



Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

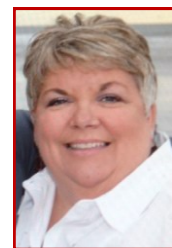
At COMPACT we get asked every day, **“Are you involved in or with . . . “** Back in 2007, Education COMPACT realized that in order to best support the youth of North San Diego, we needed to ensure that the youth were healthy and safe. The COMPACT Board approved this expanded vision and supported my efforts to identify funding and build partnerships to do just that. Our many years of experience in working with youth and their families positioned us to make this a seamless transition into providing this new focus-area services and support.

This has been demonstrated through our partnership with the Escondido Police Department to offer Juvenile Diversion Services, Escondido Union School District thru the CARE Youth Project to provide case management services, previous partnership with Vista Community Clinic to offer HIV/AIDS health education and most recently the County of San Diego, as part of

the *“Live Well San Diego”* Initiative; as the North Inland, San Diego County CX3 provider. The CX3 Project – Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention, is a program planning framework that includes taking an in-depth look at communities to identify areas in need of improvement. Then in 2013 as a subcontractor to Interfaith Community Services, Family Self-Sufficiency Contract with the County of San Diego, HHSA; became the SNAP Ed Provider. The program provides Health Education thru workshops, food demonstrations and community events for North Inland San Diego County. The establishment of the Coalition for Drug-Free Escondido (formerly Palomar Health Community Coalition), thru federal Drug-Free Communities grants to establish and strengthen community collaboration in support of local efforts to prevent youth substance use and to create an environment that makes it easier for people to act in healthy ways. In collaboration with EUSD

and City of Escondido (EPD Traffic & Engineering Dept’s) Safe Routes to School and Bike/Walk to create a safer and healthier community through establishing partnerships that emphasize the accessibility of complete streets that are safer, more livable and welcoming to everyone; especially for youth to and from school. This focus has expanded into the EUSD Crossing Guard Program and the continued coordination of Walk to School and Bike to School Events as well as education and safety events and trainings.

Most recently, Escondido Education COMPACT has expanded the Youth and Community Development component, by focusing on projects and/or services to improve the community through the tools and strategies of education, advocacy and training. We have embraced the County of SD, Resident Leadership Training; and have completed 3 RLA’s. We recently were funded as a subcontract to Interfaith



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# SCHOOL SERVICES

## CAREER DAYS

Careers days have been a success! Career days at Del Dios Middle School have been underway and their last session is in April. Hidden Valley and Rincon Middle Schools had their career days in February with great success. Students at participating middle schools had the opportunity to hear from a variety of careers such as: animal services, arts, engineering, social services and public safety to name a few.

COMPACT remains grateful to all speakers who devoted their time to talk to our students about their careers. We

had many recurring speakers and a handful of new volunteers! It is amazing to meet so many community members who are passionate about giving back to the community! One of our new speakers this year include local Escondido resident and author, Neal Griffin, who shared his passion for reading and writing with our students.

Additionally, we had engineers from J.R. Filanc Construction Company, Inc. attend different career days to talk about the endless possibilities in the engineering industry. Students were exposed

to many new and different careers throughout the 2017-2018 career days and we are proud to be able to provide this program to our youth!

*- Maribel Reyes,  
School and Community  
Outreach Coordinator*



*Engineer, Omar Rodea from J.R. Filanc Construction Company at Del Dios Academy of Arts and Sciences*



*Local author Neil Griffin, speaks to students at Rincon Middle School*

## SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Safety continues to be our top priority with our Crossing Guard program. In the past month, Sergeant Leso and Officer Songer from the Escondido Police Department provided hands-on practical training for our Crossing Guards.

The training was helpful

in identifying safety procedures that can be implemented at all of the school locations. COMPACT is responsible for staffing 15 schools in the district with Crossing Guards.

Although, we are currently fully staffed and have reliable

alternates we're still in need for more alternates who can step in when coverage is needed.

Contact (760) 839-4515 if you're interested in being a substitute Crossing Guard. This is a paid, part-time position.



- Selena Rogel,  
Crossing Guard Program Coordinator

## YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

COMPACT continues to work with the school district to address the infrastructure improvements. **Bike to School Day is May 9<sup>th</sup>**, we are starting to build momentum for the month of May. We will be collaborating with the schools to provide bike safety activities and information for students and families.

### OPENING THE OUTDOORS

We continue our recruitment efforts to have sections of the creek be adopted. We are also currently working with the City of Escondido to firm up their commitment to our project. Bike Walk Escondido meets every last Monday of the month to discuss any topics revolving around pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as City projects that relate/ address such topics.

- Carolina Plancarte,  
Youth Development Specialist



*First United Methodist Church members on their adopted portion of the Creek*

# YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

## YOUTH LEADERS FOR CHANGE

The youth have been meeting to identify the projects, events, and activities that they will be working on for the remainder of the year. Currently, their main focus is to increase membership in all the groups. During Spring Break, the youth will do

a specific recruitment, by holding a Skills Seminar for middle school youth.

The Skills seminar will be geared towards 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They will be taught presentation skills, time management, job skills, money management etc.

Not only will this seminar help those youth acquire more skills, but we will also be able to get them involved in the community by introducing them to Youth Leaders for Change as a leadership development opportunity.



## HELPING HANDS

In November Helping Hands partnered with Girls Rock for our Share the Warmth Drive, in which they collected total of 153 items that were donated to the Salvation Army. Helping Hands continue to have 3 activities a month, as

well, as their efforts on the Escondido Creek. The youth are starting to plan their annual Sr. Senior Prom, which will take place Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>, this year's theme will be "Starry Night".

*- Carolina Plancarte,  
Youth Development Specialist*



*Helping Hands Officers and members.*

**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 adopted section of the Escondido Creek. They have Creek Clean-ups every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. The Resident Leaders have not only picked up trash but have also pulled weeds and dead brush, in order to help maintain it clean.

- RLA Team



*Resident Leaders cleaning-up their adopted part of the Creek. (Before)*



*(After)*

## DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

Our youth and DFC team has been very busy with our prevention efforts this fall. We started our series of educational presentations covering alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs, and vaping, understanding the warning signs and hiding places for ATOD, and communicating with your youth. Our Community Organizer, Youth Alcohol Prevention Specialist, and Youth Advocates presented at all of the high schools, two of our middle schools, and one of the elementary schools.

Each time opening it up to families from neighboring schools. In addition to this, City Council proclaimed December to be Drugged Driving Awareness month. With this in mind, our youth participated in a Drugged Driving Awareness Rally in partnership with MHS on December 29th, 2017.

In early February our Community Organizer and Youth Alcohol Prevention Specialist attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum in

Washington D.C. The forum consisted of breakout training sessions, a Capitol Hill Day, and a graduation ceremony.

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**Coalition For  
Drug Free  
Escondido**

## DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES—CONTINUED

Our Coalition received a Certificate of Completion plaque for completing the three-week National Coalition Institute. We were thankful to have been able to send two of our staff and bring back valuable information to help our Coalition grow.

Last, but certainly not least, two of our Drug Free Youth Advocates (Arturo Velasco and Carolina Flores) addressed our City Council on February 14<sup>th</sup> to update our current Social Host Ordinance to include Cannabis. Following the

City Council meeting there were two news stories (KUSI and Telemundo) that highlighted our efforts and recognized the City of Escondido for having one of the toughest bans on marijuana, and efforts to reduce access and availability of marijuana for our youth. We are thankful for the support from our Chief with Escondido Police Department and City Council for pushing this through. We are eager to see what other accomplishments arise from our partnerships in this coming year!



*DFC Staff Yesenia Martinez and Carlos Sanchez at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Conference*

*Alicia Espinoza,  
DFC Coordinator*

## STOP - SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING

Since the last report I have familiarized myself with STOP on a much deeper level. I am now able to communicate STOP's goals and action plan to others. I have presented to the coalition to inform them on the strategic action plan. They are now fully informed and they are now able to help with the effort because it will take the full force of the coalition to ensure STOP is successful.

Not only is the coalition aware of STOP but the community is also beginning to become

informed about the program.

DFC Staff and I along with the DFC youth, presented to parents at seven Escondido schools about what parents need to know surrounding youth substance use. I presented about alcohol and the social host ordinance in English and Spanish. I also introduced them to STOP and what we plan on accomplishing. The parents received it well and are excited to see it in action. I am currently in talks with different programs from

around the country that could provide the playbooks, educational tools, and assessments we need for STOP. Once that develops I will bring it to the schools to create that partnership.

Lastly, I attended CADCA's national leadership forum in Washington D.C. and learned so many new and useful ideas to improve our coalition.

*—Carlos Sanchez,  
Youth Alcohol Prevention Specialist*

# YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

## DIVERSION PROGRAM—DRUG COURT

We are happy to report that over the past couple of months, we experienced a surplus of new juvenile diversion cases referred to us by EPD. In fact, we cannot remember a time when it has been this busy; but, nonetheless, we are excited to help each and every student referred to the Diversion Program because we understand that students often commit offenses when they have larger issues occurring behind the scenes; and going through the Diversion program allows us to work with EUSD, EUHSD, and other community organizations to provide intervention and prevention services to juveniles and their families.

While experiencing this influx of new cases, we have noticed that the majority of them are for marijuana charges;

more specifically, possession of marijuana on school grounds. And even more appalling is the fact that a majority of these cases involve students who were in possession of THC vape pens on campus, not the traditional leaf marijuana. This trend concerns us because the levels of THC contained in vape pens are highly concentrated; posing an even greater risk to brain development, psychosis, and dependency.

In an attempt to provide intervention services to juveniles who have received drug charges, we have implemented two Drug Court hearings at EPD, within the month of March. Drug Court hearings follow a similar proceeding to that of our Diversion Hearings (which are typically scheduled in the summer), but they

also include a presentation on the effects of marijuana on students. At these Drug Court proceedings, we also provide parents with informational packets they can take home to further learn of the negative impacts marijuana can have on individuals, especially adolescents. Our goal in leading these presentations at the start of each Drug Court, as well as providing parents with additional information, is to educate the public on the impacts marijuana is having on our students and the community. So far, we have received positive feedback from parents regarding the Drug Court process and we are determined to continue scheduling Drug Court hearing for juveniles with drug offenses.

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

## GUIDING GOOD CHOICES

COMPACT is currently facilitating Guiding Good Choices parenting classes in Spanish at Valley High School. As expected, this is an amazing cohort. The parents are very engaged and have great participation. Learning new skills and implementing them at

home is not an easy task, but the parents are working hard and incorporating what they are learning into their family structures. During our third session, the parents invited their children to come along with them to learn refusal techniques. The technique from this curriculum is

unique in that it is centered on staying out of trouble while conserving your friendships. Both children and parents had the opportunity to practice the technique and are encouraged to continue practicing at home.

*- Cynthia Macedo, Girls Diversion Case Manager*

## GIRLS ROCK

Girls Rock continues group sessions at Rincon Middle School and Del Dios Academy of Arts and Sciences. We started January off strong with a focus on mental health, coping skills and stress management. These sessions increased the girls' understanding of why mental health is important for their overall wellness. For the month of February, we moved into drug and alcohol education. Drug Free Communities did a presentation for both groups on alcohol, marijuana, vaping and pills. The presentation

was impactful for the girls because they had the opportunity to learn the facts and practice refusal skills. As we continued to discuss drugs and alcohol, the girls learned about the impact that various substances can have on their brain, body and future! With that, we examined their own academic goals and how drugs and alcohol could affect those goals. We then took a field trip to California State University San Marcos for their annual College Is For Me event. The goal of the field trip was

to help the girls envision their goals and know that they are capable to achieve them!

- Cynthia Macedo  
Girls Diversion Case Manager



Field trip to CSUSM

## BUILDING BRIDGES— HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAM

Since its inception Building Bridges has received 9 referrals and provided all of them with case management services and supportive services. We have helped a young man in his 20's find employment, safe housing and he is now renting his own room.



We have helped a family transition from living in their car to living with a relative. We have also helped several young students offset some of their costs of living by providing them with basic necessities from our donors.

However, 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](mailto:mrodriguez@educationcompact.org).

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education and Human Services Coordinator



## CHANGES TO TATTOO REMOVAL PROGRAM

Now that the funding from CalGRIP has finished, we are able to expand the parameters for the program. Most of the people who were applying for the program were over the age of 30. However, we could not accept them because of the age limit established in the funding that helped us get the program off the ground. The program, now finishing its first year, has come together and we have our first participants almost ready to graduate from the program (**yes it is a loooonnnnggg process!** ). Currently 9 participants are receiving the laser removal treatments once a month, and case management services

from COMPACT.

Beginning this month, EGRIP has voted to eliminate the age requirement for the program. Priority will be given to participants ages 18-35, but you will not be automatically denied based on your age any longer.

**Participants still must live in North San Diego County,** and have a at least 6 months of no contact with the police and no arrests or probation/parole violations. If the participant doesn't meet that criteria, we will work with them for 6 months to meet certain benchmarks that are agreed upon by COMPACT and EPD. If they meet those

benchmarks, then they will be admitted into the program.

Our goal is to not turn anyone away, but work with them to be successful and avoid negative contact with law enforcement. Escondido Police are partnering with us on the admission process. We are excited about getting more people enrolled and started on removing the tattoos. We are also grateful to Neighborhood Healthcare who continue to be our faithful partner and do a wonderful job providing the laser removal services.

If you know someone who can benefit from this program, have them contact COMPACT.

- Mary Anne Dijk, Manager  
Intervention and Prevention Services

## PROJECT HERO

And they're off! You might remember that last summer COMPACT took on the initiative of restructuring our Mentoring Program, *Project Hero*. Since then we have worked tirelessly to redesign our program incorporating Mentoring's Best Practices with our experience and understanding of our community. Since then we have trained 45

potential mentors, made 15 matches and will be matching more on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month. and the impact on these young lives was almost instantaneous! A recent fifteen year old youth referred through the diversion program for substance abuse, low school attendance, and continued police involvement was recently paired with a credible messenger, meaning a

former justice involved mentor who helped encourage her and hold her accountable. She has since enrolled back in school, made up 15 of her credits, recently attended the College Is For Me event and currently working on getting seasonal employment to help pay for her court fees – and she has only been with her mentor for 2 months!

- Mirjana Rodriguez, Education  
and Human Services Coordinator

mentor

ADVISER | FRIEND | TUTOR | TEACHER | COACH | GUIDE

CHANGE THE ODDS. BE A MENTOR.

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C O M P A C T 

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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.

## WHAT IS A CONSERVATION FELLOW?

Conservation Fellows are high school students who will learn and work with professionals involved in creating a design to restore the concrete Escondido Flood Control Channel that runs through Grape Day Park into a more natural stream. We're recruiting high school students for a two year fellowship program designed to connect students with a variety of STEM professionals and work on a restoration project of the Escondido Creek Flood Channel. Some of the professionals' students will be able to work with come from backgrounds such as: engineering, wildlife biology, economics, computer modeling, and public outreach. **There are limited spots available and anyone interested should contact via email Maribel Reyes at [mreyes@educationcompact.org](mailto:mreyes@educationcompact.org) or at (760) 839-4515.**



### CONTACT:

Maribel Reyes, School and  
Community Outreach  
Coordinator

For additional information or  
an application.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — CONTINUED

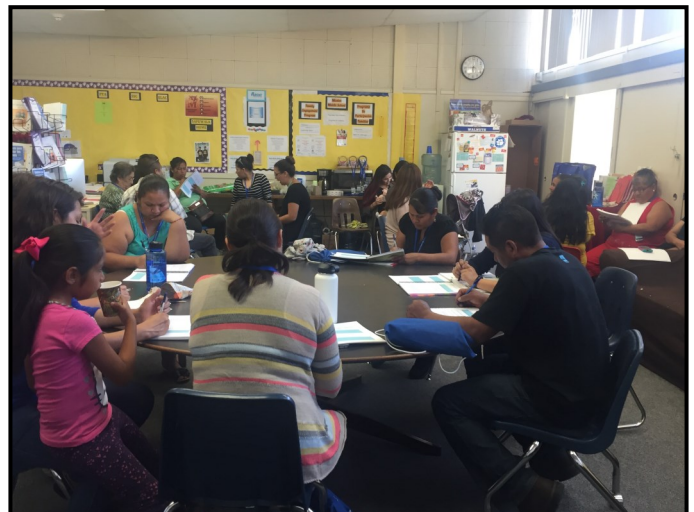
Community Services to facilitate a new Resident Leadership Academy on the Eastside of Escondido. We are working with Community Housing Works to hold the training at their Manzanita Complex.

Through our funding from the San Diego Charitable Foundation, Escondido Charitable Foundation, City of Escondido, ATP and Creek Conservancy; we have a large emphasis of work on The Escondido Creek Trail. We have weekly clean-ups and are finalizing our Adopt-A-Portion of

the Creek and the recruitment of high school age youth to become Conservation Fellows.

If you or your organization is interested in partnering with us on any of our Youth and Community Development components, please contact us! COMPACT is the facilitator to all these great opportunities to improve the health, safety and well-being of Escondido — **WE NEED YOU!**

*Peace, Patty Huerta*



*Community members participate in the Resident Leadership Academy training at Mission Middle School*