



Escondido Education COMPACT

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REPORT

Volume 11, Issue 3
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Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

SPRING ISSUE



From the Executive Director

This year Escondido Education COMPACT's Youth Development components are going through a transition with the ultimate mission that "Every youth has the potential to be a leader". By viewing youth leadership development programs from a **workforce preparation lens**, they can be transformed into high quality **work-based learning experiences**. **Service-learning** and volunteering uses communities to help youth develop and apply critical skills that are important in the workplace and in life in general.

Volunteering helps
increase
employability

A youth development and strength-based approach forms the backbone of our program design. Youth are involved in the planning, coordination, implementation and evaluation stages of the COMPACT Youth Development Programs; this creates a strong "team" philosophy. COMPACT Youth Development Programs have a diverse group of youth participating who are at a range of social and academic levels. This diversity forces participants to get to know students from other peer groups, schools, neighborhoods and ethnic groups.

We are kicking off our new Youth Development Academy, called COMPACT's **Youth Leaders for Change (YLFC)**, which supports Escondido youth ages 13-18 and provides a safe environment while also offering workforce development, community service/service learning and youth leadership opportunities. YLFC will help unify the community when these Youth Leaders organize to create positive change by collaborating with the police, schools, nonprofit agencies and governmental agencies. The Academy's vision is **Positive Experiences + Positive Relationships + Positive Environments = Positive Youth Development.**

The many leadership opportunities that are offered by the YLFC Academy are geared to both identify and teach leadership skills to youth that have not previously had experience in leadership roles. We are committed to providing many youth development opportunities, to give youth a voice that can lead to **policy recommendations** and actual change in their communities.

The youth will be able to choose their involvement level from participating with Helping Hands Teens Service Club or on-going participation in our Youth Court Program to intensive youth leadership participation in Drug-Free Communities, Bike/Walk Escondido, and Neighborhood/Community Leadership. The YLFC will maintain a master calendar that will include all the dates for meeting, activities, events as well as monthly training options. These trainings will focus on enhancing youth workforce development and personal skills; such as work ready training, resume writing, job search, interviewing as well as financial literacy, and computer literacy. Additional subject trainings will include focuses on art, music, physical and emotional health. We will also offer cultural and social events that encourage youth to become more in touch with a range of cultural experiences other than their own.

We are excited about this transition of our Youth Development components – watch for more news and information – coming soon!

Peace, Patricia Huerta

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Helping Hands is a teen service club for high school youth that provides service learning opportunities. The Club encourages service learning through addressing civic and social needs, and developing relationships and leadership skills among youth.

It's that time of the year! The Helping Hands youth are planning their biggest event of the year, Sr. Senior Prom!

This is an intergenerational dance event organized by the Helping Hands youth to engage and interact with senior citizens in our community. They prepare everything from the decorations, the corsages and boutonnieres to a special performance for the day of the dance. This year the theme for Sr. Senior Prom will be "Masquerade Ball" and will take place on May 6th, from 7:00-9:00pm at the Park Avenue Community center.

Put on your dancing shoes and join us!

*You are cordially invited to
Helping Hands*

6th annual Sr. Senior Prom

Masquerade Ball

Saturday May 6, 2017

7:00-9:00pm

Park Avenue Community Center

210 Park Avenue, Escondido

For more information

760-839-4688

*Enjoy an enchanted evening with:
Live Entertainment by: Hot Pursuit*

Photo Booth

Corsages & Boutonnieres

Crowning of King & Queen

*Special Performance by the Helping
Hands youth*

**Don't Forget to Dress to Impress **



Escondido
SENIOR CENTER



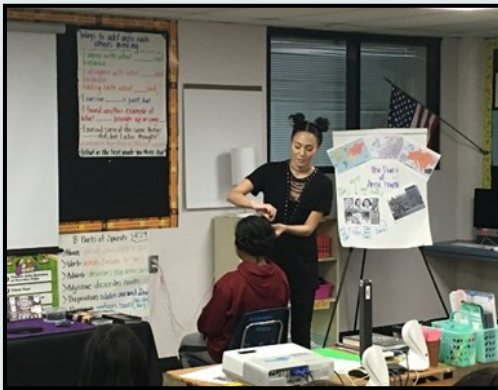
UNIVERSAL SERVICES

Career Days

Career Days have been a great success so far! Hidden Valley and Rincon have both had their Career Days and the Career Day Series at Del Dios Academy of Arts & Science has been underway. We have been fortunate enough to have professionals within the community consistently volunteer to speak to students in the middle schools about their careers. It is a delight to see students get excited about different careers! Bear Valley Middle School has their Career Day scheduled for the beginning of April and Mission Middle School is scheduled for the beginning of May!



Rincon Middle School student holds a monitor lizard during a presentation by EcoVivarium



Bellus Academy hair stylist does a demonstration at Rincon Middle School Career Day!

Work Readiness and Workshops

COMPACT provided an ONET Workshop and Work Readiness Training with job search to Valley High School students at the end of January and beginning of February. 15 students completed the ONET Workshop and 4 completed the Work Readiness training. At the end of March, we will be holding a Resume Workshop at Escondido High School. We also helped provide a few speakers for the Escondido Union High School Districts Step Out event.

COLLEGE IS FOR ME!

College Is For Me took place on Saturday, February 25 at CSUSM. There were over 300 people in attendance! Students and families were able to learn about how to pay for college, what college can do for them, how to transfer from a 2 year college to a 4 year university and heard from a student panel about life in college. This is a valuable experience that we are able to help offer due to our partnership with CSUSM. A big thank you to them for all of their support!

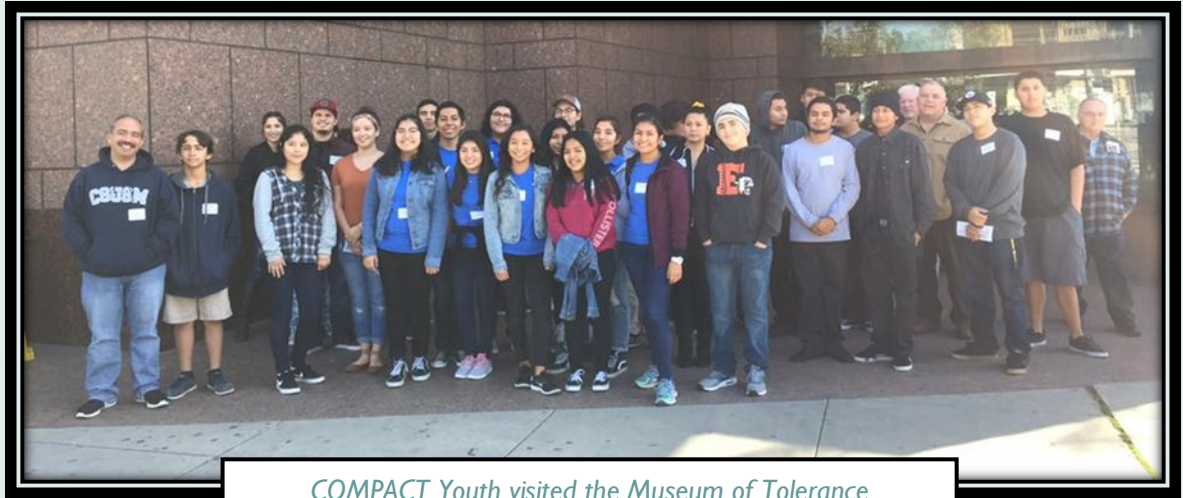


—LeAnne Lazar, Education Outreach Coordinator

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

EVENTS:

On January 17, a group of COMPACT youth went to the Museum of Tolerance for a day of Experiential Learning. Each student was presented with a



COMPACT Youth visited the Museum of Tolerance

passport upon entering the museum, in it was the photo and short biography of a youth who was directly impacted by the Holocaust. They were then escorted through several exhibits that featured documents, artifacts and testimonials that depicted life in that era, after the tour our group was lead to a hall where our students looked up the fate of the youth in the passport they were assigned. Feedback from our youth about the experience was overwhelmingly positive. The WIOA team would like to thank the volunteers from After 5 Rotary that helped chaperone and engage our youth to ensure that their experience was not only informative but inspirational!

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

Each new year brings about content changes in our High School Equivalency Exams. In 2016 the GED passing score was lowered from 150 to 145 and the short answer section of the Social Studies test was omitted. The 2016 HiSET exam introduced graphing concepts into their Math section while their writing section took a more comparative angle. This year, conceptual knowledge of Trigonometry has been removed from the HiSET Math section of the test. In order to best serve our youth, our team has been working diligently not only to stay informed about the most updated information but also be able to communicate that information to our youth. We expect that by the end of this month we will be adding 5 more youth into our list of COMPACT High School graduates.

WORK READINESS SERVICES:

With the summer hiring season just around the corner and a booming in house job board, Case Managers have been focusing on working with our youth to make sure that their career portfolios are reflective of their most recent experience and education before applying for these positions.

—The Youth Workforce Development Staff

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School has been awarded the Kid's Plate Helmet Grant, for a total of 128 helmets! Helmets will be distributed through our various educational events and activities. There will be a main emphasis in the month of May for Bike to School Month. **Bike to School Day is May 10th**. We are promoting youth to be active by taking their bike, scooter, or skateboard to school with their helmet. During the month of May, we will be hosting Bike Rodeos at several elementary schools as well as helmet safety assemblies at the middle schools.

Our new partnership with Palomar Health Trauma Unit, will support our efforts to educate our youth about the repercussions of traumatic brain injuries as well as the recovery process that is faced by anyone that is affected by this life changing events. Lastly, we continue our efforts to address safety issues around schools. We recently had a site visit at Bear Valley Middle School with Escondido Police Department, EUSD staff, and City of Escondido Engineers to address safety concerns around driver behavior and students crossing safely across Bear Valley Parkway at Cannon Dr. Our findings will be discussed at our next School Zone meeting.

-Michelle Suarez, SRTS Coordinator



Crossing Guards

We were off to a busy start for this new year. At the request of the school district, we added an additional crossing guard at Pioneer School in January. A new crossing guard was hired and trained for this location. Our recruitment model to start recruiting on the individual campus worked for this location. With the addition of this new location, we are now at 21 locations within the school district.

Because we've had to utilize all of our crossing guards to cover all locations, we started to recruit for additional crossing guards who will be on call as substitute staff and will be available whenever our regular guards are out sick or on leave. We outreached through all school's office managers who in turn outreached to their part-time staff. Two potential candidates have already applied and are going through the hiring and training process.

We met with the school district to clarify the roles and responsibilities of this program and to meet with the Russell Decker, Director of Facilities Planning and Construction, who will now be our EUSD oversight. We have set up monthly meetings with EUSD to discuss any possible changes, additions, activities, or anything else related to our Crossing Guard/ SRTS contract. Lastly, we are also working on a transition plan with COMPACT Staff, Selena Rogel and Mary Pena, who will cover responsibilities during the time that I will out on maternity leave.

-Yesenia Martinez, Special Projects Liaison

DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES



Coalition For
Drug Free
Escondido

The Coalition for Drug Free Escondido (CDFE) sent their Community Organizer (Alicia Espinoza) and two Youth Advocates (Ramiro Ledesma- CDFE Vice-Chair and Arturo Velasco- CDFE Youth Advocates Vice President) to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) 27th Annual National Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. for a week in February. The Coalition was able to represent Escondido and join about 3,000 other persons from respective Drug Free Communities from around the nation in training sessions focused on Engineering Healthy Communities. In addition to this the youth and Community Organizer participated in a Capitol Hill Day where they met with their local representatives and discussed the public health and safety concerns regarding the legalization of marijuana in California, as well as the need for updated educational resources to cover alcohol and other drugs in health education classes.

Our Youth Advocates have presented what they learned and some ideas for youth projects to our Drug Free Youth Advocates group and are looking forward to presenting their CADCA experience to the Coalition at the upcoming meeting this March. In April our youth will be participating in the Annual 420 Remix PSA Contest to prevent peers from using marijuana. Last year our youth placed third and they are looking forward to competing again this year.

With the many uncertainties that come with the legalization of marijuana, the CDFE knows that with increased education and reduction of accessibility, availability, and acceptability we can in turn reduce youth use rates. The Coalition and Youth Advocates will continue to work hard to stay ahead of the game in education and prevention efforts in the community.

—Alicia Espinoza, DFC Community Organizer



DFC Youth Advocates DFC Community Organizer in Washington DC for the annual CADCA National Leadership Forum.

Violence Prevention and Intervention Services

JUVENILE DIVERSION SERVICES

In 2010, Escondido Education COMPACT and the Escondido Police Department were funded through a CalGRIP grant for an intervention program to help youth stay out of the juvenile justice system. While in the Diversion Program teenagers are encouraged to engage in more positive behavior, referred to our community partners/resources (i.e. therapy, counseling, workshops, etc.), give back to their community, and learn from their mistakes, all while avoiding their offense going on their record. If the youth completes all of the assigned tasks on their contract, continues going to school, and does not violate the law then this case will no longer be sent to juvenile court and this offense will not appear on the youth's record. We are proud to say that we have been making a difference in our community and report that out of those who have completed our program only **9%** go on to reoffend! And **87%** of the juveniles given a contract complete all of the requirements. All of this hard work would not be possible without the help of our community partners, school districts, case managers, compliance monitors, and volunteers. Thank you!

If you are interested in volunteering in this dynamic program that works to keep youth out of the Juvenile Justice System, call COMPACT today! You can be a guest speaker, share your talent or training, or be trained in being a Compliance Monitor. There is a youth out there who you needs you! Call today.

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Violence Prevention and Intervention Services

North County Gang Tattoo Removal Program Open for Business

After years of planning and working through issues and obstacles, the North County Gang Tattoo Removal Program is finally opened and the first two clients have begun the process! COMPACT is partnering with Neighborhood Healthcare to offer the program. COMPACT offers case management, academic support and workforce services; while Neighborhood Healthcare provides the laser removal services and other medical and mental health resources as needed.

The first two clients are both young men who got involved with gangs as middle school students. They both made some very poor choices; one of them being getting tattoos on their face and hands. Now they are ready to leave the gang behind, but their tattoos are barriers to that. Thanks to funding from CalGRIP and the County of San Diego, this free program is available to help them stay on the right path and shed the last reminder of the gang and that lifestyle.

We are grateful for our wonderful partners at Neighborhood Healthcare who not only house the machine but provide the services pro bono! Dr. Schultz, the Medical Director, and other staff were trained on the use of the machine. Dr. Schultz himself is administering the treatments. Partners like that are hard to find!

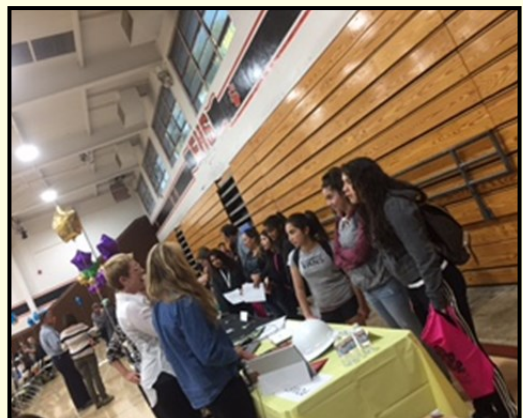
We look forward to working with many more youth and young adults in this program. If you know someone under the age of 26, who has a visible gang tattoo (head, neck, face or hands) who has left the gang and is having trouble moving on because of the tattoo; have them contact COMPACT. They can go to our website, www.educationcompact.org and fill out the survey that helps determine their eligibility. We have plenty of slots available!

GIRLS ROCK!

The Girls Rock program continues to meet weekly at Del Dios Academy of Arts and Science and Rincon Middle School. In February, the girls participated in a field trip to Step Out. Step Out was an event sponsored and organized by the Escondido Union High School District which focused on encouraging girls to explore non-traditional careers. At the event, the girls had the opportunity to talk to several women in unique careers. They were able to learn about what each career entails and the steps towards attaining that career. The girls were amazed at the variety of careers presented, especially the mechanics and graphic design. The exposure to all the different careers the girls received at Step Out was an experience that reminded them of the importance of their education. Girls Rock looks forward to continually showing its youth that their academics play a crucial role in their overall success in life.

Girls Rock participants attended the Step Out event and learned about careers in architecture.

—The Violence Prevention and Intervention Team





Resident Leadership Academy (Funded by Arboreta Group, LLC)

We are excited to share that we have received funding from the Arboreta Group, LLC to continue our community outreach, health education and advocacy efforts. This funding will provide us the opportunity to facilitate and support a second Resident Leadership Academy (RLA). Through previous County of San Diego funding, we facilitated an RLA for youth living in the Mission Park area of Escondido. This year, the RLA will focus on training adults/parents within the Mission Park area and surrounding neighborhoods. The trained RLA youth will be student workers in this year’s RLA training. RLA training will be offered in Spanish and facilitated by three (3) RLA trained COMPACT staff from the Youth and Community Leadership component. The RLA training is about 10 weeks, and started on March 7th at Mission Middle School. The ultimate goal of the RLA training is to give participants the knowledge to access their neighborhood, determine and prioritize needs and implement a Community Improvement Project (CIP).

The CIP for the youth RLA focused on walkability and increased access to health foods; this included the design and implementation of a School/Community Garden at Mission Middle School, nutrition education, neighborhood store assessments and monthly food distributions. The youth RLA also celebrated a new crosswalk at the corner of Mission and Ash as well as some other traffic calming measures.

The Resident Leadership Academy training creates local leaders to support healthy, safe, and thriving communities; Escondido Education COMPACT is proud to support these adults/parent participants by providing them with education and empowerment!!! Watch for more RLA updates in the upcoming newsletters.



—Patricia Huerta, COMPACT Executive Director

**IMPORTANT
DATES!!**

- TOWN HALL MEETING—3/30/17
- 6:30-8:30pm—Del Dios Academy of Arts and Science
- PEACE BEGINS WITH ME—4/1/17
- 12:00 to 3:00pm—Grape Day Park
- SENIOR SENIOR PROM—5/6/17
- 7:00-9:00pm—Park Avenue Community Center
- BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY—5/10/17

Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

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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.