

Youth Initiative Program

April 2008

Network Provider's Newsletter

Issue 4

YIP Forum Reminder

The Youth Initiative Program (YIP) will hold its next networking forum at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2008 in the assembly room of the El Paso Housing Authority, located at 5300 East Paisano.

Wright Stanton III, Aquatics Manager for Parks & Recreation, will speak about the aquatics program, summer safety, and how youth can volunteer and mentor with certified life guards and pool managers. Please make plans to attend.

Tables will be available for your agency brochures and activity flyers. YIP office: (915) 564-7256.



Housing Authority City of El Paso



Crystal Darkness Campaign Town Hall Meetings

Town Hall meeting sites are scheduled throughout the city to be held on April 10, 2008, from 6 – 8:30 p.m. The purpose is to educate and inform the community to reject the use of Crystal Meth and other drugs, to offer hope and tangible help to those in hopeless addicted situations through channeling resources, and to provide information affected family and friends. Call (915) 591-0193, info@crystaldarkness-ep.com or web site: www.crystaldarkness-ep.com.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child

"It is everyone's responsibility to see that children are safe."

"Go Blue Day" April 2nd

The "Go Blue Day" was founded in El Paso, Texas, in April 2007. It was organized by El Paso Child Protective Services (CPS) staff through collaborative efforts and support from the El Paso County Child Welfare Board and supported by community partners. It has now grown to the statewide level and may soon move to the national level.

April 2nd has been designated as "Go Blue Day" to help raise awareness about child abuse and neglect within our community and to show support of child abuse prevention efforts. Join CPS and the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards to show your support by wearing blue – something blue! - on April 2nd. Check the Child Welfare Board website at <http://www.tccwb.org/> or CPS contact: Elizabeth Muller (915) 521-3875.



"Kick Butts Day" – April 5th

Join the fun at Marty Robbins Recreation Center, 11620 Vista Del Sol, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for the annual "Kick Butts Day". There will be music, a t-shirt exhibit, a Youth Can Challenge ping pong match and other fun family activities. Contact: Rebecca Zima, Regional Coordinator, Texas Department of State Health Services Tobacco Prevention and Control at (915) 834-7775; fax (915) 834-7800 or e-mail Becky Zima at Rebecca.Zima@dshs.state.tx.us.



Joe Crawford (right of plaque) and Robert Guile, (left), Fort Bliss Army Substance Abuse Program, received the 17th Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award for the United States Army in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon, Nov. 2007.

Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking

The public is invited to attend a town hall meeting about underage drinking that will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at the El Paso Community College auditorium, 9050 Viscount Blvd. The agenda will include a panel presentation consisting of law enforcement, domestic violence and alcohol, and legal consequences by Judge Rick Olivo. A question and answers session will follow. Contact: Adriana Cadena, Project Coordinator, Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition, (915) 775-2555 or e-mail ac.rgsc@sbcglobal.net.

Ray Mickens Celebrity Weekend

The annual Ray Mickens Celebrity weekend, sponsored by First Light Federal Credit Union, hosts a free football clinic featuring NFL players, NFL grab bags, free food, photo, autograph, and much more! The following events will be held at Andress High School: Celebrity Weekend Basketball Tournament, Friday, May 2nd at 5 p.m. ; Weekend Football Camp and Health Fair, Saturday, May 3rd at 7 p.m.; Basketball Tournament Championship games, Sunday, May 4th. Terrence Johnson, Event Coordinator, (915) 472-0332.

Character First! Community Meeting

The Character First! Community meeting for the Southwest Character Council will be held on April 10, 2008, from 11:55 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. at the Great American Land & Cattle Company, 701 S. Mesa Hills. Lunch is \$8. RSVP to (915) 779-3551 by April 7, 2008. "Deference" was the character for February. Deference is "limiting my freedom so I do not offend the tastes of those around me."

Dia de los Niños Dia de los Libros

The El Paso Public Library and Parks & Recreation will host Dia de los Niños/Dia de los Libros on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Washington Park. Agencies wishing to participate can contact John Sandstrom at the El Paso Public Library (915) 543-5476 for booth application; deadline April 11th. Booths should provide entertaining and education-based activities – all free! Last year approximately 42,000 children from El Paso and surrounding areas enjoyed this fun event.



Not sure how to spend your Spring Break? How about the chance to win \$1000 for you or your friends? Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) is hosting the *Driving the Message* contest, open to all high school students in Texas. TDS is looking for: 1) the best video and/or poster addressing one or more of the top five driving risks for teens, 2) the best TDS scrapbook showcasing what your TDS group has done or plans on doing to promote TDS at your high school. For official entry form visit www.t-driver.com; click on the entry form link in the what's new box. Entry deadline is May 1, 2008. *Teens in the Driver Seat* has posted its second quarterly newsletter online: www.t-driver.com. Suggestions, news, or school updates can be emailed to tdswebmaster@ttimail.tamu.edu; type **NEWSLETTER** in subject line.



Susan Hernandez of the Texas A&M University, and partner in the El Paso Drug Endangered Children Coalition, interviewed by El Paso Times at the March Regional Training for the Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

The El Paso Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Coalition helps support innocent children exposed to dangerous chemical and environmental toxins through partnerships including first responders, family protective services, law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, prosecutors, child advocates, substance abuse treatment providers, educators, and other community leaders and concerned citizens. If you would like to be involved, please contact Jennifer Hickey, (915) 534-4324 or childfind@elprc.org.

YIP welcomes new community partner **STARBUCKS** located 6900 N. Mesa at Resler Drive, next to Coronado High School. Opens April 4th! Manager: Cora Cardona (915) 842-8697.

Walk Me Home

The National Foster Parent Association in conjunction with the Texas Foster Families Association, and the El Paso C.A.R.E Coalition are planning "Walk Me Home....To The Place Where I Belong." A 5K walk/ run to be held on May 3, 2008. This walk/ run is to bring positive awareness of foster care, recruit more foster families, enhance advocacy programs for foster care, and provide continued development of innovative training and educational opportunities. Contact Trisha or Gary Thornton at (915) 3330 or (915) 227-4698.



The Youth Initiative Program
Welcomes New Member:

University Behavioral Health of El Paso, located at 1900 Denver Avenue, El Paso, TX 79902 (915) 544-4000 Fax (915) 544-8750
E-mail: Patricia Navarro Patricia.Navarro@ubhelpaso.com
Website: www.ubhelpaso.com
Services: Adult and adolescent specialized inpatient mental health and chemical dependent care, outpatient partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient program.
Eligibility: Free initial assessment
Fees: Accept most managed care panels, M-care, TX Medicaid, New Mexico Medicaid
Hours: 24 hours/7 days a week
Intake Procedure: Contact Care Center at (915) 544-4000 for appointment. Walk-ins welcome
Geographic Area Served: El Paso, West Texas, Southern New Mexico
Other: New adolescent unit for ages 12 - 17 provides detox followed by transition into 28 day track.



Neighborhood Clean-Up Picnic Agency Participating Requested

The City of El Paso's Department of Community and Human Development is sponsoring a neighborhood clean-up and health fair Saturday, April 12, 2008, to benefit all the homes located in the revitalization area of Lower Dyer. The clean-up will take place from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m., followed by a picnic, information booths and free health screenings from noon until 3 p.m. Set up time for the health fair will start at 10 am. at the location of Travis Elementary, 5000 North Stevens Street. Agency participation is requested. Contact: Soraya Ayub, Neighborhood Relations Coordinator, (915) 541-4019, or ayubsx@elpasotexas.gov.



2008 Teen Tobacco Summit & Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention Conference

The 2008 Tobacco Summit and Conference will be held at the Woodlands Resort & Conference Center, Woodlands, Texas on July 27-30, 2008. Credits offered: LCDC, CPS, CHES Level 2, CPE, TCLEOSE/DARE. Registration: <http://www.cscs.txstate.edu/cy/cy-i-tobacco-conf.htm>.

Financial & Legal Worries? Free Legal Clinic

The Texas RioGrande Legal Aid will be offering free legal advice on the following Wednesdays: April 16, May 21, and June 18, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at 1331 Texas (corner of Texas & Newman). Walk-ins are welcome. Individuals will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. The clinics are made possible by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid and the Don't Borrow Trouble Anti-Predatory Lending Campaign, working together to educate and empower El Pasoans on the consequences of high cost loans. For information call (915) 585-5100 or elpasodbt@yahoo.com. Website www.elpasotexas.gov/DBT.

YWCA Women's Benefit Luncheon Fundraiser

The YWCA will host its annual benefit luncheon on Thursday, May 8th at the Convention Center, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Lee Woodruff, author of the award-winning novel "In an Instant: A Family's Journey of Love and Healing" and wife of ABC News Anchor, Bob Woodruff, who nearly lost his life when a roadside bomb hit his caravan in Iraq in January 2006. The event helps support programs that invest in children, strengthen families and help develop leadership activities potential. The minimum donation is \$100, tax deductible. Call (915) 497-1787.

Leadership Academy for Families With Special Emotional Needs

The Parent Academy for Families with Special Emotional Needs will host a series of sessions for parents and caretakers of youth with a mental health diagnosis. The 10-week classes will run April 3 through June 5, 2008, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the El Paso Rehabilitation Center, 1101 E. Schuster Avenue. Cost: \$30; no child care available. For information call Tania Alvarez (915) 54-8484 ext. 195.



Student Emergency Preparedness Team (STEP) at Canutillo High School begins training on emergency readiness. If your high school would like this training, please contact Helen Gutierrez or Gizelle Alvarado, STEP Coordinators, at (915) 564-6947.



Call for Proposals Victim Services Association 10th Anniversary Conference September 9 – 12, 2008 Austin, Texas

The Texas Victim Services Association is calling for proposals for its 10th Anniversary Conference. The four-day conference will be held in Austin, Texas, at the Sheraton Austin Hotel, from Tuesday, September 9 through Friday, September 12, 2008. The first afternoon of the conference is set aside for ethics training. To download a complete workshop proposal packet, visit the web site at www.txvsa.org. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2008. Contact: Karen Kalergis at (512) 775-4534 or e-mail Karen.Kalergis@gmail.com.



"How are the Children?" Listening Tour

Do your children have what they need to be healthy? Are the children in your neighborhood on the road to success? Is your agency able to provide the services that children most need? Join Estela Casas from KVIA-TV and your legislators (invited) on Tuesday, April 15th, in discussing the status of El Paso children. Location will be the McCall Neighborhood Center, 3231 E. Wyoming, from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by Texans Care For Children, a nonprofit network advocating for improvement of the well-being of children across the state, in partnership with the El Paso YWCA and United Way Contact: Krissy Salinas (512) 473-2274. Parents, service providers, and community are invited. Child care provided.

Advocacy Training

Do you want to understand how laws are made in Austin? Do you want skills to influence lawmakers to invest in kids? Come join Texans Care For Children advocates and local legislators or their staff (invited) to learn how to be a loud voice for children. The advocacy training will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at the McCall Neighborhood Center, 3231 E. Wyoming, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; lunch provided. Registration fee: \$10 due by Friday, April 11th. Contact Kristina Salinas at (512) 473-2272 or ksalinas@texanscareforchildren.org. *Texans Care for Children, 814 San Jacinto, Suite 201 Austin, TX 78701.*

Free Living Wills

The El Paso County Attorney's Office will be preparing free living wills on Wednesday, April 16th at Thomason Hospital 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, April 17th at Rio Vista Community Center in Socorro 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Friday, April 18th at the Northeast Clinic 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 19th at Cielo Vista Mall 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Contact: Tracy Almanzan (915) 546-2050.

Multi Agency Referral System (MARS)

MARS provides the cooperative delivery of services to students at a level where they can be further supported through their school. If your agency provides services to these areas, you are invited and encouraged to attend. Meetings at the high schools include the feeder schools. Schedule subject to change; please verify with school.

HIGH SCHOOL (includes feeder schools)	DATE/TIME	CONTACT/PHONE/E-MAIL
Austin High School Cafeteria lounge	2008: 1/15, 2/12, 3/11, 4/15, 5/13 @ 9 a.m.	Carmen Rodriguez, 587-2500 crodrig2@episd.org
Bel-Air High School Room 203	2008: 1/16, 2/20, 3/19, 4/16 @ 8:00 a.m.	Terry Randall, 434-2042 tqhammer@yahoo.com
Chapin High School Library	2008: 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12 @ 8:45 a.m.	Mary Shepherd, 832-6730 mbshephe@episd.org
El Dorado High School Room A118	2008: 1/30, 2/17, 4/30 @ 10 a.m.	Yuzaleth Perez, 937-3253 Yperez04@sisd.net
El Paso High @ Austin High's cafeteria lounge	2008: 1/15, 2/12, 3/11, 4/15, 5/13 @ 9 a.m.	Christina Soria, 496-3800 cmsoria@episd.net
Fabens High School Library	2008: 2/27, 3/26, 4/16, 5/21 @ noon	Claudia Andrade, 892-2344 candrade@fabensisd.net
Franklin High School Cafeteria lounge	2008: 1/16, 2/13, 3/12, 4/9, 5/7 @ 9:15 a.m.	Rachel Olguin, 832-6600 olguin@episd.org
Hanks High School Room 104	2008: 1/30, 2/29, 3/31, 4/30, 5/30 @ 9 a.m.	Jennifer Esparza, 434-5046 jazjasmine4@sbcglobal.net
Irvin High School Principal's conference room	2008: 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12 @10:30 a.m.	Esther Hernandez, 587-3500 ehernan1@episd.org



Youth Initiative Program
www.eppd.org
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Vendors Sought for Girl Scout Events

The Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande is seeking vendors and organizations to participate in the following events:

Daisy Day, Saturday, April 12, 2008, 1 p.m.- 4 p.m., at the Chamizal National Park

Talent Bash, Friday, June 6, 2008, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., UTEP Union Cinema

Trefoil Triathlon, Saturday, September 7, 7 a.m. - 11a.m., at Ascarate Park

The fees are \$25 for non-profit organizations and \$50 for commercial vendors. Contact: Pat Rios at (915) 566-9433 ext 31 or e-mail prios@gsriogrande.org.

Interested in volunteering to help Girl Scouts? Call (915) 566-9433.



Multi-Agency Referral System (MARS)
 At Chapin High School

Standing (l-r) Toni Cardona, Child Protective Services, Lourdes Canales, Migrant Education Program, Officer Slade Davis, Northeast Regional Command, Irene Rodriguez, Chapin counselor, SSgt. Adrian Lopez, Drug Demand Reduction/Youth Initiative Program, and (seated), Maribel Saenz, Community Solutions, Donna Franco, Alpha Initiative, Alfredo Govea, Bassett Middle School, and Jessica Cravens, Community Solutions.