



Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

LET'S DANCE!

During prom season, the members of the Helping Hands Teen Service Club organize the most fun and exciting event of the year! Senior Senior Prom. A special prom just for senior citizens held at Park Avenue Community Center.

This year's theme was "A Night Under the Stars". The youth prepared decorations and a special dance choreographed by themselves to perform for the seniors in attendance. And, Prom is not prom without a king and queen. The youth voted and

crowned a prom king and queen! Everyone had a great time dancing the night away!

A big thank you to the Posy Peddler and Rosemary-Duff Florist for their kind donations of flowers for the event!



If you have any events coming up and are in need of volunteers, contact our Helping Hands Advisor, Carolina Plancarte 760-839-4515



It's a dance-off!



Sr. Senior Prom King & Queen 2018

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—PATRICIA HUERTA

Beginning in North San Diego County . . .

On November 4, 2014, California voters passed Proposition 47 (Prop. 47), a law that reclassified some felonies to misdemeanors. Prop. 47 changed the law so that some low level, non-violent felonies can only be charged as misdemeanors for most people. Prop. 47 also allows most people who have qualifying felony

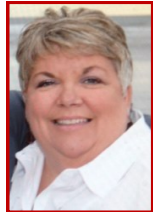
convictions in their past to petition to reclassify those convictions to misdemeanors. Petitions must be filed no later than **November 4, 2022**.

The County and City of San Diego applied to State of California, Board of State and Community Corrections for Prop 47 grant funding. The joint proposal was ranked first and will be receiving \$6 million in funding to provide substance abuse and mental health services

to hundreds of people cited or charged with misdemeanor drug and property crimes across the region.

The County, the City and community partners will work together to provide these services. The project will also support the District Attorney's Community, Action, Resource and Engagement (CARE) Center, which links individuals with

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SCHOOL SERVICES

CAREER DAYS



We concluded our Career Day season with Mission Middle School on May 10th. We are thankful to all our new and recurring speakers who were all more than willing to share their experiences with our students. In our efforts to maximize the experience for our students, we have increased our focus on recruiting speakers who can easily communicate and relate to our students. Our Career

Days occur at a critical time in our student's lives; as they begin to transition from eight grade to high school and need to plan out a path for their future.

One of the most rewarding aspects of coordinating these career days is watching our students take to heart the advice and wisdom of our speakers. On numerous occasions, students would linger at the end

of a presentation just to express their sincere thank you to our speakers. It truly is a wonderful experience for both our students and speakers. It is my hope to help guide these students make future career choices throughout their high school experience via our free programs and services we offer.

Proudly,

*- Maribel Reyes,
School and Community
Outreach Coordinator*

A BIG thank you to these employers . . .

ABA Behavior Therapies & Testing
Author, Neil Griffin
Cal State Long Beach
City of Escondido Engineering
City of Escondido Environmental Programs
City of Escondido Recreation
County of San Diego, Health & Human Svcs. Agency
Eilar Associates, Inc.
Escondido Fire Department
Escondido Police Department

Express Tire
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Iman Design
J.R. Filanc Construction
Music
Operation HOPE
Orange Glen High School ROTC
San Diego Zoo Safari Park
San Pasqual High School
Synergy One Lending

for supporting our Career Days!

TOP TEN REASONS
TO BE A
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

1. Keeps you young and active!
2. Protect and keep kids safe!
3. Hugs and morning smiles from kids!
4. Make new friends!
5. Give back to your community!
6. Teaching kids to be safe!
7. Being part of the community!
8. Polite kids who show appreciation!
9. Interaction with kids and parents!
10. Makes me happy!

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

It takes a special person to be a school Crossing Guard. It's a rain or shine type of job with early schedules. And, our staff of 26 Crossing Guards always does it with a smile!

We recently asked our Crossing Guards to share why they decided to work as a Crossing Guard. Some have been doing it for **10+** years!!

Their answers are listed to the right. What all of their responses have in common is their love for children and their concern for their safety. Our Crossing Guards are special people, we're grateful for their positive attitudes and kind hearts!

- Selena Rogel,
Crossing Guard Program Coordinator



YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

YOUTH LEADERS FOR CHANGE — YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Carolina Flores has been a COMPACT youth for 5 years. She started as a volunteer in 7th grade by joining Helping Hands Jr. She then started advocating in her community as a member of the CX3 leadership group. Currently, she is the Helping Hands president and a Youth Court attorney. During her time at COMPACT, she has accomplished great things along with the youth groups she's been involved. She worked in the Mission Park area advocating for sidewalks and accessibility to healthier foods. Carolina will be graduating from EHS this June and then she's moving on to UC Berkeley in the fall! We are extremely proud and excited to see all the great things she will accomplish in the future!

- Carolina Plancarte,
Youth Development Specialist



YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL—BIKE TO SCHOOL MONTH

To kick-off Bike to School Month we had a Bike Rodeo at Juniper Elementary on April 19. We had 25 students participate. Our next bike rodeo was at Oak Hill Elementary on May 1st. we had 25 students participate. We also had

the presence of EPD's Sergeant Leso and Officer Nelson in which they spoke to the students about the importance of wearing a helmet when riding their bike, scooter or skateboard. They also handed out lights and

helped the kids install it on their bikes and scooters. On Bike to School day, Sergeant Leso talked to the students at Mission Middle School during their lunch time about how to ride a skateboard safely.

*- Carolina Plancarte,
Youth Development Specialist*



Sergeant Leso demonstrating how to safely ride a skateboard



Sergeant Leso and Officer Yost with students at Mission Middle School



Bike Rodeo at Oak Hill



Sergeant Leso and Officer Nelson helping the kids install their lights

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES – YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Ramiro Ledesma joined COMPACT 3 years ago and started as the Youth Leader for Drug Free Communities (DFC). He immediately showed his strengths as a Youth Leader and soon after joining DFC he also became involved with the Helping Hands program. Ramiro started with DFC as what one might consider to be a “quiet giant”. He led by example and with poise in his sophomore year. Continuing with his momentum he then was

voted as the Drug Free Youth Leader’s President and then the Coalition for Drug Free Escondido’s Vice Chair in his junior year. Ramiro stepped down as the Coalition Chair due to the many demands of his senior year; but opened the opportunity for his mentee Arturo to facilitate as the Youth groups president and the Coalition’s Vice Chair. In his senior year he has been as active as possible with the Coalition but has also excelled in school. He is finishing the year at Orange Glen HS with just

above a 4.0 GPA, he was crowned prom king, and he will be attending UC San Diego this coming fall! It has been a pleasure to see Ramiro grow from a quiet giant to the confident young man that he is now. We are thrilled for Ramiro in his upcoming chapter and have no doubt that he will continue to be a great advocate for his community!



Coalition For Drug Free Escondido



DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Our Drug Free Communities team has been very busy this spring. We have submitted our application for the next 5-year cycle of the DFC funding and can expect to receive news this fall.

Our DFC youth were also very active in the community. We had a few of our youth speak at City Council to thank them for supporting the City becoming a San Diego County Live Well

partner. We then returned to City Council the following week when the City received their Proclamation from County Supervisor Kristin Gaspar. The youth also participated in a DUI check point on 4/20, as well as participate in this year’s Take Back Day at EPD on April 28th. Additionally, they shadowed the DFC team to distribute and talk with alcohol businesses to inform them of the

upcoming LEAD training on May 17th and the importance of sending employees to participate in the training. It was nice to see that mostly all of the business were very receptive.



DFC Youth leaders at the DUI checkpoint on 4/20

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DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES—CONTINUED

We have also been attending the Neighborhood Transformation Project (NTP) meetings. The new area is just inside the “City Square”. The area is mainly centered on the Grape Day Park area. The boundary is Grand Ave to Mission

Ave between Broadway and Center City. A main focus of the project is homelessness and EPD has several officers assigned to the “hot spots” in this area. This is mainly a commercial area, but the DFC team and youth will be going to the businesses to conduct

pre and post surveys. In addition, our DFC team and youth will be gearing up to conduct community assessments this summer with a focus on alcohol retailers. Our youth are very excited to participate in the upcoming projects this summer!



*Alicia Espinoza,
DFC Coordinator*

*DFC youth leaders
participated on National
Prescription Take Back Day*

STOP - SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING

We are happy to report that STOP has gotten off to a great start with our newest program: PAL Self Defense &

Leadership. STOP has partnered with Victory Outreach Church, EUHSD, and The Escondido Police Athletic League. As a collective we filled the need in the high school district for a boxing, wrestling, and self-defense combination program for at risk youth. What makes our program special and the part we care about most is the leadership and mentorship aspect. The kids’ grades, attendance, and behavior is being monitored and we are

looking for improvement in all areas. To tie in the drug free component of the STOP grant, we have the kids sign a drug free contract and we will be providing information on alcohol and other drugs. The program is eight weeks long and we have already seen progress in some of our youth. We are excited to see this program grow.

*—Carlos Sanchez,
Youth Alcohol Prevention
Specialist*



YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

DIVERSION PROGRAM SEES INCREASES

The school year is not quite over, but Juvenile Diversion Program has already seen an 86% increase in the number of cases referred to the program this year over last school year. This chart demonstrates the break down in the offenses that were referred to the program. Most of these charges were committed by first time juvenile offenders. It is also the first school year that marijuana/drug offenses surpassed the traditional number one offense petty theft. Petty theft, since COMPACT began contracting with Escondido Police to coordinate the program, has been the most

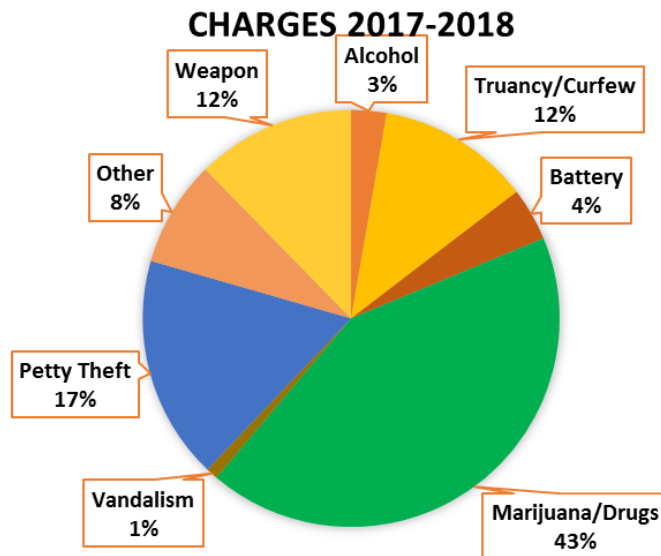
common offense. However, this year, marijuana/drug offenses will surpass petty theft arrests. Of the arrests to date, 43% are for marijuana or other drugs. That is a 95% increase over last year, and we still have over a month left in this program year!

The team is continually to collect data and respond to trends to make sure the intervention program is offering research and evidence based approaches to juvenile marijuana use. We offer our own programs – Cannabis Abuse and Guiding Good Choices – and we partner with great community

organizations like Mental Health Systems, Vista Hill and Neighborhood Healthcare.

Your support helps COMPACT to continue to serve the juveniles and families in our community who are at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system and drug abuse. We will be working closely with the Drug-Free Escondido Coalition, to look at root causes and making environmental changes to reduce youth access to drugs and alcohol. We need you at the table! Join us!

- Mary Anne Dijak, Manager
Intervention and Prevention Services



GIRLS ROCK— YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

As we celebrate the successes of all our youth, I would like to highlight an exceptional Girls Rock participant. Daisy Ponce is a very unique young lady who is enthusiastic and always willing to lend a hand. She has a passion for helping others and would like to pursue a career in social work. Despite the barriers she has faced, she is resilient and carries a positive attitude. Daisy is a leader and would like to continue to develop her leadership

skills through COMPACT's Youth Development Program. On behalf of Girls Rock, we would like to thank Daisy for her time and commitment to the program. We would also like to thank our partners, Escondido Police Department and Escondido Union School District, for always supporting Girls Rock and our participants.



Daisy at the Girls Rock fieldtrip at Spiritivity

*- Cynthia Macedo
Girls Diversion Case Manager*

FAMILY INTERVENTION TEAM— YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



Alexis is ready for the Army!

Introducing the new Army recruit Alexis Hernandez! Alexis is all signed up and just waiting for his high school graduation at the end of the month to begin his career in the U.S. Army. Alexis joined FIT in 2015 at OGHS. He had some struggles with finding his identity and crossing paths with gang members and associates. After joining FIT, Alexis quickly determined that the “gang life” wasn’t for him. He became a leader at

the Boy’s Council Meetings and often helped keep the other boys in check when they got started making some poor choices. Ed, Agner and the entire COMPACT team could not be more proud of Alexis and the young man he has become. We cannot wait to hear about his leadership skills in the Army. Alexis is one of our SHINING STARS!

*- Mary Anne Dijak, Manager
Intervention and Prevention
Services*

BUILDING BRIDGES— HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAM

When we first created Building Bridges our intention was to create awareness on the rising problem of youth homelessness and creating a system that could support these youth during such times. Now, with our pilot program at the precipice of ending we are happy to announce that City of Escondido has unanimously voted to make youth homelessness a top priority in this new fiscal year. We are proud of how our city is responding to the fact that the only growing

subpopulation of homelessness in our county is youth. . 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 by offering safe housing to a youth in the event of a crisis, please contact Mirjana Rodriguez at mrodriguez@educationcoimpact.org.

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator

PROJECT HERO

We are excited to announce that Project Hero continues to grow and develop into the kind of program that can promote transformation and success. We have established a monthly newsletter for increased communication with mentors, the newsletter will feature upcoming events, and tips for successful mentoring as well as free community event/resource that mentors can share with their mentees. We have also established monthly

Mentor to Mentor meetings where our mentors can come together and grow and learn from each other's strategies and techniques as well as develop an additional support for themselves in this work. So far we have matched over 20 youth to mentors and we are looking to expand the program across North County to support participants in the Recovery for Life program.

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator



Escondido Education


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EDUCATIONCOMPACT.ORG



CONSERVATION FELLOWS TO BEGIN

The first group of Conservation Fellows will begin their work in July 2018! *Applications are being accepted until May 31st.* Students who are looking to get involved in the community and have the opportunity to make a lasting change are invited to join the Conservation Fellows program. Eligible students will receive mentorship and recreational opportunities as well as community service hours for their time spent on the program. Get ahead of your peers and work with professionals from career fields such as: economics, wildlife biology, computer modeling, engineering, community outreach, and more! **To be eligible, students must live in the designated map areas below.**

For questions about program eligibility, please contact:
Maribel Reyes, School and Community Outreach Coordinator
(760) 839-4515



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — CONTINUED

community-based prevention and intervention services. Additionally, through the County's program, community agencies in North County and Central San Diego County will reach out to offenders appearing in court for misdemeanor offenses and provide in-person connections, case management, substance abuse treatment and help with finding housing and jobs.

COMPACT partnered with North County Lifeline to apply for Community Based and Recidivism Reduction (COSRR) Program funding through the County of San Diego for the North County Prop 47 Pilot Program; which was funded. The program is called Recovery for Life and with an official start date of May 1st. North County Lifeline will have Court Liaison's at the Vista Court House to connect and assess the individuals that

qualify for the Recovery for Life Program and will then refer to COMPACT individuals needing assistance with obtaining their GED/Hi Set, needing work ready training and job coaching to obtaining employment, develop a career pathway or potentially in need of a mentor for some added guidance and support.

We are thankful to North County Lifeline for this partnership opportunity and are excited to have a part

with this 2.5 year North County Pilot Program. The goal of the Recovery for Life Program is to impact participants' lives by improving their physical, mental and emotional wellness;; building skills for self-sufficiency and establishing a support network that will help them maintain their recovery, rehabilitation and self-reliance.

Peace, Patty Huerta