

Escondido Education

COMPACT

FALL ISSUE

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Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

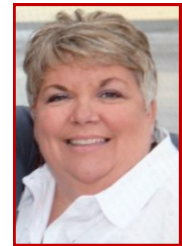
At Escondido Education COMPACT, we strongly believe in the importance of community outreach events, activities and partnerships. We believe that we have a twofold social responsibility - to give back and contribute to the development and improvement of the residents including youth as well as improving the health, safety and well-being of the community of Escondido as a whole.

There are many types of community outreach programs. For the last 5 years, one of COMPACT's outreach efforts has focused on Safe Routes to School/ Smart Streets. We have partnered with the City of Escondido, Engineering Department, Escondido Police Department, Escondido Union and Union High School Districts as well as other non-profits to not only provide education to youth and parents on the Safe Routes to School, but also safety

education on walking, biking, skateboarding and scooters. We have also helped to identify needed infrastructure improvement, from sidewalks, high visibility crosswalks, and lights/stop signs to other traffic calming measures. Most importantly, in support of these community outreach efforts, we have trained several groups of residents and youth on how to become Resident Leaders in their neighborhood. So, that they too can take part in the discussion regarding needs within their neighborhoods or the city. These discussions have led to an expanded community outreach focus on the Escondido Creek Trail. The RLA graduates and youth leaders have taken on an Opening the Outdoors Initiative to clean up the creek, increase the use of the creek to decrease the crime and physical challenges. If you know a group or organization interested in joining this Initiative - call COMPACT.

Another of our community outreach programs, which is based on health issues: youth access to drugs and alcohol, healthy eating, access to fresh fruits and vegetables; advocating for health items at local grocery stores and increased physical activity. With the goal to identify a group of people, that support the need to focus efforts on this need, and help them to design a program to support moving the youth out of harm's way by intervention, education and or even physically providing safety. The Coalition for Drug-free Escondido was created - it meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:30pm at Escondido Police Department. Due to the rise of opioid use by the youth in our community, we will be holding parent education meeting at all the local high school - please watch for the meeting date.

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GIVE BACK ON
#GIVING
TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 28

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SCHOOL SERVICES

JOB SHADOW 2017



Students shadowed professionals at the

Job Shadow Day took place on Thursday, October 19th, 2017. Over 130 students had the opportunity to shadow career professionals and learn about what it takes to be successful in the workforce. We had an overwhelming number of students interested in Job Shadow Day this year from many of the

high schools. We received close to 100 applications after the second week that applications were made available to students. In some cases, we had to close the application window early due to such a high demand. Similarly, we also had a lot of interest from local businesses. We were able to provide students placements to 39 businesses. These businesses represented a variety of career fields including animal care, business, communications, cosmetology, engineering, healthcare, public safety, and technology to name a few. We had 7 new businesses participate

for the first time this year and we hope to have them participate again next year! We are excited to see interest in this event grow each year from both students and businesses, indicating that we are successful in providing a valuable experience to our youth who are getting ready to enter the workforce. Additionally, some businesses have expressed interest in providing further career guidance or employment opportunities to our youth!!!

*- Maribel Reyes,
School and Community
Outreach Coordinator*

CAREER DAYS



Career Days have officially begun at the local middle schools, with Del Dios Middle School as the first campus to hold this event in the 2017-2018 school year. For the first session, we had Escondido Police Department's Sergeant Chris Leso accompanied by Officers Aaron Reber and Steven Higgins present to students about the importance of preparing for a future career in law enforcement. Students connected well with these speakers and were

engaged during the Q & A portion of the event. We're actively recruiting for career professionals interested in speaking at the other Career Days that will run from February to May. We are excited to continue bringing students valuable speakers who help shape their future career decisions.

If you or someone you know might be interested in speaking to our local youth about your career, please contact Maribel Reyes, at (760) 839-4515.

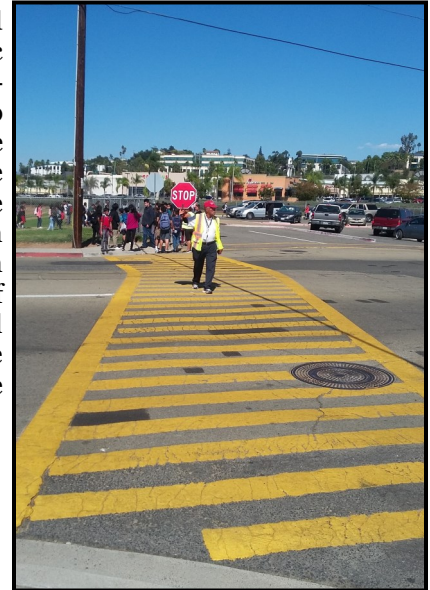
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Ensuring that children are safe when crossing busy intersections to and from school is the number one priority of COMPACT's Crossing Guards. They also help children develop good pedestrian safety skills by teaching them the safe way to cross intersections. Crossing Guards also remind drivers of the presence of pedestrians and to be extra vigilant around schools. Crossing Guards are representatives of the community, tasked with helping to create a safe environment for children. COMPACT's Crossing Guards truly love what they do and they take their responsibility very seriously! What makes

their job worthwhile are the "thank you's" from grateful parents and the smiles from children who appreciate them.

We currently staff 15 schools (elementary and middle) in the district. Recently, COMPACT Staff assessed the pedestrian and vehicle traffic around 6 schools in the district to determine if additional staffing of Crossing Guards are needed at these locations. The schools targeted included Central, Juniper, Conway, North Broadway, and Miller elementary schools, as well as Hidden Valley and Bear Valley Middle Schools. Most of the schools assessed are

currently staffed by school staff, teachers and safety patrol students. As expected, most locations were busy with pedestrian and vehicle traffic during the drop-off and pick-up times. The findings were presented to the school district in order for them to determine if other school locations will be added in the next school year.



Crossing Guard, Tony Guerra crosses students at the very busy intersection at Del Dios Rd. and 9th Avenue.

*- Selena Rogel,
Crossing Guard Program Coordinator*

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

October was Walk to School Month and we had a total of 5 schools participate. We had two schools conduct a running club as their activity and with the help of Escondido Police officers we had three schools Walk to School. We had about 600 students participate during these events.

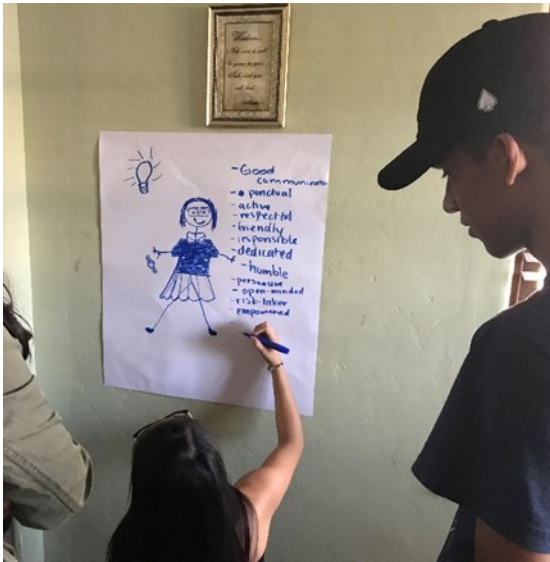
*- Carolina Plancarte,
Youth Development Specialist*



Walk to School Day at Orange Glen Elementary School

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

YOUTH LEADERS FOR CHANGE



Youth created their ideal Youth Leader!

On October 14th, Youth Leaders for Change, a new component of COMPACT's Youth Development Services held its first kick-off. We thank Escondido Charitable Foundation for funding the Youth Leaders for Change component. There were over 25 students in attendance, from the different high schools in Escondido. There were different activities that the youth were able to take a part on. The

importance of this kick-off was to encourage the youth to be able to choose the focus of their Youth Development efforts and to be able to make a change in their community. We are in the process of developing a master calendar for the Youth Development component including the new youth leadership and workforce development trainings.

Share the Warmth Drive

Donate gently used or new warm items such as gloves, scarves, blankets, socks, etc.

Collection starts November 1 – November 30th. Donation boxes located at COMPACT office.

Items collected will be donated to Interfaith Community Services



HELPING HANDS

In September, the Helping Hands Teen Service Club had their annual Kick-off. This year HH had about 50 youth from the different high schools in Escondido attended, both new and returning members. This year not only did we give the students an opportunity to sign up for community service events, but to also sign up for our other youth components offered through COMPACT. In October, we had our annual Trick or Treat for Cans in which the

youth go around the neighborhood and collect non-perishable items that we donate to Interfaith Community Services. This year we collected a total of 135 non-perishable items. Helping Hands is currently partnering with Girls Rock for our Share the Warmth Drive, in which we are collecting warm items the month of November to donate to Interfaith Community Services.

- Carolina Plancarte, Youth Development Specialist

If you have any events coming up and are in need of volunteers, contact Carolina Plancarte 760.839.4515

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

RESIDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Our Resident Leaders have been busy working on their Community Improvement Project. Since the first time they spoke at City Council, they attended the September 27 meeting and informed the council, about the projects they are

working on and the changes that they want to see along the Escondido Creek. Some of these changes include: benches, plant use, resting areas, water fountains, exercise stations, deferments to graffiti, and most importantly to increase

usage. The Resident Leaders received the support and commitment of the council and were thanked for their work that they have contributed to beautify Escondido.

- RLA Team



The Escondido Resident Leadership Group at a Creek Clean-up event.



Resident Leader, Julia, updating the Escondido City Council

DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

It has been a very busy time for the Coalition. I started my new role as the Community Organizer in July, and there has not been a dull moment since. We kicked off the new school year with our Drug Free Youth Advocates, doing a teambuilding/bonding activity at Spiritivity. They painted a "Be a Light to The World" painting. This was a great location to expose the youth to because Spiritivity is a licensed

alcohol business retailer, but Sherry, the owner, does a great job of concealing and safe guarding any alcohol for events that includes minors. It was a great way to kick off our year! We also attended the last week of the CADCA training in September and submitted all documents that were required products for Coalition "Graduation" in February.

Our Youth Leaders have been very busy as well. They

hosted a booth at National Night Out and they also handed out information at a DUI Checkpoint. We also did a lot of Outreach in the month of October, for National Prescription Take Back Day. The youth presented at the Park Ave Community Center. They presented to about 25 older adults about prescription drugs safety and proper disposal.



**Coalition For
Drug Free
Escondido**

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DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES—CONTINUED



DFC Youth advocates were recognized for their prevention and education efforts by Assemblywoman Marie Waldron's office!

At our October Coalition meeting, our Drug Free Youth Advocates were presented certificates from Matthew Stockton with the office of Assemblywoman Marie Waldron. They were recognized for all their hard work on prevention & education efforts in the community.

Lastly, in light of all the recent prescription drug use (specifically Xanax) that we have seen not only in the high schools, but also in the middle schools we are gearing up to provide some parent education at various

schools. This came at the request of the High School Superintendent with whom we met right after the first incident in which they had students sent to the hospital for Xanax use. The Youth Leaders will play a vital role in delivering some of the information to the parents. We have presentations scheduled at almost each high school, but are inviting neighboring elementary and middle schools through their family liaisons.

—Yesenia Martinez,
DFC Coordinator

STOP - SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING

The STOP Act program was created to strengthen collaboration among the federal, state, local governments, and communities to more effectively reduce alcohol use among youth, with the focus being on student athletes. The mission includes providing timely information to communities about practices and initiatives that are proven to be effective in prevention and reduction of youth alcohol use and accessibility.

—Carlos Sanchez, Youth Alcohol Prevention Specialist

GOALS

- Reduce alcohol availability and access
- Reduce further over concentration of alcohol outlets
- Reduce normalization while highlighting associated risks
- Reduce student athlete drinking rates

WHY STUDENT ATHLETES

Student athletes are more prone to participate in underage drinking especially with their teams. We want student athletes to make informed decisions regarding alcohol use. As a community we can tackle this problem from all angles to ensure we reach our common goals. Partner with CDFE & COMPACT and let's STOP underage drinking.

ACTION PLAN

- Collaborate with local coaches and schools to determine what would be most effective to reduce alcohol access and youth alcohol use.
- Create guidelines for coaches and student athletes surrounding youth alcohol consumption.
- Inform the community stakeholders on research and policies to prevent underage drinking.

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

UNWELCOME TREND IN DIVERSION CASES

With the new school year, the Diversion Team also noticed a new trend with youth that are entering the program. Many juveniles are testing positive and self-disclosing they are using Xanax. It is not clear if they are using prescription Xanax, or pills bought on the street that are being called Xanax. Along with this trend, more juveniles are being assessed for a substance abuse issue, despite the charge that brought them into Diversion. To date we are seeing 58% of the youth in Diversion presenting with a substance abuse issue. This is a 12% increase from last school year!!!

The Diversion and CAP programs are bringing together all of our resources and partners to address this trend. We have worked closely with the Coalition for a Drug Free Escondido, Escondido Police Department, EUHSD and EUSD to better serve the youth who are using drugs and alcohol. Agner Medrano, our CAP facilitator, attended a conference to learn about the latest information regarding opioids and prescription drugs. This current information will be incorporated into CAP and help case managers work with the youth and their families.

We need the community

to also help turn this new trend around. If you have information about where youth are gaining access to drugs and alcohol, contact the police or call the Anonymous Tip Line at 760 743-TIPS. Talk with your children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and develop a family policy about these substances. Support local programs, like Diversion and CAP that serve youth who are struggling. Or step up to be a mentor which will minimize the odds that a youth you mentor will begin using or become addicted.

We are all in this together, and together we will build a stronger community.

- Mary Anne Dijk, Manager Intervention and Prevention Services

“TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL”

GIRLS ROCK

Girls Rock has kicked off the 17-18 school year at Rincon Middle School and Del Dios Academy of Arts and Sciences. We started off with a focus on body image and self-esteem with the goal of helping the girls increase their self-worth and embrace their individuality. Each week, the girls participated in several discussions and creative activities centered on body image from our evidence based curriculum. Many of the activities we conducted

stressed the importance of taking care of yourself physically and mentally. To help the girls learn positive and healthy ways to take care of themselves, we have implemented a monthly self-care day. The picture below shows the Del Dios girls at our Spiritivity field trip. They were able to relax and express themselves as they were guided through a step by step painting. The girls have also participated in a relaxation exercise. We look forward to introducing the

girls to meditation and yoga in our self-care days to come.

- Cynthia Macedo, Girls Diversion Case Manager



Girls Rock participants take time to relax and express themselves artistically.

HEADING FOR THE HILLS

The FIT middle school boys were treated to a weekend camping trip in the mountains of Julian. FIT staff accompanied 14 boys for an overnight at Camp Cedar Glen. Many of the boys FIT works with have never been outside of Escondido, much less to the mountains. FIT uses trips like these to get boys out of the neighborhood where they are able to see firsthand the BIG world and all the opportunities that are available for them. The boys got to sleep in a cabin, eat in a chow hall, climb a climbing tower and hike up a mountain to see the

ocean! This trip was a paid for through our CalGRIP grant and PAL.

We are also excited that our newest program at Hidden Valley Middle School is off to a great start. There are already 10 boys attending! The staff at HVMS have been very supportive and welcoming to the team. The Boys Council at

HVMS are already bonding and learning together about being a man of honor. They meet Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

- Family Intervention Team

FIT participants enjoying the outdoors at Camp Cedar Glen.



BUILDING BRIDGES

We have seen an overwhelming response of support for our Building Bridges Pilot Program, from a donation for over 60 hygiene packs and blankets for our youth from the S i m o n Foundation S c h o l a r s (right) to the time and talents of our

local Faith Community Members, like that of Pastor Thomas – who has recently committed himself to helping enact the vision of this program through local outreach efforts. It's from you, and our network of partners and friends that we plan to secure platforms to recruit host families that are willing to offer safe housing to a youth in the event of a crisis. If you

know of any group (rotary, church group, etc...) that might be interested in hearing about this program and how they can get involved in changing a young life, please contact Mirjana Rodriguez at mrodriguez@educationcompact.org.

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator



YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COMPACT continues to provide workforce development support and services to all WIOA youth in follow-up as well as any young adults that are part of our Gang Tattoo Removal Program and on upon referral. These services included a workforce and/or education services and support component.

We remain committed to connecting and supporting any Valley HS youth that have dropped out or stopped out prior to obtaining a high school diploma. Through funding from the Escondido After 5 Rotary and a funding match from the Regional Rotary, we will be able to continue these services into 2018!



Celebrating student success!!

- Workforce Development Team

TRAINING THE MENTORS

We had our big Mentor Training in October over 40 prospective mentors came and enjoyed a three hour interactive training hosted by Mentor Management System President and former NFL defensive tackle Jerry Sherk. Mentors who participated covered topics such as the *History and Role of Mentoring*, *Healthy Boundaries*, general policies and procedures, and *Building the Ideal Mentor*. We are so excited to have you on board!!



- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator

Escondido Education

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EDUCATIONCOMPACT.ORG

ESCONDIDO EDUCATION
COMPACT IS COMMITTED TO
DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING
COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAMS TO
SUPPORT YOUTH. ITS PURPOSE IS
TO EXPAND THE EDUCATION AND
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR
STUDENTS AND ASSIST THEM IN
BECOMING CONTRIBUTING
CITIZENS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

**JOIN THE COMPACT LEAGUE—BE A HERO
BY MAKING A DONATION TO COMPACT!**

We are all preparing for the holidays which are rapidly approaching. Coming up soon is Black Friday and then Cyber Monday. We are challenging you to consider after all your shopping to consider giving back. On Tuesday, November 28, charities, families, businesses, community centers and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate and encourage giving. COMPACT's goal for the upcoming year is to provide one-on-one mentoring services to over 100 youth in need! It costs an estimated \$102 per youth to provide these services. Our first fundraising goal of \$5,100 is to raise enough money to serve 50 youth. The second goals of \$7,650 will provide services to 75 youth. Lastly, our ultimate goal of \$10,200 will help us reach our annual goal to provide our services to 100 youth in our community.

**#GIVING
TUESDAY**

Tuesday, November 28

COMPACT is asking you to join the COMPACT League by making a donation to COMPACT on November 28th. You don't need a cape to be a hero to us! There are many ways to donate! Pick one that suits you! Visit our website (www.educationcompact.org) and click on the donate link. Text (760) 497-8759 to receive a link to pay from your cell phone. Or scan the QR code! After you donate, share with others to spread the season of giving. **Start your holiday off right by giving back!**



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — CONTINUED

Another of our community outreach programs, which is based on health issues: youth access to drugs and alcohol, healthy eating, access to fresh fruits and vegetables; advocating for health items at local grocery stores and increased physical activity. With the goal to identify a group of people, that support the need to focus efforts on this need, and help them to design a program to support moving the youth out of harm's way by intervention, education and or even physically providing

safety. The Coalition for Drug-free Escondido was created – it meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:30pm at Escondido Police Department. Due to the rise of opioid use by the youth in our community, we will be holding parent education meeting at all the local high school – please watch for the meeting date.

COMPACT in partnership with Escondido, Gang Prevention, Intervention Task Force and the

Escondido Police Department have been facilitating Community Meetings on the topic of gangs. To provide information to parents of what signs to watch for as well as prevention and interventions services. We have held a total of 15 Community Meetings in the last three years; with the last being held on November 9th at Oak Hill School. This Community Meeting expanded our partnership to include the North County Gang

Commission; we had over 100 residents in attendance. We also partner with the Escondido Union School District to hold a Peace Begins with Me event during the Season of Non-Violence at Grape Day Park, this year on April 7th. Please contact us if you are interested in having a booth or leading an activity supporting the theme of peace.

Peace, Patty Huerta