



# Escondido Education COMPACT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REPORT

Volume 11, Issue 2  
October-December 2016

Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

## FALL-WINTER 2016



*From the Executive Director — Patricia Huerta —*

Happy Holidays! As we quickly approach the end of 2016, I find myself reflecting on how we got here. We faced the biggest financial changes this year, in the history of Escondido Education COMPACT! We found ourselves with a cash flow management priority, a bootstrapped budget can be harder than the most difficult crossword puzzle. It's was almost a full-time job staying on top of who owes you money and who you owe and then prioritizing! It is easy to get entrenched in the daily grind and lose track of the big picture; but through the leadership and support of the COMPACT Executive Board we find ourselves continuing to do great work for the youth and families of Escondido! Thank you to the COMPACT Board of Directors.

The gift of COMPACT has dictated the company culture since its inception; we are blessed to have an amazing staff and these individuals work very closely together, making it relatively easy to maintain a culture that is hard working, youth focused, kind, caring and responsible. I thank them all for their support and positivity.

We have looked to our core partners for their continued collaboration and support; the City of Escondido, the Escondido Police Department, the Classical Academy, the Escondido Union and Union High School Districts. All of which have gone to bat for COMPACT and in some cases provided financial opportunities and operational cost cutting measures. They are all true partners.

We have been blessed with some newer partnerships, which not only see the quality of the work we do, but in our vision for a comprehensive and collaborative continuum of care and services for all youth, including offenders. Thank you to the County of San Diego, especially Supervisor Bill Horn, who provided us with a funding opportunity to purchase a Laser Tattoo Removal Machine.

To Neighborhood Healthcare for providing a home/space to operate the program and the in-kind medical support to run the program and remove visible gang tattoos. Thank you to Summer Stephan, Chief Deputy District Attorney for the support and advocacy of our model Juvenile Diversion Program for the Escondido Police Department.

Thank you to all that have contributed to our COMPACT fundraising campaign, developed by our youth; "It only takes a \$1.00" and recently our Giving Tuesday initiative; we have received donations totaling OVER \$20,000! AMAZING . . . and beyond grateful. Also, thankful for the continued support from the Sunrise Rotary and the new partnership with the After 5 Rotary that not only provided financial support from their club, but secured matching funds from the Regional Rotarian Association. These dollars have allowed us to continue to support youth have attended Valley High School; but have stopped out or dropped out prior to obtaining their high school diploma! And lastly, to all of you that continue to share the story of COMPACT in a positive light with others and encourage them to take any opportunity to support our programs and services. To look for opportunities to partner not just on paper, but through mutually beneficial goals and objectives.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

*—Margaret Mead*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
Patty Huerta*

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## CX3 (Communities of Excellence)

CX3 students have been working hard to maintain their efforts in the Mission Park Area. The Mission Park Area, has very limited access to healthy food, and that is one of the problems that the youth have been focusing on. One of the major projects that the youth have been working on, is a store conversion. They have partnered with Garden Pick Market in the Mission Park Area, to include a healthy To-Go section for the residents in the area. In this To-Go section the students have envisioned, healthy items to be packaged, such as fruit, vegetables, snacks and even lunch items. Another way, in which the students have been trying to improve access to healthy food, has been the with the school/community garden at Mission Middle School. The students help plant and harvest different types of vegetables, for them to take home to their families.



## UNIVERSAL SERVICES



*Helping Hands Kick-off 2016*

In September, the Helping Hands 2016 Kick-off took place and it was a great success! About 80 new and returning members from the different high schools in Escondido attended the Carnival themed kick-off. Students had the opportunity to enjoy the carnival games that were organized by the Helping Hands Officers, get to know a little bit more about the program, and sign up for upcoming events.



*Helping Hands Officers*

Helping Hands members have actively been helping with different community events throughout Escondido. Currently the Helping Hands youth are working on a Care Package Drive, which will be donated to Interfaith. Care package includes hygiene and personal products and will be given to homeless individuals in need.

—Carolina Ruiz, Youth Development Specialist

# UNIVERSAL SERVICES - Continued

Job Shadow Day was a success! This year, 37 businesses hosted 129 students from the Escondido Union High School District and Classical Academy. We would like to thank all of the businesses that participated as well as the career techs, counselors, principals, school staff and volunteers that helped to make Job Shadow Day such an amazing event for the youth of Escondido!



## CAREER DAYS

With Job Shadow Day behind us, Career Days are beginning! Hidden Valley Middle School had their Career Day on December 1 and students were exposed to careers such as culinary, financial planning, public safety and animal care! Del Dios Academy for Arts and Science also began their monthly Career Day series. We were fortunate to have Michael Rodriguez speak on his work as a photographer and videographer. We have all of the middle school Career Days scheduled and are excited to once again have the chance to connect Escondido Union School District students with professionals in career fields they are interested in!

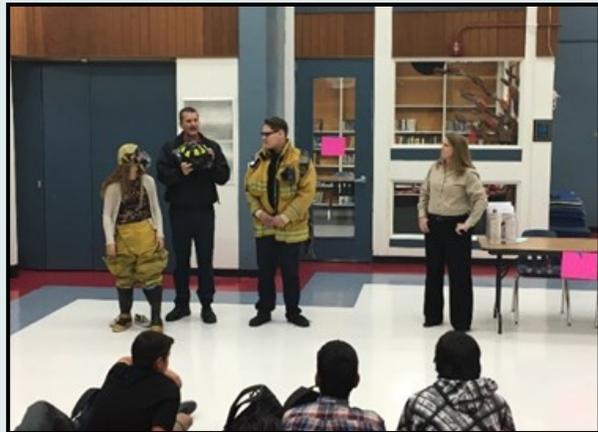


Miriam learns to make coffee at Kettle Coffee & Tea on Job Shadow Day

We are also working to schedule Universal Services for the Escondido Union High School District. We are proud to offer a variety of workshops that help high school students create their Career Portfolios and gain important real world skills.



Del Dios students watch a video created by speaker, Michael Rodriguez



Palomar Fire Academy gets students geared up!

LeAnne Lazar, Education Outreach Coordinator

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**Work Readiness Services** — The implementation of our in-house Job Board has proven to be beneficial in assisting our youth in finding employment as well as staying informed about our weekly Work Readiness Workshops. With the start of the holiday season, our youth have been able to take advantage of the influx of seasonal job positions. Many of our students have been able to successfully obtain employment through these positions. Being fully equipped with professional Career Portfolios and soft skills, we believe some of these youth will be able to maintain employment well beyond the seasonal period; and for the rest, we believe that these seasonal job opportunities will help youth become more competitive in the workforce by lengthening their lists of positive work references and increased work history.

**Educational Services** — It is a pleasure to continue to work with our youth in achieving their educational goal. For some, this goal involves completing credits in order to earn a high school diploma; for a majority, it involves attending our weekly tutoring sessions in order to prepare for GED or HiSET subtests. Regardless of the specific focus, all of our youth continue to struggle with an array of barriers all while working to achieve their primary educational goals. Our students struggle with barriers that range from basic skills deficiencies to chronic homelessness, family instability, and lack of childcare. We have had the privilege to see some of our students achieve their educational goals while also coping with and maneuvering through their barriers. In fact, some of these youth are now preparing for their next educational goal—college! With the spring semester fast approaching, we have been busy working with some of these youth to apply for enrollment, navigate through financial aid, and register for classes.



**Upcoming Events** — We are enthusiastically looking forward to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On that day, we are planning to take our students to the Museum of Tolerance. Not only will this will enhance the educational experience of our students by bringing to life the events of the Holocaust and WWII, it will also allow students the opportunity to experience life outside of their communities; exposing them to diversity. The Escondido After 5 Rotary member will be accompanying the youth on this field trip and will share their life experiences.

## P.S.

On behalf of the youth we serve we would like to thank all of our supporters! Life for our students can become more difficult during the holidays; which is why anything that can lighten their burdens is greatly appreciated. A special “thank you” to the First United Methodist Church for their sponsorship of our youth during this Advent season and to the Escondido After 5 Rotary for their generous donation which have enabled us to continue to serve our current youth as well as to expand the services that we’re able to provide through Universal Services focused on Valley High School youth. Your generosity helps us impact young lives!



-WIA Team (Hector Miramontes, Mirjana Rodriguez)

# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



International Walk to School Day (WTSD) was October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Walk to School Day is an event that encourages students and families to walk to and from school. Creating a space for families to engage in physical activity and begin to create healthy habits for walking to school routine. This year Rock Springs participated in Walk to School Day, thanks to their family liaison that helped host the event. Families came together to walk to school, we had moms, dads, siblings, grandparents, and even pets join in on the fun! Parents that participated were provided with handouts on pedestrian safety and walking tips for their children. All participants were given WTSD stickers and a ticket for an opportunity drawing, for a chance to win a bicycle and helmet! We continue our efforts to educate students and families on safety measures to create a safer and more walkable community.

Bike Walk continues to gather and prepare for its re-launch in January, for the new year. Bike Walk will be working with the City of Escondido to develop an Adopt-the Escondido Creek Trail program as means to maintain it and to continue to have the creek be seen as active transportation across town. The next Bike Walk meeting will be January 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the COMPACT Office.

*-Michelle Suarez, SRTS Coordinator*



We started out the school year with two locations that needed coverage, but between Mary Pena and myself, we were able to handle those locations for the first few days until we were able to hire and train the permanent crossing guard. I am happy to report that we are currently fully staffed with crossing guards for all locations! In addition, we have hired two additional substitute crossing guards that have completed training and have already begun to serve as substitutes for locations when the regular guard is out sick or on vacation. We are meeting regularly with Kimberly Israel, who is still our point of contact through the EUSD, to address all areas of concern and to discuss the possible expansion to additional sites. We continue to report any traffic issues to Sgt. Petersen with Escondido Police Dept. and any other issues with traffic signals or street conditions to the city traffic engineers or public works. They have all continued to be great partners in helping us continue to run a successful crossing guard program in collaboration with the Safe Routes to School Program.

## Crossing Guards



*-Yesenia Martinez, Special Projects Liaison*



## Coalition For Drug Free Escondido

# DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

The Coalition for Drug Free Escondido has undergone some exciting new changes this fall! We are excited to welcome a new Community Organizer to our team, Alicia Espinoza. Alicia is an Orange Glen High School alumni, and graduated from Cal State San Marcos. She is very familiar with Escondido and the amazing things our city has to offer. Alicia comes to us from MADD and was their Employee of the Year for the State of California. She brings a wealth of knowledge and new ideas to the team and we are excited to have her on board.

In October the Coalition held elections for a new Chair and Co-Chair. Tara Anderson will serve as the new CDFE Chair. She is an Escondido Unified School District ATOD counselor and has been a member of the coalition for two years. Ramiro Ledesma is a junior at Orange Glen High School and is the first high school student to take a position on our leadership team. This is Ramiro's second year as a DFC youth and he is passionate about drug and alcohol prevention. We are excited to have so many new members on our Drug Free Communities Team, and are looking forward to working hard in 2017.

The biggest challenge the Coalition for Drug Free Escondido will face in the coming years is the legalization of marijuana. The change in law will allow adults over 21 to use and grow marijuana in their homes. The Coalition has always spoken out on the dangers of marijuana use, in all forms, and will continue to educate the community on its harms. The CDFE will be working with land lords and property management groups to strengthen smoke free housing rules and continue to provide education on the social and health issues that marijuana creates. By focusing on prevention and early intervention we will help students stay drug free!



**Ramiro Ledesma, CDFE Vice-Chair, advocating for drug free youth on Univision News.**

- Kelly Anne Rodriguez, DFC Coordinator

## JUVENILE DIVERSION SERVICES

On Tuesday November 22, the Juvenile Diversion Team held a community service event. We had over 30 teens participate, which included youth from the Diversion Program, FIT, Girls Rock, Helping Hands, as well as youth from the community. We kicked off our event at Grape day Park where the youth were inspired by Escondido Police Officer Adan Martinez, who grew up in Escondido. Officer Martinez spoke to the teens about his background, struggles he faced, the importance of giving back to your community, and inspired to them to persevere and succeed in life. Thank you Officer Martinez!

Afterwards we began our clean-up across the street at the Escondido Creek Trail. We began at Broadway and were able to clean-up all the way to Date Street! We filled our trash bags to overflowing and left the trail in great shape.

We would like to thank all of the students who participated on their day off to give back to their community and make the Escondido Creek Trail a little cleaner. This was an inspiring, fun and successful event!

## Violence Prevention and Intervention Services



**EPD Officer Adan Martinez speaks to youth!**



Continued from Page 6

***COMPACT Staff and youth participated in the community clean up service event at the Escondido Creek!***

## **GIRLS ROCK**

Girls Rock is currently meeting weekly at Del Dios Academy of Arts and Science. The girls have participated in lessons which have covered several important life topics including trust, respect, diversity, stereotypes, physical health, mental health, coping mechanisms, self-esteem, body image, alcohol, leadership and community. They also heard presentations from other COMPACT programs; health and nutrition from SNAP ED, alcohol from Drug Free Communities and leadership and community from Helping Hands. The leadership presentation inspired the girls to partake in a service project. We partnered with Helping Hands to help collect items for care/hygiene packages to be donated to Interfaith. Girls Rock also participated in a community clean up where they helped clean up the Escondido Creek.

In October the girls shared a field trip with FIT to The Safari Park. For most of the girls, it was their first time to visit The Safari Park. They were amazed to see wild life up close, especially a 1 day old baby gorilla! In addition, we went hiking at Daley Ranch. Going hiking was a new experience and the girls were able to practice exercise as a positive coping skill. We look forward to discussing marijuana/other drugs, healthy relationships, and commitment to change before the winter break.

In January, we will begin offering Girls Rock at Rincon Middle School. The social worker, Micheala Sandy, will be working with COMPACT staff to facilitate the Girls Circle. We look forward to working with the Rincon girls.

## **Family Intervention Team – FIT**

FIT has been working with middle school students for over 5 years in Escondido. The program has evolved over the years to include 2 middle schools and 2 high schools. As the program has evolved, so has the curriculum that the team offers. This year, FIT began offering a curriculum from the “One Circle Foundation”. The Boys Council is an evidence-based curriculum that has proven results in helping boys make better choices including not joining gangs.

In November, the One Circle Foundation award FIT with 4 scholarships for FIT Staff to attend their curriculum training in San Diego. This two day, hands on training would have cost \$350 per participant! We are very grateful to the foundation for offering this opportunity to our staff. They learned a lot and are already using their new skills with the FIT groups at the schools. They are seeing attendance and behaviors improve already.



***Girls Rock youth, Sofia admires the tiger during a field trip to Safari Park***

Continued on last page.



## Violence Prevention and Intervention - Continued

### Cannabis Abuse Program – CAP

With the passage of Proposition 64, retail sales of marijuana is now legal for people over the age of 21. This will only make marijuana more available and normalized for young people in our state.

Youth who use marijuana are at risk for lasting damage to their developing brain. In addition, many users are performing poorly in school and have attendance problems.

CAP is a 6-week program aimed at high school youth who are regular users of marijuana. They work through lessons that help them reflect on their marijuana use and their goals. Helping people come to change based on their own reflection and ideas is much more affective, then lecturing them about the dangers of the problem behavior.

**If you know a high school student who is using marijuana and you would like to refer them to CAP, please contact COMPACT – Agner Medrano – CAP Facilitator**

- *The Violence Prevention and Intervention Team*

### UPCOMING GUIDING GOOD CHOICES CLASSES

**01/11 – 02/08/17**

Del Dios Academy of Arts & Sciences – Spanish  
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**01/11-2/08/17**

Quantum Academy – English  
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**02/15-03/15/17**

Hidden Valley Middle School – Spanish  
8:30-11:30 a.m.

**04/26-05/24/17**

Rincon Middle School – Spanish  
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Guiding Good Choices is a 5-week Parenting Series for parents of children ages 9-14 years old. For more information on the classes please call COMPACT at 760 839-4515.



## #GIVINGTUESDAY™

A BIG thank you to those who donated during our online 24-hour Give-A-Thon on Giving Tuesday 2016!

Thank you for your caring hearts!!



**We received a total donations of: \$4,787**

### Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

Escondido Education COMPACT

220 South Broadway Escondido, CA 92025

Phone (760) 839-4515 Fax (760) 738-6076

[www.educationcompact.org](http://www.educationcompact.org)

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.

