

Youth Initiative Program

July 2007

Network Provider's Newsletter

Issue 7

MEETING REMINDER

The Youth Initiative Program (YIP) will hold its next networking meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 19, at 5300 E. Paisano, El Paso Housing Authority, Assembly Room.

The featured speaker will be Dennece Knight, Director, Thomason Foundation for building a Children's Hospital in El Paso. Please make plans to attend. Contact: YIP office at (915) 564-7256 or (915) 564-7272.



Housing Authority City of El Paso

The Youth Helpline Directory will be available for pick-up at the July 19th YIP meeting.

Agencies are encouraged to bring brochures and flyers. YIP will assist in the dissemination of your agency material at outreach events.



Safety Town is Here!

The El Paso Police Department is once again offering this educational program free to children between the ages of five to eight. Classes are one week long, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., through July 20, 2007. Children will receive valuable pedestrian, bicycle, home, fire and personal safety lessons. Each Friday is graduation day, complete with a cap and gown ceremony. All graduates will also receive a certificate and "photo license." For information or to register your child please contact the Pebble Hills Regional Command Center at (915) 599-5516.



National Night Out Is August 7th

The 24th Annual National Night Out (NNO), sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2007. NNO is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and taking back their streets.

Last year's campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic organizations, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials; over 34 million participated.

NNO can be as simple as turning on outdoor lights and having front porch vigils to having block parties, youth programs or cookouts.

Contact your area Police Regional Command Center:

Pebble Hills	599-5500
Central	577-5000
Northeast	759-2000
Westside	585-6000
Mission Valley	872-3600
www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno	



"4th of July" June YIP Meeting

The June YIP meeting paid tribute to the "4th of July" through the patriotic rendition of "God Bless the USA", sung by Officer Slade Davis of the Northeast Regional Command Center and the waving sea of U.S. flags, donated by the Woodmen of the World. Our thanks and gratitude to them both, and to the 120 community partners in attendance. Happy 4th of July!



Juvenile Justice Center Hosts Annual Appreciation

The El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center hosted an appreciation event in April 2007 to recognize community partners. Above, Judge Alfredo Chavez (left) of the 65th District Family Drug Court shown with Nell Tovar, Coordinator of the El Paso Police Department Youth Initiative Program, and Judge Sam Medrano, of the 409th District Teen Drug Court.



Call for Young Artists Mural Contest "Graffiti Art"

The El Paso Police Department Youth Initiative Program is looking for young artists, between the ages of 12 -20, to participate in a summer Graffiti Arts Mural Project, "El Paso Through My Eyes." The applicants should have ability in the visual arts, an interest in learning about mural production and a commitment to completing the program and the production of outdoor murals during the month of August! Artists should submit a photo sample of their previous work, or a new drawing, postmarked or delivered to La Fe Cultural and Technology Center, 721 S. Ochoa Street, by Friday, August 3, 2007. Contact: Nell Tovar (915) 564-7256 or Cimi Alvarado (915) 545-7243.

Fort Bliss Newcomers Events

In preparation for the influx of new soldiers into the Fort Bliss community, Fort Bliss is hosting a Relocation Fair. It will be held August 6, 2007, from 1-5 p.m. at the Centennial Club, located at Building 11199 Biggs Army Airfield. The Fair will be an informative, yet festive event that will provide information to soldiers, family members or civilians.

In conjunction with the Relocation Fair, the Army Volunteer Corps is hosting a Volunteer Fair that will offer non-profit agencies the opportunity to present information about their agency and recruit potential volunteers. If your organization would like to participate please contact Tephania Hopper by July 13, 2007, at (915) 568-1132 or tephania.hopper1@bliss.army.mil.

Exercise your Mind

Meet and network with over 50 employers at the University of Phoenix 5th Annual Career Fair to be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., 1270 Country Club Road (Falcon Building), Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Dress for success, and bring your resume. Contact Minerva Lopez at (505) 997-3010; Minerva.lopez@phoenix.edu. University of Phoenix is now hiring and will be conducting interviews!



No Kidding: Straight talk from Teen Parents

No Kidding: Straight Talk from Teen Parents is a unique program that educates young people on the rights, responsibilities and realities of teen parenting through interactive presentations conducted by trained peer educators who are themselves teenage parents. In No Kidding presentations, young fathers and mothers teach what they wish they had been told before they had had their children – from stinky diapers to losing friends to serious legal and financial responsibilities.

If you would be a great No Kidding intern, between the ages of 16-21, or are interested in scheduling a No Kidding presentation at your school or organization, please contact Eileen Huereque, Program Coordinator, at 562-7955 extension 218 or e-mail ehuereque@childcrisiselp.org. Visit us at <http://www.childcrisiselp.org>, Child Crisis Center of El Paso, (915) 562-7955.



Racial Justice Ambassador Award

The YWCA is seeking nominations for the 2007 Racial Justice Ambassador Award. A nominee should demonstrate an intentional commitment to the YWCA Racial Justice Core Values of Respect, Understanding, Acceptance, and Appreciation through his/her proactive behaviors, interactions, activities, mentoring, training or participation in programs that promote justice both in and out of the workplace. Nomination forms, available on line at www.ywcaelpaso.org, must be received by Friday, August 3, 2007.

Juarez Curfew Procedure

From the U.S. Consulate: the curfew has been extended to the entire city of Juarez. As of Friday, June 8th, U.S. youth are subject to being detained if under the age of 18 and unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Youth who are picked up will be taken to a downtown Juarez gym where they will be searched (by a Juarez police Officer of the same sex as the detainee); information will be taken and forms filled out. A police social worker and bilingual police officer as well as a medical person will be available at the detention center. U.S. youth will be escorted to the middle of the pedestrian bridge whereby they will return to El Paso.



Life Skills Through 4-H

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. Help get information to youth that 4-H is available. Contact Jimmy L. Rodgers, agent for the 4-H Texas A&M Cooperative Extension El Paso County, at (915) 851-2515 ext. 232 or e-mail j-rodgers@tamu.edu.



Central Regional Command Center Officer Recognized for Gang Intervention Efforts

Officer Pablo Estrada, a 9-year veteran of the El Paso Police Department and a member of the Ft. Bliss 5035th Garrison Support Unit Military Police Department, has received this year's "TGIA Peace Officer of the Year" award. Officer Estrada has been assigned to the Central Tactical Gang Unit since 2001 and has made a positive difference in the lives of many youth in the Central area. He always takes the time to meet with students, youth in the area and gang members and/or their parents in hopes of deterring them from the gang lifestyle.

El Paso Community College Health Literacy Project Offers Diabetes Awareness Workshop

El Paso Community College Health Literacy Project is offering a free Diabetes Awareness Workshop to be held on Monday, July 9, 2007, from 8 a.m. to noon and the second session from 1 – 5 p.m. at the ASC Boardroom, 9050 Viscount. It will be presented by Edivina Mota, a certified Diabetes Education Specialist.

Marlboro Brand Goes Smokeless

Philip Morris will test-market a new smokeless tobacco product, "Marlboro Snus", in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This follows the introduction last year of RJR's Camel Snus and Philip Morris Taboka. More than 40% of all cigarettes sold in the U.S. are Marlboros, the highly popular brand among underage smokers. Parents should be aware that smokeless tobacco products, including snus, are far from harmless. Smokeless tobacco has been found to increase risk of oral cancer, gum disease and cardiovascular disease. For more information on smokeless tobacco: www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0231.pdf.



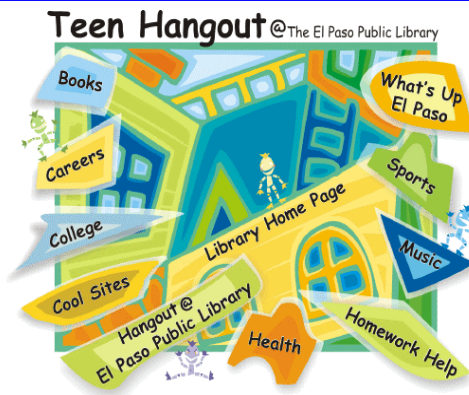
El Paso County Fair Returns

Vendor booth entries are being accepted for the annual El Paso County Fair to be held September 15, 2007 at Memorial Park. It is the annual fund raiser supporting the Community SOLUTIONS programs for at-risk children and youth. The Fair, a lively, family-oriented event reminiscent of early days, will feature all day country-style entertainment; game booths; food and vendors. Fair entrance and many activities are free.

Vendors must maintain the country fair theme and may enter home-made items and hand-made arts and crafts of all kinds, as well as food booths. Nonprofit organizations may enter game or food booths to raise funds for their own programs. Game and food booths will be limited to one of a kind on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Entries for the Children's Talent Show are also being accepted for school-aged children with instrument, dance, song or novelty act. There will be prizes for the winners and a cash prize for the overall winner. Entries should also maintain the old-fashioned country fair theme.

For entry forms, please contact Carlos Martinez at (915) 861-7660 or Carolyn Esparza at (915) 861-7733.



Teen Hangout at El Paso Library

The ability to read and comprehend well is one of the key factors necessary for teens to excel in school and in life. According to a recent study by the National Center for Educational Statistics, as many as 70% of U.S. teens read below the proficient level. These statistics are sobering considering that the future of our nation's economy depends largely on a workforce with at least some post-secondary education.

In order to encourage more teens to visit the library and become involved in activities that promote literacy, the El Paso Public Library has created the Hangout@ElPaso.Library program. Through this program, teens from various parts of the city work with library staff to organize events such as rock concerts and game tournaments that bring other teens into the library. Once there, the youth are exposed to all the materials and services available to them. The library also relies on teen hangout kids to give them advice on what books, magazines and other materials it should acquire to attract more teens.

For information contact Carmen A. Hernandez, Acquisitions Manager / El Paso Public Library, (915) 543-5479, fax (915) 543-5407, cell (915) 328-4445 or e-mail hernandezca@elpasotexas.gov.

Bounce U For Miracle League

Bounce U, located at 1610 N Zaragosa Suite D 2, is hosting Miracle League month on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of July from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. All proceeds go to the field fund for Miracle League. Miracle League brings baseball to handicapped kids and a safe place to play. Go to Bounce U in July! Contact: Sandie Olivar, Executive Director (915) 872-9249.



YOUTH HELPLINE DIRECTORY

YIP welcomes new member:

High Sky Children's Ranch – Stay Together Program is located at 909 N. Knox, Fort Hancock, TX 79839. (915) 769-3929 fax (915) 769-1002 Toll free 1-866-210-4563

E-mail: Georgia Schuller, consultant GeorgiaS@H.S.org

Services: Assistance to help resolve concern family crisis; 24-hour crisis intervention, skilled base curriculum, in-home consultation, parent and youth workshops, short term respite care for runaways.

Eligibility: family with children age 0-18th birthday

Fees: None

Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Intake Procedure: Referral from agency or family member.

Geographic Area Served: El Paso to Tom Green County, Hudspeth, Culberson counties and Tornillo.

Other: High Sky Children's Ranch is dedicated to healing child abuse and promoting family wholeness, funding provided by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Call for Volunteers!

The El Paso Police Department is seeking volunteers who can give presentations in area schools about Grandma Mary's Stranger Danger Program and McGruff The Crime Dog.

Grandma Mary's Stranger Danger Program, founded in 1996 by Police volunteer Mary Sanders, educates youth about protecting themselves from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. McGruff The Crime Dog is a national program that teaches children about the 911 call, how to report crime, and stay safe.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, of good moral character, and have transportation. They must pass a background investigation and oral interview. Volunteers will be trained. Contact Ray Borrego at Police Headquarters, (915) 564-7349.

YWCA Teen Leadership Seeks Sponsors for Summer Session

Last July twelve area high school students completed the YWCA Building Momentum session. They were offered the opportunity to attend last year's Governor's Women's Conference in Austin sponsored by the Empowerment Zone; six of the grads attended at no cost to them. . Two have even become permanent YWCA volunteers as Youth Advisory Board members for the Teen Leadership Department. Due to funding this year the YWCA is seeking sponsorships for young women to attend a summer Building Momentum session. Your sponsorship of \$50 will cover the cost of workshop materials, food and a gift for an area high school student. If you are unable to provide assistance, perhaps you know of someone who might be able to help. Contact: Dawn Thurmond, Racial Justice and Professional Development Director, at (915) 838-3533.



YWCA Racial Justice Department Has Moved!

The YWCA Racial Justice Department has moved to 1600 N. Brown St. Contact: Dawn Thurmond, Racial Justice and Professional Development Director, (915) 838-3533, direct line (915) 533-7475 ext. 251, fax (915) 838-3544, or d.thurmond@ywcaelpaso.org.

StopLite: A Smoking Cessation Intervention for Light Smokers

Friday, July 13, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Stanton Bldg. – 4th Floor Conference Room.

Attendees will gain an enhanced understanding of light smoking, smoking cessation, and state of the art cognitive behavioral interventions to bolster tobacco cessation. The workshop will be interactive and allow for the practice of demonstrated techniques, many of which are likely well transferred to populations other than light smokers to increase cessation and decrease border region smoking prevalence.

Tobacco Coalition Meeting

Friday, July 13, 2007
12:00 p.m. (noon) – 1:00 p.m.
Stanton Bldg. – 4th Floor Conference Room.
Please confirm with Nora Hernandez at norag@utep.edu

Did you know?... La Fe YouthBuild Academy offers young people a second chance to build the educational, occupational and leadership skills necessary to become economically self sufficient while contributing to their families and community? Services include GED, recreational and cultural activities. Call (915) 545-7240.



Youth Initiative Program
www.eppd.org
911 N. Raynor, 79903
(915) 564-7173

Section Supervisor
Sgt. Monica Gomez
(915) 564-7255
GomezM@elpasotexas.gov

YIP Officer
Officer Raul Garcia
(915) 564-7272
GarciaR@elpasotexas.gov

SSgt. Adrian Lopez, TX NGB
Drug Demand Reduction
(915) 564-7274
Adrian.E.Lopez@us.army.mil

YIP Coordinator
Nell Tovar
(915) 562-7256
TovarM@elpasotexas.gov



HAPPY 4th of JULY!!

*I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Display Your Flag Correctly

From Title 36, Chapter 10 of the United States Code rules that:
Our flag should always have stars to the left of the picture and fabric floating to the right.

When hanging with stripes in a vertical position against the wall, the stars should be in the upper left hand corner.

When used on a speaker's platform, the flag is displayed above and behind the speaker. If flown from a staff, the flag should be in the position of honor, at the speaker's right, without regard to a platform or floor level.

When displayed with another flag against a wall from cross staffs, our flag should be at its own right, the staff in front of the other flag.

It's also a good time to remember that our flag should never be used as a drapery. It should be displayed in good weather. Customarily, the flag is displayed only from sunrise to sunset on building and on outdoor flag staffs, but it may be displayed at night upon special occasions.