



# Escondido Education COMPACT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REPORT

Volume 11, Issue 1  
JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2016

Creating Opportunities, Making Partnerships and Connecting Teens

# SUMMER ISSUE



*From the Executive Director — Patricia Huerta —*

Is summer really over? I would like to begin by sending all our education partners, Best Wishes for a wonderful start to the new academic year. We are thankful for your continued partnership and look forward to providing nothing but quality services to your youth. To our high school partners, the youth leaders of Helping Hands are planning their Kick Off for September - you will soon see them on campuses doing student outreach and recruitment. We are excited to once again have College and Career Techs on each of the comprehensive high school campuses because . . . **Job Shadow Day is coming on October 27<sup>th</sup>**. To our middle school partners, please take the time to schedule your Career Day for this year – really working hard to develop our Master Calendar as close to the beginning of school as possible. For all the elementary and middle schools, Safe Routes to School is a priority to us at COMPACT and we are proud to share that we are now officially the contracted provider for these services, which includes School Crossing Guards! We will be supporting the school campuses by offering safety training and assemblies as well as activities focused on Walk to School Day and Ride to School Day. We are interested in partnering with Schools to hold Bike Rodeo's. In 2015-16 school year, COMPACT supported over 3,000 youth in both School Districts and Classical Academy!

*Continues on last page.*



## SAVE THE DATE **October 27, 2016**

### Job Shadow Day

Job Shadow Day provides youth with the opportunity to spend a day with a real professional and explore a career field of their interest. Businesses open their doors and host high school students to introduce them to a “real world” perspective on various careers.

*If your business is interested in hosting a student,  
please contact LeAnne Lazar at (760) 839-4515*

An event presented by Escondido Education COMPACT in partnership with Escondido Union High School District.



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### Work Readiness Services

Well over 95 % of our WIA students have completed our intensive Work Readiness Training and are now being equipped with not only a customized Career Portfolio but also with the interviewing skills necessary to be competitive in today's job market. WIA staff has worked hard to update our in house Job Board by industry. Now, youth are able to see the industry's profile, as well examples of entry level jobs in each sector. The board showcases upcoming job fairs and job openings as well as a standing invitation to our weekly guided Job Search Workshops.



### Educational Services

If the WIOA team had a favorite season - it would be summer! Summer is when a year long's work comes to its fruition and we stand alongside our students beaming with pride over their accomplishments. We celebrated their commitment to their education in the face of numerous obstacles; which, for most of them, included some mixture of homelessness, lack of transportation, lack of childcare, teen parenting, a fear of failure, absence from any classroom setting since middle school, exposure to violence amongst various others. We wish to commend them on their tenacity in pursuing their goals especially since most would come to tutoring after or before work to make sure they were prepared for the exams! **We are so proud of you Class 2016!**



COMPACT staff celebrates the graduation of **21 Out of School Youth** at Escondido Adult School.



COMPACT staff celebrates **12 CNA course Graduates.**



WIA staff works hard to ensure that every youth has the opportunity to accomplish their goal!

On behalf of the entire WIA team, but especially on behalf of the youth we serve – we would like to thank anyone reading this newsletter for your continued support of our program! We hope we have been able to demonstrate just how big of an impact your faithfulness has made and ask that you would continue to support our mission of making successful citizens out of our most neglected populations.

**-WIA Team (Hector Miramontes, Mirjana Rodriguez, Daniel Torres)**

# UNIVERSAL SERVICES

The preparation for Job Shadow Day 2016 has begun! We've reached out to businesses throughout North County and invited them to participate in this exciting large-scale event. Participating businesses will provide high school students in the Escondido Union High School District the opportunity to explore the career field of their interest. We are looking forward to another successful and impactful Job Shadow Day.

**Job Shadow Day**  
October 27, 2016

Also, as the first day of school gets closer, we are preparing our Master Calendar of events! This year, we are committed to securing dates for events as early as possible in order to ensure a smooth planning process. We are gearing up for another wonderful year of Career Days! We are excited to once again be working with EUSD to provide middle school students with the opportunity to learn more about a career fields which interest them.

This year, as part of our Universal Services, we will be offering workshops on topics ranging from budgeting to interview skills to EUHSD students. By providing these workshops, we are giving youth the opportunity to learn important real world skills!

- LeAnne Lazar, Education Outreach Coordinator

Helping Hands is a teen service club for high school youth in Escondido. It encourages service learning, addressing civic and social needs, and developing relationships and leadership skills among youth. The club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, during the school year. If you know of any students that are interested in community service hours and service learning, encourage them to attend the Kick-off event or to contact Carolina Ruiz for more information.

**COME ONE, COME ALL**

2016 HELPING HANDS KICK OFF  
SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2016  
6:00-7:30PM  
AT  
ESCONDIDO EDUCATION COMPACT  
220 S. BROADWAY, ESCONDIDO, CA 92025  
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT CAROLINA RUIZ (760)839-4515

- Carolina Ruiz, Youth Development Specialist

# NUTRITION EDUCATION

## SNAP-Ed/Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP)

In the summer of 2016 there were nutrition education classes at Pardee Tree Nursery, Borrego Health Centro Medico, Palomar Health's First 5 First Steps, Silver Crest Senior Residence, COMPACT's Summer Exploration group, and the Fallbrook Health Fair. As of this month, 764 non-repeated participants have received a NEOP approved nutrition education in 2016. Also, over 1000 community members have been reached with NEOP health and nutrition information at events throughout North County. These numbers are a testament to the value that is placed on nutrition education by the community and community organizations.

I presented to the youth in COMPACT's Summer Exploration and we discussed the importance of creating balanced meals and snacking healthy. I also shared the MyPlate recommendations and talked about what nutrients to look for as they grow. They used a healthy recipe to make a pita pocket with turkey, cheese, vegetables, and whole wheat pita bread.

**Pardee Tree Nursery-** This location was unique because it consisted of field workers and we discussed the effect that sugar in beverages has on their body. We counted out the number of sugar cubes in some of their favorite beverages and came up with healthier alternatives. At the end they tasted mint and cucumber flavored water. After the presentation, participants mentioned they would make an effort to limit the amount sugar sweetened beverages they consumed.

**Fallbrook Health Fair-** At this event we brought the Rethink Your Drink display and the MyPlate chart with food cards. We had the participants count out the number of sugar cubes there were in the sugary beverage props and also had them build a balanced plate using MyPlate with the foods cards. They also received information on how to make better beverage choices and a healthy beverage recipe card.

**Silver Crest Senior Residence-** With the seniors we talked about nutrition tips for their bodies as they age and how it relates to the MyPlate recommendations. They enjoyed using the food cards to build healthy meals and at the end they tasted some lettuce wraps stuffed with a black bean and corn salad.

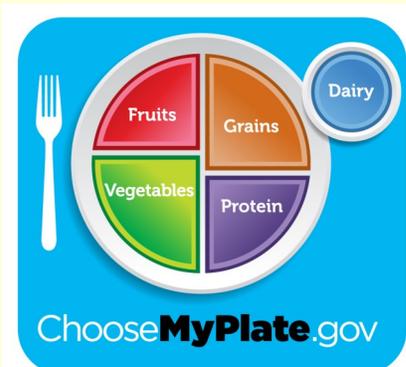
-Danny Barajas, NEOP Educator



Summer Exploration Youth enjoy a healthy snack.



Nutrition Education class at Pardee Tree Nursery.



# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

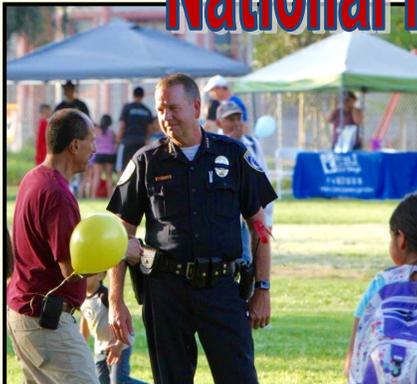
Safe Routes to School participated in the 33rd annual National Night Out event on August 2, 2016 at Grape Day Park. It is a national event for citizens across America to send a powerful message about neighborhood unity, awareness, safety and police-community partnerships. COMPACT partnered with EPD and Target to help coordinate this event for the community. We had several community resources, various special dance performances, and several giveaways throughout the night. The event was well attended with many residents staying even after the scheduled time of the event. Safe Routes to School contributed by having a Bike Rodeo as part of the event. We were provided the use of scooter and helmets to participants at no cost. Students were eager to learn safety tips from our intergenerational volunteer, which helped students navigate through the safety course.



Children learn about the Bike Rodeo from Intergenerational volunteer Eddie Peña.

-Michelle Suarez, SRTS Coordinator

## National Night Out 2016



EPD Chief Carter interacts with Escondido residents.



Helping Hands youth pose with Batman!

## Crossing Guard News!!

The Crossing Guard program was extended through July 31<sup>st</sup> to be able to provide crossing guard coverage for seven sites that were offering summer school and lunch programs this summer.

We are proud to share our exciting news: As of August 1<sup>st</sup> we are officially the contracted provider for the Crossing Guard and Safe Routes to School program for the Escondido Union School District! We are ready to continue with all our efforts in providing safe routes for the youth in Escondido. In the new EUSD contract, the district has added 3 additional locations for coverage. These include Rose, Mission and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Del Dios location. We will approach the individuals that were previously at these locations before we begin to recruit to the general school staff or family population. We have already updated all our recruitment material to ensure we have sufficient staff for the upcoming school year.

We held our first crossing guard meeting of the new school year to share the news with our already committed group of crossing guards. They were very excited because this contract also came with a raise in their hourly pay that they patiently waited for as well. Although, school does not start until August 24<sup>th</sup> we have been very busy preparing for all that will come for the 2016-17 school year!

-Yesenia Martinez, Special Projects Liaison

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

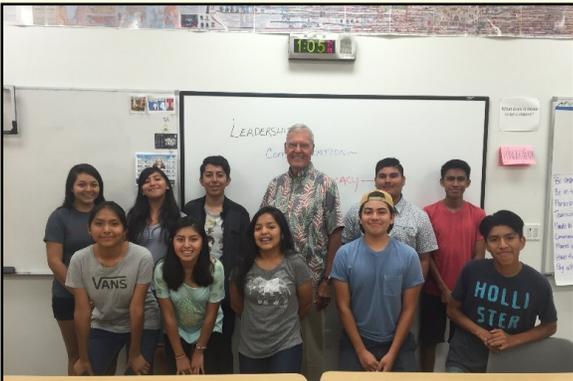
## SUMMER EXPLORATION

Our main goal for Summer Exploration this year was to not only to recruit new members, but to emphasize the importance of advocacy in our community. This summer, the students had a two week training. We had about 20 students from different Escondido high schools, who attended this training, every day for two weeks. For this year, we had some guest speakers, as well, as fieldtrips.

I would like to thank Classical Academy High School, Principal Dana Moen and Executive Director Cameron Curry, for letting us hold our Summer Exploration at the HS campus. Also a big thank you to all our speakers that took time out of their busy schedules, to join us at Summer Exploration. We had Dr. Nick Yphantides present to us about how “Today’s decisions = tomorrow’s reality”. We took a fieldtrip to attend one of the San Diego Board of Supervisor’s meeting. While in San Diego Paola Boylan with Circulate San Diego, guided the students to conduct a walk audit, which contributed to the student’s vision on how a safe walkable community should look like. The students worked in the Mission Middle School Garden and learned about food systems with our Nutrition Educator. We had the pleasure of having Jack Anderson present to the students on the topics of leadership, communication and advocacy. All of the students that participated in Summer Exploration will continue to be active participants in one of our Leadership groups. We are excited to see the changes that these youth leaders will make in our community!



Summer Exploration students with Dr. Nick Yphantides



Summer Exploration students with Jack Anderson



Summer Exploration students with Paola Boylan from Circulate San Diego

—Carolina Ruiz, Youth Development Specialist

# DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES

In the past quarter the drug free communities coalition, The Palomar Health Communities Coalition Escondido has changed its name. We are now the Coalition for Drug Free Escondido! Our new name better describes the coalition and our goals.

COMPACT, The Coalition for Drug Free Escondido, The City of Escondido and the Escondido Police Department has started working on a new Neighborhood Transformation Project (NTP)! We are transforming the West Side Area. The foot print runs down Center City Pkwy from 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. down to Tulip St. The area is predominantly residential with a few businesses lining 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>. This foot print is made up in large part of single family homes with a few small apartment complexes.

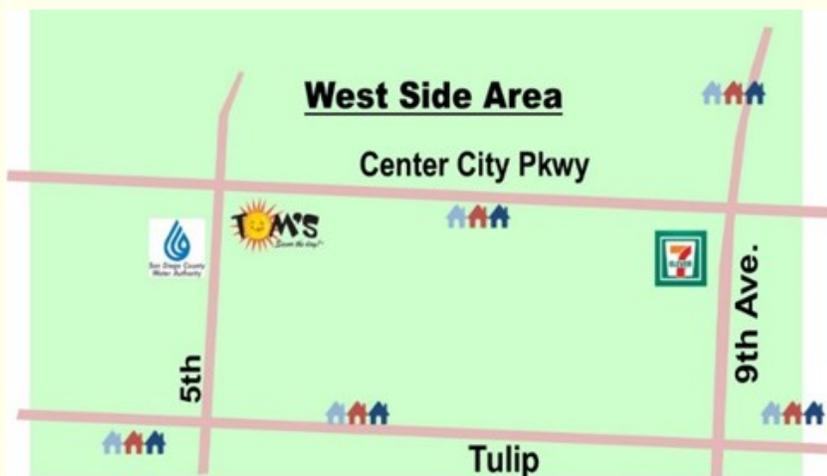
The DFC Youth, along with COMPACT staff and volunteers from Victory Outreach began the project by surveying the community. The group went door to door asking questions about safety, drugs and alcohol. Together we were able to collect 105 surveys. The residents reported feeling most concerned about gangs, graffiti and a lack of lighting. These problems go hand in hand. The surveys also showed something positive. The West Side Area residents feel like they can trust their neighborhood police and that the police understand the problem in their community. Starting the Neighborhood Transformation Project in an area where the community already feels that the police are there for them sets a great tone for the project.

August 10<sup>th</sup> all the NTP partners met in front of West Side Park for a town hall meeting, to roll out the Neighborhood Transformation Project! We have resource tables from The County, Neighborhood Services, Coalition for Drug Free Escondido, and COMPACT. Over 35 West Side Area neighbors showed up to learn about the program. Mayor Sam Abed and Councilman Ed Gallo also attended the meeting. The meeting was a huge success and the members of the neighborhood are getting excited about all the upcoming changes!

—Kelly Anne Rodriguez, DFC Coordinator



**Coalition For  
Drug Free  
Escondido**



*The Neighborhood Transformation Project (NTP) is a community policing initiative with the strategic goal of promoting environmental change in our neighborhoods. By focusing our efforts and resources we hope to better our City, one neighborhood at a time.*

*Map of NTP West Escondido Project*

# CalGRIP Projects

**Family Intervention Team** — Although school is out, FIT is still meeting during the summer with high school and middle school boys. The FIT Staff planned some fun trips to the beach, The Wave and to play Frisbee-golf. But they also continued their group sessions where the team worked with the boys on important life lessons to help them make better choices for themselves. Many times we reinforce these lessons with a guest speaker. One of our favorite guest speakers is Anthony Neri. Anthony is a former gang member who was shot by a rival gang member. This gun violence left him paralyzed. He now gives back to the community through his work with IMPACT, a gang prevention program in San Diego. He also is a guest speaker throughout the county.

Anthony spoke the truth to the FIT group about gang life and the path where that life leads. He candidly told the boys that when he woke up in the hospital bed, it was not his “homies” that surrounded him, but his family. His fellow gang members did not sit by his bed and take care of him; it was his mother. Anthony left a lasting impression on the boys and the team. Thank you Anthony for sharing your story and all the good things you are doing with your life.

**-FIT Team - Agner Medrano, Jaime Ayala, Ed Cervera and Felix Aguirre**

**Cannabis Abuse Program** — The next session of CAP will kick off on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. This program is aimed at high school students who have a dependency on marijuana. Agner Medrano leads the 6-week workshop series along with an Intern. COMPACT began this program in response to the 53% of juveniles in the Juvenile Diversion Program who have a substance abuse issue. Not surprisingly, 54% are at academic risk. Students who use marijuana are at a high risk of dropping out or failing school.

If you know someone who could benefit from this program, please refer them to COMPACT. Early intervention is the key to helping youth get back on track.

**-Agner Medrano, FIT Specialist**

**Girls Rock** — The Girls Rock program is currently having its 8-week summer girl’s group. Our students are learning about mental health, coping mechanisms, wellness, alcohol, drugs, social media and agents of change. Girls Rock participants had a guided tour of the Escondido Police Department. The tour was interactive and overall such a great experience for our girls. They got to see first-hand what our local police department does for our community on a daily basis. We also had a special presentation on ATOD by Drug Free Communities. The students were surprised to hear the facts presented and were able to get clarification on questions they had regarding alcohol and drugs. We will be finishing off the summer with an art activity and a field trip to The Wave Waterpark. The girls will gain positive social bonding skills and learn how to take positive risks. We are excited to transition to the new school year. Girls Rock will now be meeting weekly throughout the school year. The girls will be able to participate in a long-term girls group that will touch several vital topics from our new curriculum. Our Girls Rock program is ecstatic to continue to empower our middle school girls and guide them towards a path to success.



Anthony Neri (left) shared his story with FIT youth.



Guided tour at Escondido Police Headquarters.

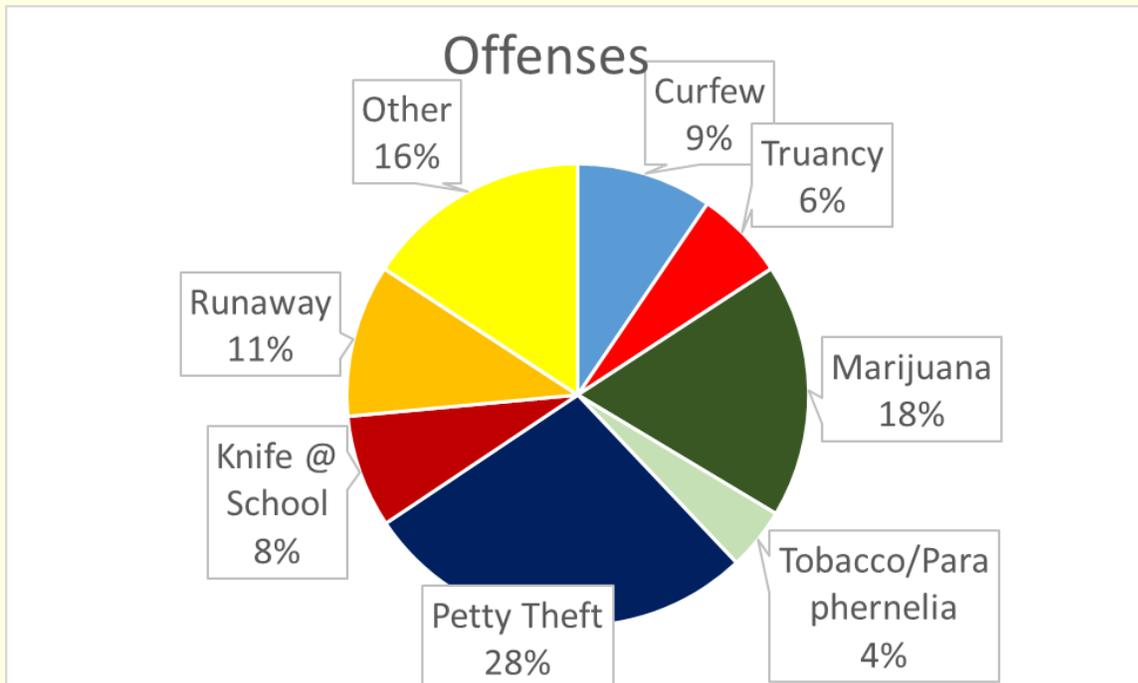
**-Cynthia Macedo, Gender Specific Case Manager**

# CalGRIP Projects...Continued

**Juvenile Diversion** – The Escondido Police Juvenile Diversion Program is a successful program in partnership with the Escondido Police Department and Escondido Education COMPACT. This partnership was developed in 2008 when these two organizations came together with a common concern of youthful offenders entering the system and dismal recidivism rates arising in our community. The goal of the program is to intervene with the teen at an early stage and avoid the possibility of progression toward more serious offenses which could cause the teen to enter the criminal justice system. While in the program teens are encouraged to engage in more positive and constructive behavior and referred to our community partners/resources. We are proud to say that we have been making a difference in our community and report that 83% of teens who come through our program complete it successfully resulting in their case not being sent to juvenile court and ultimately having the offense not appear on their record. Also, we are seeing much success with reoffenders seeing an overall recidivism rate of 9% and only a 4% recidivism rate for the first half of the 2015-2016 school year! All of this hard work would not be possible without the help of our community partners, school districts, volunteers, and compliance monitors. If you are an adult hoping to make a difference in the lives of at-risk youth please contact COMPACT for more information. The Diversion Program is also looking for high school youth who would like to become an attorney for our youth court program.

- Mary Anne Dijak, Manager of Prevention and Intervention Services and Eric Cruz, Diversion Case Manager

**“No bad kids, just bad choices.”**





Continued from Page 1

This new fiscal program/school year finds us a bit apprehensive, as we begin the year with an over 35% funding/budget reduction. We have done a great job over the years in leveraging and weaving funding, but we are still faced with how to continue to offer our quality programming with fewer dollars. Currently the NCYCN/WIA Team is working to support all carry-in and follow-up youth through June 30, 2017. The WIA team is focused on staying connected to these youth to support them to a successful transition out of the program, by obtaining a GED/High School Diploma and placed in employment, post-secondary or certified training program. We have applied for several grant opportunity to expand these services to more youth especially homeless and youthful offenders. Hoping for good news soon. If you are needing assistance in identify resources for intensive WIA services, please go ahead and contact COMPACT – we have developed a good system for referrals.

I do want to recognize our outstanding CalGRIP services (funded by the State of California, Board of Community Corrections) in partnership with Escondido Police Department, funding our **Juvenile Diversion and Intervention Services**. All of the new component programs are up and running – FIT, Girls ROCK, CAP, Guiding Good Choices. A special thank you to EUSD & EUHSD for their additional financial support for the Juvenile Diversion Program – it truly takes a “village to support a youth that has multiple barriers to his/her success”. EGRIP continues to meet and works with EPD to hold Community Meetings and Outreach. We also would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank County Board of Supervisor’s under the advocacy of Supervisor Bill Horn for approving funding to purchase the Laser Tattoo Removal Machine for over \$100,000!

The programs within the Youth & Community Leadership Component continue to thrive – with the focused work of the Drug Free Communities– whose name has been changed to the Coalition for a Drug Free Escondido. The DFC has been working with the EPD for the new area of the Neighborhood Transformation Project (NTP). The coalition, COMPACT Staff, interns and youth volunteers completed over 100 door-to-door surveys on the identified needs in their neighborhood and their perception of law enforcement. CX3 and NEOP Funding will be ending in September – we are working on the logistics of sustaining these efforts and look forward to the release of the RFP to continue the focus on Healthy and Safe Communities.

There are several staffing changes that you are going to begin to notice in this new fiscal year. The COMPACT staff has positively embraced these changes and all were willing to take on a new position within the agency so another COMPACT staff member whose position has been eliminated or cut due to funding constraints was offered a position within the agency that best matches their qualifications and experience. Sadly, we lost two long term staff members, Yesenia Correa Lopez and Oscar Lopez both of whom have secured employment within their area of interest and expertise! They both will truly be missed; we wish them well, but know they will be successful in this new venture of their lives.

The COMPACT Team continues to stand strong – we are extremely blessed to have such a dedicated and talented group of individuals supporting Escondido youth, their families and the community as a whole! If you have any questions on the changes to our services – please just give us a call – we would be glad to assist!

*Peace, Patty Huerta*



**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

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.

