

Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

## MAKING YOUTH OUR PRIORITY

Since its inception our Workforce Development team has celebrated a lot of milestones. It has seen young lives transformed and empowered through opportunity and education, and nothing speaks to that more fully than Graduation! Congratulations WIOA students, the road was rough and full of barriers and but we finished strong!

-Mirjana Rodriguez,  
Education and Social Services Coordinator



COMPACT Case Managers and graduates!

*I just want to sincerely thank you for putting so much energy into making my life better. Without you and COMPACT I would not have graduated. You guys don't give upon us and that is amazing. I will forever be grateful for you and your time.*



Congrats COMPACT graduates!

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Back to School! At Escondido Education COMPACT we spend a lot of time assessing and enhancing the quality of our programs, services and outcomes. One important component of that assessment is our Case Review – it is

a look back in the life of that youth. We confidentially discuss the family, education, services provided and systems in place. Then based on the final status of the youth – we also examine if there were points of service that were missed, or

whether or not the referrals were successful, and determine what the one thing that could have been in place to make the life of this youth better!

Over and over, the one

*Continued on back page*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OPENING THE OUTDOORS	2
CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED	3
RESIDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	4
BUILDING BRIDGES	5
JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM WORKS	7
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2017	10

## MY PATH BACK TO COMPACT!

“HAVING BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF COMPACT SERVICES, I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT THESE PROGRAMS ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO THE COMMUNITY.”

As the new addition to the COMPACT staff, I am honored to be a part of an amazing organization with deep roots in the community. Although I am a new hire to the COMPACT team, I have been involved with COMPACT since I first joined Helping Hands back in 2011. Helping Hands helped me discover my passion for helping others and I soon became involved in numerous other organizations throughout high school and college.

Additionally, I was granted my first work opportunity through an internship with COMPACT as a Youth Development Specialist Intern. Not only did I gain many valuable work skills, but this internship facilitated my transition to future jobs throughout college. Finally, when I graduated in April 2017 with a bachelors in Psychology from the University of Redlands, Phi Beta Kappa, I had a full time position waiting for me with COMPACT. As the new

School and Community Outreach Coordinator, I hope to provide young students with insight about their post-secondary opportunities because as a first generation Latina student, I know how hard and impossible it may feel at times. Having been on the receiving end of COMPACT’s services, I can honestly say that these programs are extremely valuable to the community. I am excited about my career with COMPACT.

- Maribel Reyes,  
School and Community Outreach Coordinator

## OPENING THE OUTDOORS

Opening the Outdoors is a new grant recently awarded to Escondido Education COMPACT! It’s funded by the San Diego Foundation to increase mobility on the Escondido Creek Trail.

COMPACT has partnered with Circulate San Diego and Bike Walk to provide technical assistance as well as facilitate creek clean-ups and active transportation activities on the Creek, with the support of the City of Escondido. The first phase of this project will be

comprised of the Adopt-a-Creek Trail Program, which encourages neighborhood groups, faith-based communities, resident leadership groups, youth groups and other community groups to adopt sections of the creek to maintain.

**The Kick- Off event for Opening the Outdoors will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>** in partnership with Neighborhood Healthcare. The kick-off event will be a Wellness Expo and Creek Stroll, we will have community

resources and Neighborhood Healthcare doing BMI assessments in our effort to bring awareness to childhood obesity and help decrease it through education and awareness of the Escondido creek Trail as an opportunity to use it as a source of physical activity.

-Michelle Suarez

SAVE THE  
DATE

OPENING THE  
OUTDOORS

KICK-OFF EVENT  
9/23/17

## THANK YOU BEVERLY FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

COMPACT's Crossing Guard Program is about to initiate its second school year this August. We currently staff 15 schools in the Escondido Union School District. We're very fortunate to have dedicated people who care about the safety of our children. Rain or shine, our Crossing Guards are there making sure our elementary and middle school students get to school safely. It's definitely not an easy task! They deserve so much more credit than

they are given for their hard work.

Beverly Eade is one of these devoted community members who until her recent retirement, worked as a Crossing Guard at Juniper Elementary School. After 15 years of service to the children of Escondido, Beverly retired this past June. She's been an exemplary Crossing Guard and the nicest lady you will ever meet. We thank her for being part of this caring community of Crossing Guards. Beverly plans to enjoy her retirement by

crocheting and relaxing! We wish her many happy retirement days ahead!

We are in need of more dedicated Crossing Guards for our program. If you are interested in working as a Crossing Guard or know someone who is, please share the information below on how to join COMPACT's Crossing Guard Team!



*Congratulations on your retirement Beverly!*

- Selena Rogel,  
Crossing Guard Program Coordinator

# CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED!

## ESCONDIDO SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM

### PAID JOB OPPORTUNITY



**PART-TIME AND SUBSTITUTE  
POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY WHILE WORKING CLOSE TO HOME

**BECOME A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD!**

Help children safely cross busy intersections on their way to and from school. Crossing Guards control traffic flow around schools in the morning and at the end of the school day.

- There are is no formal education or experience required.
- All candidates are subject to a background investigation.
- Training will be provided.

For more information please contact Selena Rogel  
760.839.4515 — [srogel@educationcompact.org](mailto:srogel@educationcompact.org)

## RESIDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



*Exercising at the creek trail.*

Our Escondido RLA (Resident Leadership Academy) has been very active and has made some exciting enhancements. The first activity established was a monthly creek clean-ups on the creek trail section they adopted, Date to Ash St. The first Saturday of the month we will be holding creek – trail clean-ups to improve the environmental appearance of the creek and continue our work in the beautification of the creek in our community area.

We held our first exercise session on the creek on Tuesday July 18th, 2017. Our RLA group has set the example in not only being positive agents of change in their community, but also in taking charge of their health. Interested in joining us for an exercise session? Meet us at the creek on Date Street every third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm!

*- RLA Team*

THE ULTIMATE GOALS OF THE RLA PARENTS ARE TO PROMOTE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY BONDING TO DECREASE CRIME.

## RESIDENT LEADERS ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

On July 19, 2017 our RLA parents went before the Escondido City Council to present on how they have been maintaining a portion of the Escondido Creek (section between Date St. and Ash St.) and preparing themselves for making some changes along the Creek. The RLA parents left a positive impression among the Escondido City Council members for their leadership and determination in improving the City of Escondido. Among some of the changes that RLA parents want to see are: benches along the creek, plant life to provide adequate shade, resting areas, deter-

rents to graffiti, and increased usage of the Creek by community members. The ultimate goals of the RLA parents are to promote a healthy lifestyle and community bonding to decrease crime. These goals can be made possible by increasing access to healthy foods and exercise opportunities as well as connecting neighboring communities to create a sense of unity. In the coming weeks, RLA parents will go before the Escondido City Council once again with a proposal for the changes they wish to see. Pretty soon, the community will be

able to enjoy some new community amenities along the Escondido Creek!

*- RLA Team*



## INTRODUCING BUILDING BRIDGES

Many of you know the origin story of COMPACT and how key members and visionaries from our community came together to try to address instances of youth disengagement and thought to create one agency with the purpose of Creating Opportunities Making Partnerships And Connecting Teens, so that no youth would ever fall in the gap again! It's been 28 years since then and every year, every program has highlighted different barriers that are impeding our youth from achieving success. So we have grown exponentially but strategically to meet those needs, when our youth needed safety to and from school we applied for Safe Routes to School, when they needed work readiness training we applied for WIA, when they needed a second chance to prevent them from entering the juvenile justice system we applied for Diversion, when they needed health education we applied for SNAP-ED and CX3. Every program we have incorporated has been birthed from an identified need and Building Bridges is no different. In the last two years we have had 18 youth

who were enrolled in our programs experience homelessness. Naturally our case workers worked around the clock to try to identify viable solutions for our youth but unfortunately what we found was that any of the few shelters there were, were often highly impacted, in San Diego and/or only focused on former foster youth. The times our case managers were able to find local placements within mixed population shelters our youth simply would refuse to go. They had heard about the dangers of these shelters, instances of abuse at the hands of older "Adult" residents and they were fearful. Further research only validated the claims of these youth, as well as opened our eyes to the growing problem of youth homeless. *To put it in perspective the following data (refer to chart below) is presented from the San Diego Point in Time Count.*

So after a lot of late nights, we finally drafted a youth friendly host family model that meets every element of the California State Action Plan to End Homelessness – Building Bridges! And after two long years of working tirelessly to secure funding for this initiative, the City of Escondido, one of the



agencies that helped found COMPACT, saw not only the need but the potential to affect a very real pandemic in our community!

**Building Bridges will provide, academic support, work readiness training, supportive services, and financial literacy workshops to youth**

while looking primarily to the laity of our Faith Community to really be the backbone of the housing piece of this project. It's from them we plan to recruit host families who are willing to take a youth in an event of a housing crisis. If you or anyone you know would be interested in changing the course of a young life, please contact Mirjana Rodriguez at [mrodriguez@educationcompact.org](mailto:mrodriguez@educationcompact.org).

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator

2016

### UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH SUMMARY – Point-in-Time Count\*

	Under 18	18-24	Total
<b>Total Homeless Youth</b>	145	685	830



2017

### HOMELESS YOUTH SUMMARY

	Under 18	18-24	Total	% change
Sheltered	27	240	267	+4%
Unsheltered	41	842	883	+54%
<b>HUD Totals (sheltered + unsheltered)</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>+39%</b>
Unstably Housed	57	133	190	

## DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

This past quarter, the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Coalition for Drug Free Escondido took a small summer break. But, due to some recent trends with an increase in prescription drugs and youth use, our AOD (alcohol and other drugs) workgroup has continued to meet and work on strategies to reduce AOD youth access and availability in the community.

As for our Youth Leaders for Change in the DFC Program, they have not skipped a beat this summer! In partnership with youth from MHS North Inland Community Prevention Program (NICPP), the DFC youth participated in marijuana-wear and paraphernalia assessments of the Grand Avenue Festival. The DFC youth will be presenting the findings in front of the Downtown Business

Association with hopes to have the vendor policy verbiage updated to match the most current vendor policy language; which would not allow vendors any marijuana paraphernalia and/or wear to be sold at family oriented festivals/events. This will result in the reduction of norms and social acceptability of marijuana in the community.

In addition, the DFC youth participated in a DUI checkpoint by distributing educational materials on the dangers of impaired driving (alcohol, prescription drugs, and marijuana). I would like to thank Sgt. Petersen, Sgt. Garcia, Lt. Kearney and the Escondido Police Department for training our youth! (See picture below)

Last, but certainly not least, the DFC Youth

experienced a bittersweet moment as they wished two of their fellow Youth Leaders a successful transition into college; the two youth were accepted into California State University San Marcos - GO Cougars!

Elida Soria and Miriam Ortega experienced their first college summer course on campus. I am extremely proud of these two DFC youth leaders, and I know that they will continue to be leaders and inspire positive environmental change in this next chapter.

The Coalition for Drug Free Escondido is excited to see what other enhancements this next quarter will hold!

—Alicia Espinoza,  
DFC Coordinator



Coalition For  
Drug Free  
Escondido



*Sgt. Petersen and Sgt. Garcia with our DFC Youth at the DUI checkpoint!*



*Elida Soria and Miriam Ortega with their acceptance letters from Cal State San Marcos*

## JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM WORKS

One of the things that makes the Escondido Police Juvenile Diversion unique from other diversion programs is that the offender's diversion contract is put together based on their risk factors not solely on the type of crime they committed. Prior to an offender being scheduled for a diversion hearing, the staff conduct a prescreening interview with the parent/guardian. Before the hearing, staff obtains a school record and confirms with Child Welfare Services if there is an open or closed case. Now we have a pretty good picture of what is going on with the juvenile.

We understand that many times, the offense is a symptom of a much bigger issue or problem with the juvenile. If the core issues aren't addressed, then the juvenile will most likely continue to have problems in school, family or in the community.

Juliete's story explains how using these tools, can make the

intervention much more successful. She came to the diversion program because she had been arrested for petty theft. She was with a group of girls who stole make up from Walmart.

However, as we spoke to Juliete's mother and looked at her school record, we saw that she was really struggling in school. At her hearing, Juliete tearfully described how she was being bullied at school, and she didn't feel safe going to school. It had made her feel very anxious and depressed. Luckily, representatives from Juliete's school attended her hearing. Together with the MDT panel, they problem solved to put together a plan to help Juliete at school. Her grades had suffered during this timeframe and at the time of her hearing her grades had dropped from a 2.81 to a 2.14 and she was failing two classes!

Juliete worked over the next 90 days to complete her Diversion Contract. Her case manager checked on her at school and they spoke weekly on the

phone. The school worked with her on the bullying issue and helped her move some classes where she was encountering the program. She also took a decision making class and performed some community service. At the end of the 90 days, Juliete and her mother showed up at the COMPACT office all smiles! Juliete was feeling much better about school and proudly shared her report card which showed she her GPA was now a 3.14!!! Her mother was much less worried about Juliete and was very appreciative for the help she received through the program.

Juliete's story is not unusual. Hundreds of juveniles each year go through the Escondido Police Juvenile Diversion Program and work hard to get back on the right path. 85% of those successfully complete their program and only 9% re-offend. These kids prove that we are right when we remind people. "No bad kids, just bad choices!"

"WE UNDERSTAND THAT MANY TIMES, THE OFFENSE IS A SYMPTOM OF A MUCH BIGGER ISSUE OR PROBLEM WITH THE JUVENILE."

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No bad kids, just bad choices!

- Mary Anne Dijak  
Manager, Intervention and Prevention Services

## GIRLS ROCK CREATES A YOUTH LEADER

At the end of the 16-17 school year, Girls Rock had a celebration at Del Dios Academy to acknowledge the positive changes the girls in the program have made. During this celebration, the girls finished the classroom art mural that they had dedicated much time and effort to. The girls also received a certificate of completion for participating in our weekly group sessions. This year, we decided to create a very special award for a student who displayed excellent leadership during Girls Rock. We awarded the

“Group Leadership Award” to Destiny Pierce. Since the day Destiny started, I knew she would be a great addition to our group. Destiny would show up to group early and begin to set up the chairs and tables for the group without anyone asking her to do so. When anyone needed help, she was always the first to volunteer to lend a hand. Destiny is an enthusiastic, dependable and caring individual with a contagious smile. Thank you Destiny for your commitment to Girls Rock.



*Officer Robbins, Program Facilitator - Cynthia Macedo and Destiny at the celebration.*

**MENTORS  
WANTED!  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT  
MIRJANA**

## CREATIVE MINDS

At Del Dios Academy Arts & Sciences, the Girl’s Rock Program uses Ms. Riggs’ room to hold their group. She is a huge supporter of the program and of the girls. She is such a big supporter that she allowed the girls to create and paint a mural in her classroom!

The girls worked hard for over a month designing the mural and then painting it. This project really helped the girls develop a bond and gave them a creative outlet! Thank you Ms. Riggs! We think you ROCK!



*Officer Robbins and Dessuri (program participant) working on the mural.*

*- Cynthia Macedo  
Girls Rock Program Coordinator*

**COMING SOON!**

**SAVE THE DATE!  
JOB SHADOW DAY 2017  
October 19, 2017**



## FAMILY INTERVENTION TEAM BOY'S COUNCIL

When Jhovanny and Johnny were referred to the FIT Program there were concerns from their school and their single mother that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys were starting to make changes in their lives that were warning signs for gang involvement. They began attending FIT Boy's Council meetings after school. They were very quiet and refused to participate in much of the discussion. They were very passive when it came to the activities. Our FIT leaders determined that the boys really didn't trust them or even the other boys in the group. This

is one of the risk factors for gang involvement.

Ed, Jaime and Agner continued to work with the boys. They met with them one on one to talk about goals and get to know them better. They began to trust their FIT leaders. The boys were faithful in their attendance to the Boy's Council. And as time went by they opened up and started participating in activities and discussion. The curriculum uses motivational interviewing concepts which creates safety and helps participants feel they can trust and share.

Fast forward to the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Jhovanny and Johnny are now viewed as leaders of the group. They are seen helping direct their other council members and encouraging them in activities. As they move on to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they are in a great place for the transition to high school. They are still participating in the summer FIT program and will join the Boy's Council at their high school. Jhovanny and Johnny are teaching us all what it means to be men of honor.

- Mary Anne Dijak  
 Manager, Intervention and Prevention Services

"JHOVANNY AND JOHNNY ARE NOW VIEWED AS LEADERS OF THE GROUP."

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

This year's Bike to School Month has had one of the greatest turnouts for encouragement events. Orange Glen Elementary participated in a bike ride to school with over **100 staff, parents, and students participating.**

During Bike to School Month, we also held multiple Bike Rodeos and were able to train our students in bicycle safety. In partnership with Palomar Health's Trauma Unit, we provided an assembly for Mission Middle School students to learn about the importance of

wearing a helmet, especially trying to reach out to our skateboarders. The increased number of participants who attended our events, attests to the impact that Safe Routes has in our community and the awareness that it is building around safety for students and their families on their journey to and from school.

Our next events will be **October 4, 2017 for Walk to School Day!**

- Michelle Suarez



Orange Glen Elementary bike ride participants!

## Escondido Education

# COMPACT

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EDUCATIONCOMPACT.ORG

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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.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2017

National Night Out was a success! The event took place on August 1, 2017 at Grape Day Park. There was activities for people of all ages ranging from relay races hosted by Escondido Recreation, a hot dog eating contest, hula dancing by Halau Hula O Ka'eo, a K-9 demonstration by the Escondido Police Department, and even an opportunity to meet a police captain. The highlight of the evening was the dance-off between our local police officers and children, the children came out on top as the winners of the night! We ended the night with an opportunity drawing which was

made possible by many generous community partners. We would like to help all the community partners who either donated items or their time to this event, it would not have been possible without you all!



*Escondido Police Officers and youth having a dance-off!*

*- Maribel Reyes,  
School and Community Outreach Coordinator*

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — CONTINUED

identified enhancement for all the youth that are successfully exiting our program is their TRANSITION.

We always provide the exiting youth with a referral to a program and/or service to help them continue to be successful, further their education and work toward self-sufficiency. Unfortunately we have found that many youth continue to struggle with the navigation of these systems and could clearly benefit from continued support. Mentoring is a proven effective,

evidence based model that can bolster the number of positive outcomes and behaviors a young person takes on and produces. We believe that this is the missing link- that after youth are trained and connected to services they need to remain connected to a support system, to a person- maybe that person is YOU, a culturally sensitive strong role model that can walk beside the youth and offer them support and encouragement!

It's because of this, that COMPACT has

committed to bring back our mentoring program, PROJECT HERO. Mirjana Rodriguez, our Education & Human Services Coordinator is heading up this Initiative – we are looking to our faith-based partners to help us fill this need. She is giving presentations to local churches in Escondido and San Marcos to recruit men and women to become mentors.

Through our long established partnership with Jerry Sherk of Mentor Management Services, he is able

through a grant with OJJDP to offer professional mentor training to us and our Project Hero mentors at no cost to the mentors or to COMPACT. We are in the process of scheduling that training!

If you or someone you know OR your church is interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Mirjana at (760) 839-4515 for more information on PROJECT HERO!!!!

*Peace, Patty Huerta*