

Riverside County First District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2010-2011

The Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in the First District of Riverside County. High Schools that are located within the First 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 2010-2011 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.

- Summer Retreat-July 2010

This year's Youth Commission Annual Retreat was held at the Knott's Soak City Water Park in Palm 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," Scavenger Hunt-August 2010

The Youth Advisory Council asked First District Residents to donate items for Operation SafeHouse. The SafeHouse provides emergency shelter, intervention and outreach services to runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. Items being collected include sponges, napkins, toilet paper, deodorant, toothbrushes and silverware sets etc. 431 items were collected.

- Book Drive and Celebration of Children Literacy Event-September 2010 through October 2010

First District Youth Advisory Council hosted a book-drive 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 First District libraries: Lake Elsinore County Library, Lakeside County Library, Mission Trail County Library, and Wood Crest County Library. Boxes were also placed at the First District office in Wildomar and the Mead Valley Community Center. Council members placed boxes at schools and at parents' job-sites. Further, council members also passed around fliers in order to generate more donations. In 2009, 558 books were collected from throughout First District. This past year, 391 books were collected.

- ◆ Celebration of Children Day Event-October 2010

First District Council members donated books raised through a drive to the Riverside County Volunteer Center's for their "Celebration of Children" event. 391 books were donated and given to 100 pre-school aged children.

- Santa Ana River Watershed Clean Up-October 2010

Council members volunteered their time to assist collect water and reusable bag donations for participants. Although they were unable to assist the clean-up this year, they look forward to assist this event in 2011.

- Mead Valley Day-October 2010

The Council volunteered their services at the Mead Valley Fair. The event served to bring the community together for a fun and informational day. Information was provided on voter registration, a graffiti clean-up program and environmental awareness. YAC members also helped volunteers set up booths.

- Second Harvest Food Bank-October 2010

The Council volunteered their services at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Riverside. Tasks included stocking the kitchen, cleaning and organizing inventory. Food items are then donated to local non-profits and food kitchens throughout the area.

- Youth In Government Day-October 2010

The youth engaged in their 12th 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. First District YAC members are eager to participate at next year's event.

- "Harvest for HOPE"-November 2010 through December 2010

First District Council members held a Canned Food Drive to help fill the cupboards at the Help Our People of Elsinore (HOPE) food bank. Last year the First District YAC collected almost 500 non-perishable food items to contribute to HOPE. Please refer to the following link for a news release on this event: http://www.pe.com/localnews/lakeelsinore/stories/PE_News_Local_S_hope12.40e4525.html. Drop off sites included: Supervisor Bob Buster's office at 32100 Clinton Keith Road, Wildomar, CA 92595; the Riverside County Clerk of the Board office by the elevators inside the County Administrative Center at 4080 Lemon Street; Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station at 333 Limited Avenue in Lake Elsinore; DPSS office at 4060 County Circle Drive, Riverside; the Woodcrest Library at 16625 Krameria Avenue in Riverside.

- ◆ Taking Action for HOPE-November 2010

The Youth Advisory Council collected items at the Albertsons in Lake Elsinore located at 30901 Riverside Drive to help fill the cupboards at the Help Our People of Elsinore (HOPE) food bank. Please refer to the following links for news releases on this event: http://www.pe.com/localnews/lakeelsinore/stories/PE_News_Local_S_shope20.40e8548.html or http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/lake-elsinore/article_933033d5-4458-52bf-9857-3f390fde77d9.html. 475 items were collected!!!

- ◆ Collecting food items for “Harvest for HOPE”-December 2010

546 items were collected from various drop-off locations throughout Riverside, Lake Elsinore and Wildomar. The items were delivered to HOPE as well. The volunteers were very touched by the council members’ hard work and generosity.

- “Dog Wash” at the Van Buren Animal Shelter-November 2010

1st District Council members volunteered washing, socializing with and walking dogs at the Van Buren animal shelter.

- “Stuff the Bus,” Operation SafeHouse-November 2010

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 to “Stuff the Bus;” this event drives buses around downtown Riverside to gather donations of pillows, blankets, bathroom tissue, paper towels, toothbrushes, cleaning supplies and food. 431 items were collected. Please refer to the following link for a news release on this event: http://www.pe.com/rss/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_E_wstuff20.40d98e0.html.

- Christmas Tree Lane Project-November 2010

The YAC assembled an exhibit of a little girl’s room and two Christmas trees at the Lake Elsinore Outlet. This exhibit was auctioned in December, along with other rooms. All proceeds went directly to youth programs such as the Girls and Boys Club and the Student of the Month Program of Lake Elsinore. YAC members also come up with the name and theme of this room. All of the items and decorations for this room were provided.

- “Clean \$” Clean-Up-December 2010

In an effort to keep Temescal Valley and El Cerrito clean, Code Enforcement has invited all local, youth-based, nonprofit organizations and clubs to earn \$500 and help the environment. The First District Youth Advisory Council conducted a clean-up in Temescal Valley. The funds were donated to a local non-profit within First District, Family Services Association. The money was used to purchase gifts for children that attended the annual “Breakfast with Santa and His Elves.”

- Mead Valley’s 4th Annual “Breakfast With Santa and His Elves”-December 2010

On this special day, Mead Valley families came together, shared breakfast and took a picture with Santa. Children made arts and crafts in “Santa’s Workshop,” participated in “Reindeer Games” and received prizes from council members. YAC members wore elf hats while assisting the community’s youth and had a terrific time. A total of 600 Mead Valley residents attended this event along with an honored visit from Supervisor Buster. 60 volunteers assisted from the following agencies: Mead Valley community volunteers, Riverside County DPSS, Mead Valley Code Enforcement, Tomas Rivera Middle School, the Riverside Matrix basketball team,

Riverside County EDA, the Mead Valley Youth Leadership Program, Mead Valley's Fire Station and the Perris Sheriff Station.

- Potluck at Operation Safe House-January 2011

The SafeHouse provides emergency shelter, intervention and outreach services to runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. Council members each brought brunch items such as sandwiches, donuts, milk and juice to share with SafeHouse members. After they ate, 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.

- Charles Dickens Festival-January 2011

The purpose of the event was to enhance a sense of community among citizens of Riverside County and Southern California by creating a series of literary events and to provide educational, family-oriented, literary entertainment and activities such as plays, musical performances, pageants, living history presentations, workshops, lectures, classroom study, exhibits and a street bazaar with free entertainment, vendors and costumed characters. The YAC assisted with arts and crafts in "Oliver's Alley" (inspired by Charles Dickens's novel, Oliver Twist). The event was hosted at the Riverside Convention Center. More information can be found by clicking the following: http://www.dickensfest.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70&Itemid=78.

- Valentine's Project at Sunrise Assisted Living-February 2011

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, YAC members decided to assist at the Canyon Crest Sunrise Senior Living Assisted Living. The center focuses on individual wellness, and encourages continued independence with a tailored plan of assistance provided by well-trained team members, available 24-hours a day. Members from the council hand-made cards, delivered them to and spoke with residents in an effort to share the joy and love of the season.

- 11th Annual Youth Summit-March 2011

Riverside County's Youth Commission held their Eleventh Annual Youth Summit titled: "Passport to Your Future" at the Country Club at Soboba Springs. The objective of this annual event is to create an avenue where Riverside County youth can discuss issues that affect their lives and community. Each year a theme is selected based on feedback from previous participants. This year's theme was continuing education and was titled, "Passport to your Future."

Students were given the opportunity to enjoy workshops focusing on financial aid and scholarships; the admission process for colleges and universities; and, how to prepare while in high school. Arick Bostick served as the key-note speaker; Aric inspired students to channel their potential and to live up to their dreams.

- Adopt-A-Trail Clean-Up at Cajalco Springs-March 2011

Council members assisted to beautify the Supervisor's trail at Cajalco Springs. Tasks included collecting and properly discarding litter, filling ditches and making the trail easier to walk, horse-back or bike on.

- Earth Day Clean up & Tree Planting-April 2011

Council members beautified Coral Canyon Park in Temescal Valley. In addition to picking up trash, YAC members also planted 15 trees to promote better air quality within the neighboring community.

- Mead Valley Community Clean-Up-April 2011

Council members assisted residents that were dropping off waste such as tires, e-waste and metal at Tomas Rivera Middle School. In addition, members will made certain that hazardous materials were not left. A total of 72.08 tons of trash were collected.

- 6th Annual Path to Success Tour-May 2011

YAC members coordinated the 6th Annual “Path to Success Tour” on Saturday, May 07th. Forty Six 8th and 9th grade students attended this year in addition to eleven 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 and Aberdeen Inverness’s residence hall 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.

- Temescal Valley Fair May- 2011

The Youth Advisory Council volunteered at the annual fair in Temescal Valley. Members assisted set-up and booths.

- End of Year Celebration-June 2011

Youth Advisory Council members hosted their end of the year celebration at Olive Garden as a closure to the 2010-2011 YAC term. Council members were congratulated for their efforts in formulating a successful year, presented with an award and provided lunch.

Summary of the Year

Goals for the 2010-2011 YAC term:

BELIEVE! We pledge to **B**etter our **E**nvironment through effective **L**eadership and a positive **I**nfluence while also **E**mbracing the **V**alue of **E**ducation.

In other words, the council pledged to: better their environment for youth and the community of Riverside; demonstrate leadership for youth and the community of Riverside; positively influence youth and the community of Riverside; embrace the youth and the community of Riverside; add value to and educate the youth and community of Riverside.

Council members delivered 22 projects and dedicated 1,794.5 hours of community service to the First District of Riverside County. Overall, YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their expectations and goals for the year.
