakfast With Santa and His Elves-December 2009

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mead Valley Breakfast with Santa and His Elves event was held on December 12, 2009. On this day, Mead Valley families enjoyed a complimentary breakfast meal. Once the participants were finished eating, children were able to take a picture with Santa and then made arts and crafts in "Santa's Workshop." YAC members were wearing elf hats while assisting the community's youth. Council members had a terrific time helping out at this event. A total of 478 Mead Valley residents attended this event along with an honored visit from Supervisor Buster. This year we had **57** volunteers from the following agencies: Mead Valley community volunteers, Riverside County DPSS, Tomas Rivera Middle School, Boy Scout troop members, Riverside County EDA, Mead Valley MAC members, Mead Valley YLP, Supervisor, Mead Valley's Fire Station, Perris Sheriff Station and Mead Valley's Code Enforcement.

- Potluck at Operation Safe House-January 2010

Council members each brought items of food such as salad, pizza and brownies to share with SafeHouse members. After they ate lunch, council members played spoons, basketball and got to know each other by sharing school and family experiences. Council members really enjoyed this event and would love to come again soon. They also expressed that 'these students are just like you and me; they are just going through a lot.' The YAC was awarded a free pass to Disneyland through their service and "Give a Day, Get a Day."

- Valentine's Project –February 2010

In the spirit of Valentines, YAC members decided to do another service Operation SafeHouse. They decided to hand create Valentine's Day cards with special messages and hand deliver them to the students on Friday, February 13. Staff and students were greatly touched by the Council's thoughtfulness and care.

- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit- March 2010

On Thursday, March 11, Riverside County's Youth Commission held their Tenth Annual Partnership Summit with Inland Empire Health Plan (I.E.H.P.), titled: "Going Healthy: It's All About You" at the Doral Desert Princess Resort & Spa. Students were given the opportunity to enjoy workshops focusing on internet safety, prescription drug abuse and depression and suicide. They also listened to a personal testimony, "My Life Story," from Mr. Truax, chairman of Riverside Recovery Resources. The ultimate goal of the Youth Summit was to discuss and educate in problematic areas affecting youth. Participants were challenged to participate in an essay contest in attempt to decipher what motivates and what hinders students from going for routine check-ups. Kyle Green was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and a \$1,000 scholarship; Abby Villeneuve was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a \$500 scholarship; Joshua Flores was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place and a \$250 scholarship. Ideas from these winning essays and other submitted essays will be used to create a Bill-Board to be posted throughout Riverside County.

- East Side Egg Hunt-March 2010

The 1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council coordinated with the City of Riverside and Riverside Volunteer Services to host a community egg hunt. YAC members assisted decorations, directing and supervising children and clean-up. YAC members greatly enjoyed working with the youth.

- Helping Our People of Lake Elsinore (H.O.P.E.) Car-Wash-May 2010

The council coordinated a car-wash in Lake Elsinore to raise funds for H.O.P.E. During the fiscal year 2009-2010, this organization will distribute over 500,000 pantry meals to low-income members of the community. H.O.P.E. assists over 1,200 families, or 4,000 individuals a month; 48% of those helped are below 18 years of age. Rising needs and diminishing donations of food and money inspired the council to volunteer their time to address poverty within their district. Forty non-perishable food items and \$221.50 was raised. Members of the community and staff from H.O.P.E. were impressed by the council's dedication to their community and helping others.

- Inaugural Backyard Bash-May 2010

First District's YAC will be providing information to youth participants regarding the council in an effort to recruit members for the upcoming council term.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Path to Success Tour-May 2010

YAC members coordinated the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Path to Success Tour" on Saturday, May 22. One hundred and five participants attended this year in addition to eight YAC members. The participants were given the opportunity to tour Riverside Community College (RCC) and the University of California, Riverside (UCR). While at RCC, students were provided breakfast,

went on a 30 minute tour of the campus and listened to a presentation by Tony Ortiz regarding community college and the benefits that come with attending such an institution. While at UCR, participants went on a 60 minute tour of the campus, heard a 45 minute presentation from an admissions counselor, dined at Lothian's residence hall, toured a hall of rooms in Pentland's residence hall, participated in interactive activities with council members and heard a panel from First District's Youth Advisory Council regarding the college application process. Students also received a resource bag filled with youth centered information. YAC members were successful in encouraging early college preparation among eighth and ninth grade students through this program.

- Recruitment-May 2010-June 2010

Recruitment for the First District Youth Advisory Council is ongoing through the end of the term and summer. Council members provided contact information of students they recommended for next year's council. Youth Advisory Council members were asked to bring potential applicants to projects and meetings during the end of the term. The council is promoted through the media, letters to school officials and word of mouth. We would really like to consider advertisement through the Youth Commission Web-site once it is launched.

- Outdoor Senior Fair & BBQ-June 2010

1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council members will be helping out at the Wildomar Senior Living Community. YAC will be overseeing a booth for First District and advertising the council. Other council members will assist set-up, hosting other booths and lunch crowd control.

- End of Year Celebration-June 2010

Youth Advisory Council members will host their end of the year celebration at Disneyland as a closure to the 2009-2010 YAC term during this month. Council members will be congratulated for their efforts in formulating a successful year, presented an award and provided breakfast, lunch and dinner.

- Youth Commission Retreat-July 2010

Returning and new council members are looking forward to attend the Youth Commission Annual Retreat that will be held at Knott's Soak City. Council members will learn about the importance of team building and leadership skills. In addition, the council members will be deciding the theme and developing ideas for next year's Youth Summit.

## -----Summary of the Year -----

Goals for the 2009-2010 YAC term:

**PLEASE!** We vow to **P**rovide **L**eadership, **E**ncouragement, **A**id, and a **S**afe **E**nvironment for youth and the community of Riverside.

P/L) Providing Leadership to youth and community of Riverside

- Environmental Car-Wash-July 2009
- Summer Retreat-July 2009
- Santa Ana River Watershed Clean Up-October 2009
- Youth In Government Day-October 2009
- Lakeland Village Clean-up-November 2009
- Potluck at Operation Safe House-January 2010
- Valentine's Project –February 2010
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit- March 2010
- East Side Egg Hunt-March 2010
- Inaugural Backyard Bash-May 2010
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Path to Success Tour-May 2010
- Recruitment-May 2010-June 2010
- Outdoor Senior Fair & BBQ-June 2010
- Youth Commission Retreat-July 2010

E) Encouraging youth and community of Riverside

- Mead Valley Fair-June 2009
- Environmental Car-Wash-July 2009
- Temescal Valley Faire-September 2009
- Santa Ana River Watershed Clean Up-October 2009
- Lakeland Village Clean-up-November 2009
- Potluck at Operation Safe House-January 2010
- Valentine's Project –February 2010
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit- March 2010
- East Side Egg Hunt-March 2010
- East Side Egg Hunt-March 2010
- Inaugural Backyard Bash-May 2010
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Path to Success Tour-May 2010
- Recruitment-May 2010-June 2010
- Outdoor Senior Fair & BBQ-June 2010

A) Aiding youth and community of Riverside

- “Stuff the Bus,” Operation SafeHouse-August 2009
- Book Drive and Celebration of Children Literacy Event-October 2009
- Canned Food Drive-November 2009-December 2009
- Mead Valley's Breakfast With Santa and His Elves-December 2009

- Potluck at Operation Safe House-January 2010
- East Side Egg Hunt-March 2010

S/E) Providing a Safe Environment to youth and community of Riverside

- Environmental Car-Wash-July 2009
- Summer Retreat-July 2009
- “Stuff the Bus,” Operation SafeHouse-August 2009
- Santa Ana River Watershed Clean Up-October 2009
- Lakeland Village Clean-up-November 2009
- Potluck at Operation Safe House-January 2010
- Valentine’s Project –February 2010
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit- March 2010

-----Did the council accomplish their goals? -----

Overall YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their goals for the year.