



SUMMER ISSUE

JULY — SEPTEMBER 2018
VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

MISSION STATEMENT — COMPACT is a unique and innovative organization designed to create and implement high quality programs and services for individuals to reach their fullest potential.

JOB SHADOW DAY 2018 COMING SOON!

SAVE THE DATE!

LOVE YOUR JOB? SHARE IT WITH A STUDENT!

Every year, local businesses allow high school students to shadow them, connecting them to the workplace and providing a "real world" perspective

ESCONDIDO'S ANNUAL

JOB SHADOW DAY

**Thursday October 25th
8 am - 1 pm**

Your participation brings classroom education to life!

THIS EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

If you would like to host students to shadow you for a day, please download the form here:

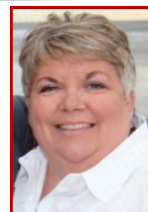
www.educationcompact.org

For more info contact:
Escondido Education COMPACT
Yesenia Martinez
School & Community
Outreach Coordinator
P: (760) 839-4515

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—PATRICIA HUERTA

COMPACT is proud to announce that Project Hero; COMPACT's Mentoring Program has been funded by the

County of San Diego, Community Action Partnership for this year and the potential for 4 more years of funding.



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OUR SUPER STARS!

COACHES AND MENTORS

The youth participants in the STOP program are fortunate to have two coaches who truly care about their well-being. These dedicated coaches have been essential to the success of the STOP program. I would like to highlight these role models and mentors.

First, is retired EPD lieutenant Allen Owens. Coach Owens heads up Escondido P.A.L. (Police Athletic League) and was the driving force behind getting the P.A.L. Self-Defense & Leadership class started. He is extremely dedicated and has been an advocate for youth in Escondido for several years. With our boxing students he emphasizes the three P's. Promptness, Preparation, & Performance. He works

closely with our youth making sure they are living healthy lives in accordance with the three P's. We are truly lucky to have partnered with Mr. Owens.

Next we have coach Richard Hernandez. He loves working with youth in our community. Not only does he volunteer his time on Mondays with boxing. He coaches his son's team and daughter's team at Mission Middle School during the week! Coach Hernandez stays very busy but always makes sure to come ready to teach on Mondays. Every week he instills his value of commitment to the kids and they are very receptive. We could not have asked for a better mentor for our students.

THANKS
FOR
BEING AWESOME

Together the three of us try to be the best leaders we can be along with being active resources our kids can come to if they are facing any hardships. We look forward to expanding the program and reaching new students.

— *Carlos Sanchez,*
Youth Alcohol Prevention Specialist



Lt. Al Owens, Coach Richard Hernandez and COMPACT Staff, Carlos.

SUPER STAR CROSSING GUARD!

COMPACT's Crossing Guard Team is made up of caring individuals who help students cross safely during the busiest times around Escondido schools. Dennis Levine is one of these individuals who makes sure students get to school and back home safely every day.

Dennis joined our team of crossing guards in August of 2017 and has not missed one single day, ever since he put on his uniform. He started his position at Farr Elementary School and was right at home from day one. He stepped into his role with confidence, but overall it was clear that he has a soft spot in his heart for children. Dennis was once a father himself but sadly, lost his two children years ago. As he shared with his supervisor, being around kids makes him happy.

He has his own painting business but he graciously makes the time to also be a crossing guard. At times, he's even rearranged his painting

jobs in order to be at his location.

When we needed someone to take over the very challenging location at Del Dios Academy of Arts and Sciences, he stepped right up and volunteered to take on this location. The crosswalk at this school is located at the very busy intersection on 9th Avenue. Dennis was aware of how challenging the intersection would be and that his job would be changing from interacting with young children to middle schoolers, a very different crowd! Dennis excelled at his new location! He gained the student's trust with his caring personality and friendly smile. Most importantly, he earned their respect. Last school year, an impatient driver became angry with Dennis for stopping him and started yelling at him and acting in an aggressive manner. When a group of students realized this was happening, they joined

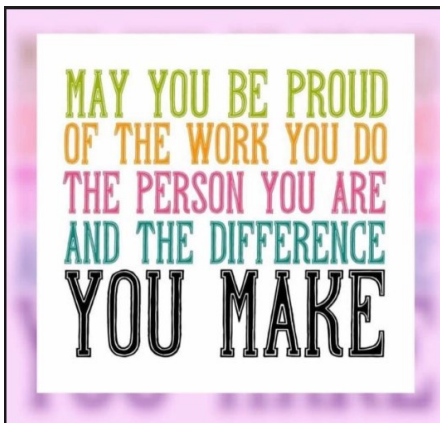
together and came to Dennis' defense. They stood up to this angry driver and backed up Dennis, the angry driver got back in his car and drove away. It's clear that Dennis has earned the respect of these students because they cared enough to protect him.

We want to recognize Dennis Levine as an outstanding crossing guard. We're very proud to have him on our team and thank him for protecting our youth every single day!

- Selena Rogel,
Crossing Guard Program Coordinator



Dennis at the Del Dios crosswalk with Amalia who takes care of the second crosswalk on 9th Ave.



SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?

Every year, COMPACT joins forces with the Escondido Police Department to bring the community together for a fun night in the park! The community was in for a wonderful surprise when EPD officers joined in on a friendly dance off against local children for a second year in a row at National Night Out!

While the children completely stole the show, Sergeant Banks, Sergeant Leso, and EPD Cadets blew us all away with their fun dance skills! We are proud to have role models in our police department willing to go the extra mile to put a smile on our youth's faces!

*- Maribel Reyes,
Community Outreach*



Sergeant Leso and Sergeant Banks along with police cadets challenged youth to a dance-off!!

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

HELPING HANDS 2018 BEGINS

Helping Hands, COMPACT's volunteer service club for high school youth initiated the 2018 service year with their annual Kick-off to recruit and connect youth to service opportunities in their community. Youth from different high schools in Escondido had the opportunity to meet new peers and have fun. The club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month (see details below).

This year, an extension of the service club is being held on site at Orange Glen High School every Monday (after early-release) in Room 342. Join Helping Hands today!

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



HELPING HANDS SERVICE CLUB

Meetings are every 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month

First United Methodist Church
Room 23

341 S. Kalmia Street

5:00-6:00 pm



YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

This summer has been a very busy one for the Coalition for Drug Free Escondido and it's Drug Free Youth Leaders for Change! We had a very successful Neighborhood Transformation Project (NTP) kick off. The current geographic area (footprint) of the NTP's focus is the "City Square"; centered on the Grape Day Park area. The specific boundary is Grand to Mission, between Broadway and Center City. The City Square is primarily filled with businesses and our youth and volunteers went out and assessed upwards of 90 business; with a total of 76 surveys completed! This is an effort to assist in

identifying needed environmental changes and educational opportunities, which will lead to not only making the area safer, but more attractive for residents that live and visit this area of Escondido. A huge shout out to our Youth Leaders and volunteers for making this happen!

After reviewing the surveys data, some of the common themes that were reported by businesses are; homelessness, persons struggling with mental health, drug use and/or paraphernalia near businesses, gang activity and a lot of tagging. Many businesses felt that there was a very successful effort in cleaning up Grape Day Park and

removing homeless persons from that area, but that this actually pushed the homeless persons outward and onto the businesses. Many feel that there needs to be a solution because the homeless are disruptive and disturb or scare customers, and they urinate near the businesses. The majority of the businesses were very receptive to participate and concerned about potential solutions to help improve the problems in and around their place of business.

- Alicia Espinoza
DFC Coordinator



Coalition For Drug Free Escondido



DFC Youth leaders and volunteers took part in surveying businesses in the City Square area of Escondido

FEEDBACK FROM SURVEYS COMPLETED:

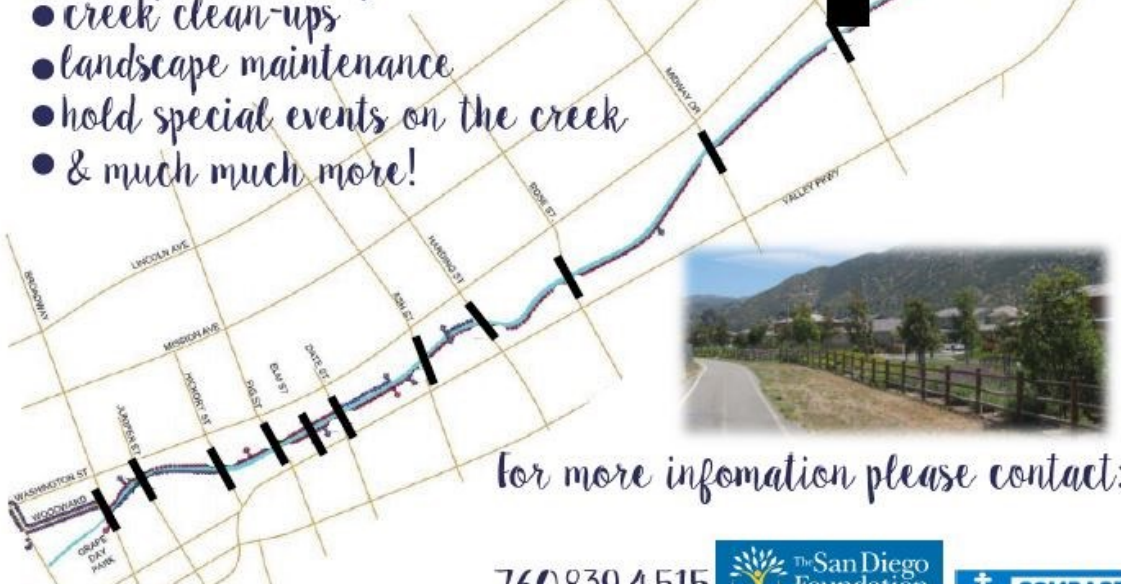
- ⇒ 42% of businesses feel safe during daylight
- ⇒ 47% of businesses do not feel safe after dark
- ⇒ 20% of businesses had to call the police at least 3-5 times to report a problem

Escondido Adopt-A-Creek Trail Program



Adopt a section of the creek trail to improve through:

- creek clean-ups
- landscape maintenance
- hold special events on the creek
- & much much more!



For more information please contact:

760.839.4515



A program facilitated by Escondido Education COMPACT

OPENING THE OUTDOORS

Creek Clean-ups continue with the efforts of bringing awareness to the Creek path. Please make sure to check our Calendar on our website for the upcoming clean-ups!

www.educationcompact.org

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

SUCCESS STORY FOR A TROUBLED YOUTH

Escondido, like most cities in the country, is experiencing an explosion of young people using marijuana. The Escondido Police Juvenile Diversion Program has seen a **104%** increase in youth diverted for marijuana use since last school year! Most juveniles are using marijuana in the most potent and addictive form – in an e-cigarette or vape pen. The liquid concentrated marijuana and or wax form of marijuana can have up to 98% THC, which is the most addictive chemical in the marijuana plant and what creates the “high” for those who use it. Not only is marijuana use amongst youth causing them to become involved in the Juvenile Justice System, but more than 67% are also at risk of not graduating from high school.

In June, Mike (name changed to protect his identity), age 17, was arrested for being in possession of marijuana at school. By the time he entered the diversion program, he was a regular user of marijuana, was credit deficient, and appeared to be depressed. Since marijuana is a depressive, many people who use it can become

depressed or unmotivated. At Mike’s hearing, he stated he was ready to make a change, and he wanted to graduate so he could start a career and possibly go into the military. He was transferred to a continuation school, to help him regain his credits.

Mike was sentenced to therapy, SAFIR (a drug and alcohol class offered by Vista Hill) community service and drug testing. He was also case managed by Daniel Torres, COMPACT’s Diversion Case Manager. The interventions were targeted specifically to address Mike’s risk factors and get to the root causes of Mike’s drug use. Mike spoke about becoming more and more stressed as he fell behind in school, which caused him to use more and more marijuana. He was trapped in a downward spiral.

Fast forward to September, as Mike finished his diversion contract. He spent 3 months in therapy working through some of the feelings and thoughts that were causing him to feel shame and

hopelessness. He and his family learned about marijuana and he came to the decision to not use because it was getting in the way of his dreams. He completed his community service at his church, where he felt connected and was reminded that people believe in him. Mike followed through on each of his requirements, and successfully completed his contract! More importantly, he is sober and is completing all requirements for his high school diploma next week!!! Daniel will continue to advise Mike on his future plans, whether it be the world of work, higher education or the military. Mike once again believes in himself and his dreams.

You can help other youth in our community just like Mike. You can volunteer as a compliance monitor in our Youth Court program, or you can make a donation to support the Diversion Program. You can also help by educating others about marijuana and its dangers to young people. If you know a youth who is struggling with marijuana addiction have them contact COMPACT.



- Mary Anne Dijak, Manager
Intervention and Prevention Services

GIRLS ROCK TO BEGIN AT HIGH SCHOOLS

Girls Rock has some exciting news!!! We are expanding our program to include high school sites and additional middle school sites. This program year, Girls Rock will be held for 10 weeks at a time at the following

schools; Mission Middle School, Bear Valley Middle School, Hidden Valley Middle School, Rincon Middle School, Orange Glen High School, Valley High School and Escondido High School. We look

forward to continuing to empower and support our girls!

- *Cynthia Macedo*
Girls Diversion Case Manager

JOIN CONSERVATION FELLOWS

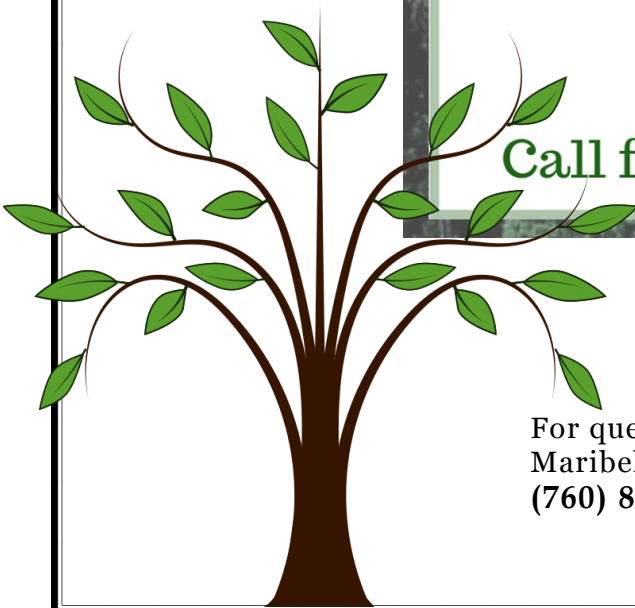


Make a difference in your community while learning valuable career skills! Open to 8th grade and high school students in Escondido interested in STEM!

- Gain community service!
- Access to a mentor in STEM!
- Participate in field work!
- Explore various career in STEM

Call for an application today!

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



BUILDING BRIDGES HOUSING NETWORK FUNDED AND EXPANDED

Two years ago it was but a dream of ours to be able to provide any kind of housing support and wraparound services to youth experiencing homelessness. Now, at the end of our first funded pilot program we have received news that we are funded for another year of service by the City of Escondido CDBG, but this time we can serve 15-24 year olds! We also received news that the Center for Arab American Philanthropy has also awarded us some funds to help offset the cost of

supportive services like bus passes, GED/HiSET fees, Identification fees, clothes, food vouchers, etc..

To refer a youth to our program please use our referral form or contact: Mirjana Rodriguez mrodriguez@educationcompact.org or visit our webpage: <https://www.educationcompact.org/building-bridges>

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PILOT CONTINUES

Our Valley High School Workforce Development Pilot Program has been funded for another year by the Escondido After 5 Rotary. So we are able to provide wraparound services including work readiness training and academic support through individualized tutoring to youth at high risk of dropping/stopping out of Valley High School.

To refer a youth to our program please use our referral form or contact: Mirjana Rodriguez mrodriguez@educationcompact.org

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — CONTINUED

Since our inception in 1989, COMPACT has been sustaining Project Hero in one capacity or another.

Project Hero is a one-to-one mentoring program that contains organized group mentoring components for youth and young adults age 12-24. The target population is youth who possess risk factors for becoming involved with

gangs and/or the criminal justice system or are already involved or affiliated with gangs in Escondido. We will be serving 30 youth/young adults per year in this program; who are referred from a current program, but still need support as well as youth transitioning out of the EPD Juvenile Diversion and direct school referrals.

Our mentors are a caring

and diverse group of individuals; from teachers/professors, to faith-based partners, to people that have had the same real-life experience as our youth and have turned their lives around. All the mentors go through a background or vetting process with Escondido Police Department.

Peace, Patty Huerta

The Project Hero Mentoring Program has some unique features:

- A monthly dinner for mentees and their families by mentors
- Quarterly orientations for mentees and their families for onboarding and recruitment
- Monthly trainings and support meetings for mentors, including:
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - Mental Health 1st Aide
- Group field trips and outings, like:
 - Museum of Tolerance
 - College is for Me annual event and College Tours
 - Homeboy Inc.
- Incentives to mentees for participation
- Stipend for mentors that have successfully completed their year long mentoring relationship



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educationcompact.org



**For more information about Project Hero,
please call COMPACT 760-839-4515**