



# Youth Initiative Program

October 2007 Network Provider's Newsletter

Issue 10

## MEETING REMINDER

The Youth Initiative Program (YIP) will hold its next networking forum at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 5300 East Paisano, El Paso Housing Authority, Assembly Room.

The featured speaker is Cindy Peters, Director of Love of Live Pregnancy Center.

The American Legion Post 74 will provide their annual Halloween Safety brochures. Plan to pick up a supply for your class.

Please make plans to attend. Contact: YIP office at (915) 564-7256 or (915) 564-7272.



Housing Authority City of El Paso

*"You need to push yourself. You need to work hard; learn from your mistakes, and learn from your failures and press on and move on; move up; reach for your dreams and the sky. I promise you will achieve it."— Danny Olivas*

This quote appears on mural of shuttle (west side) as a tribute to former El Pasoan, astronaut Danny Olivas.

## October is Red Ribbon Month

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bi-National Red Ribbon Rally & Parade will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Western Playland, Sunland Park, New Mexico. Parade and ciclovia start at 10 a.m. at McNutt Road. There will be marching bands, booths, red balloon release, entertainment, free food and games and gathering of 11 mayors. For information call Naomi Fahrenkrug (915) 528-5151 or Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition office at (915) 775-2555.



Youth Graffiti Mural Art Project "El Paso Through My Eyes" More on page 2.



Amanda Macias



Ernesto Grado



Eric Dubitsky



Obed Arzaga





Judges review submitted art samples to select artists for the mural project.

In July 2007, the El Paso Police Department Youth Initiative Program issued a call-out to artists between the ages of 12-20 to submit samples of their work for a graffiti art mural project, "El Paso Through My Eyes"; selected themes: Culture, Education, Sports, and Technology. Mural sites were four structural columns in Lincoln Park, visible from the I-10/U.S. 54 Interchange. The artists started the project on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007.



Artists receive mural training using new equipment and techniques.



Eric watches as Jesus shows application.



Amanda gets underway in a jiffy!



Ernesto gets second opinion...



Just hard work getting the 30-foot high columns prepared!



Take the Challenge to Quit!

**UTEP's Great American 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Smokeout**

The Office of Tobacco Prevention/State Health Services and UTEP/Eta Sigma Gamma, Gamma Lambda Chapter are hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great American Smokeout (GASO). The event will be held at the UTEP Union Breezeway from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Thursday, November 15, 2007. Agencies are requested to participate (no cost!) by providing literature, products, health screenings and promoting community health. Register with Jaclyn Augustain, [augustain@miners.utep.edu](mailto:augustain@miners.utep.edu), or call (915) 834-7788. The event is designed to challenge people to stop using tobacco products and to help raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke.



**Artist's Recognition Event**

Shown at the mural site in Lincoln Park (left to right) Charles Berry, Jr., P.E., District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation, Police Chief Richard Wiles, Barry Russell, Director of Parks & Recreation, Rosa Guerrero, Texas Women's Hall of Fame, and Gaspar Enriquez, renowned artist.

**Murals Unveiled at Lincoln Park – Muralists Recognized**

The artists were recognized at the mural unveiling held on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at Lincoln Park. Amanda, age 18, attends El Paso Community College. Her theme "culture" included Hal Marcus, Peter Max, her art teacher, and the late Luis Jimenez. Ernesto, age 16, from Keys Academy selected "education" with a wrap-around of the UTEP campus. Eric, age 17, from Eastwood High School paid tribute to the late El Paso wrestler, Eddie Guerrero, with his "sports" theme, and Obed, age 16, who hails from Americas High School, illustrated "technology" with a space shuttle and tribute to former El Pasoan, astronaut Danny Olivas.

Special thanks to project partners: Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Parks & Recreation, and TxDOT, to speakers and honorary judges: Salvador Balcorta, CEO of La Fe, Rosa Guerrero, Texas Women's Hall of Fame, Daniel Szwaczkowski, UTEP Ruben Center For Visual Arts, Socorro Diamondstein, City Museums & Cultural Affairs Dept., Gaspar Enriquez, artist, Stephen Ingle, Director, Creative Kids, Inc., and Paul Zimmerman, Director, El Paso Skate Park Association and to supporters: UTEP Intercollegiate Athletics, Eta Sigma Gamma, LART 233, Region 19 Safe & Drug Free Schools, Juvenile Probation Department, SAM's Club, Power 102.

Our gratitude and appreciation to all who helped, especially Jesus Alvarado who coordinated the murals, Joe Rodriguez of Parks & Recreation who assisted throughout the project, and to the parents of the artists for their time and patience.

**Don't Borrow Trouble**

The "Don't Borrow Trouble" (DBT) campaign sponsored by ACORN Housing is designed to help consumers avoid bad loans by educating residents about the dangers of predatory loans, helping identify predatory loans, and providing links to housing resources.

*If your agency provides housing services, and you would be willing to place a poster in your facility, please contact them.*

DBT has also organized a FREE legal clinic for people with questions on mortgages, foreclosures, consumer loans, credit cards and basic bankruptcy. These will be held once a month at the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid office located at 1331 Texas Ave. from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on the following dates: October 17, November 14, and December 12, 2007. Contact Luis Ojeda, (915) 781-1303, ACORN Housing Counselor or e-mail [lojeda@acornhousing.org](mailto:lojeda@acornhousing.org).

**Attention 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students!  
Teen Advisory Board**

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) was developed in 1990 to educate and train teens to address such issues as: communication, goals, values, decision making, self-esteem, peer pressure, domestic violence, eating disorders, drinking and driving, alcohol/drugs, suicide prevention, HIV/AIDS, STD's, teen pregnancy, sexual responsibility, sexual assault, substance abuse prevention and many more topics.

Applications are being accepted for the 2007-2008 class. Qualifications: \*7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders (and their parents).

- \*Committed to the program mission.
- \*Parental consent and participation.
- \*Agrees to training schedule.
- \*In school; at least C average.
- \*Transportation to/from sessions.
- \*Willingness and ability to positively interact and work with others.

An orientation meeting will be held at 4800 Alberta, Texas Tech Library Auditorium A, Saturday, October 13, 2007, from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. For information call (915) 521-7482.



Officer Raul Garcia discusses gang-related issues at the YIP meeting with Jesus Juarez (at right) of Canutillo Independent School District. Pictured (center background) is the new Volunteer Coordinator for El Paso Police Department, Roberto Diaz.



**Calendar for Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness month, and there are a number of activities planned:

**October 1,** noon - Domestic Violence press conference, UTEP, north end of Sun Bowl.

**October 2** @ 9 a.m. - Proclamation of DV Awareness Month at City Hall.

**October 2-3** - Fort Bliss Advocacy Domestic Violence Conference Centennial Club, (915) 568-4878.

**October 18** @ 6 p.m. – Volunteer recognition reception, Center Against Family Violence (CAFV), 580 Giles.

**October 19** @ 7:30 p.m. – Vigil @ Centro Mujeres de la Esperanza, 1000 Wyoming.

**October 24** @ 2 p.m. – CAFV Transitional Living Center Open House, shelter location.

**October 28** – Help Hope Healing Walk begins at Franklin High School; ends at Mission Valley Command Center.

**October 30** @ 10 a.m. – Resolution by County, County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio St.

*Center Against Family Violence, (915) 595-2238 or hotline (915) 593-7300.*



**Did you know?...**

**Housing for Young Adults**

The Opportunity Center for the Homeless has a program designed to help youth and young adults, ages 16-23, with housing (priority for foster care clients) obtain birth certificates, Texas ID's, and replace social security cards. Additionally, they have links to GED programs, help with job counseling, securing employment, and becoming self-sufficient through a savings program. Transportation provided as needed. As El Paso Area Foster Parent Association, they have on-site crisis intervention for foster parents, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call Michelle Minjares, BSW, at her cell (915) 204-2127.

The Opportunity Center is located at 1208 Myrtle Avenue, El Paso, Texas 7i9901. Information: Michelle Minjares, BSW: Phone (915) 577-0069 x 274; fax (915) 544-2459 or e-mail [dramea\\_3@yahoo.com](mailto:dramea_3@yahoo.com).

**Volunteer Action Center**

There is a free web based volunteer recruiting center brought to you by the Volunteer Action Center of the United Way of El Paso County. The goal is to promote volunteer spirit using the power of the internet to connect potential volunteers to volunteer opportunities. Any nonprofit agency that is looking for volunteers should sign up with the Volunteer Action Center to begin recruiting online, FREE of all costs! Volunteers are interested in a large spectrum of opportunities in the community so chances are there is a volunteer online who is looking for a volunteer opportunity like the one you have available! For information, contact Volunteer Action Center of the United Way of El Paso County at [emartin@unitedwayelpaso.org](mailto:emartin@unitedwayelpaso.org) or (915) 533-1039. To register for the county web referral system: [www.volunteersolutions.org/uwoepc](http://www.volunteersolutions.org/uwoepc).

**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.

<u>HIGH SCHOOL (includes feeder schools)</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>CONTACT/PHONE/FAX</u>
Chapin High School Library room 151	2007: 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, 12/10 2008: 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12 (8:45 a.m.)	Mary Shepherd/Elisa Ayala 832-6730/565-9794 <a href="mailto:mbshepherd@episd.org">mbshepherd@episd.org</a>
El Dorado High School Room A118	2007: 9/19, 10/24 2008: 1/30, 2/27, 4/30 (10 a.m.)	Yuzaleth Perez, CIS 937-3253/851-7820 <a href="mailto:Yperez04@sisd.net">Yperez04@sisd.net</a>
El Paso High School Library reference room	2007: 9/18, 10/9, 11/13, 12/18 2008: 1/15, 2/12, 3/11, 4/15, 5/13 (9 a.m.)	Christina Soria 496-8300/532-2008 <a href="mailto:cmsoria@episd.org">cmsoria@episd.org</a>
Fabens High School Library	2007: 8/15, 9/19, 10/24, 11/14, 12/19 2008: to be determined (Noon)	Claudia Andrade 892-2344 <a href="mailto:candrade@fabensisd.net">candrade@fabensisd.net</a>
Franklin High School	2007: 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, 12/5 2008: 1/16, 2/13, 3/12, 4/9, 5/7 (Wednesday @ 9:15 a.m.)	Rachel Olguin 832-6600 <a href="mailto:rolguin@episd.org">rolguin@episd.org</a>
Irvin High School Principal's conference room	2007: 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, 12/10 2008: 1/14 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12 (Monday @ 10:15 a.m.)	Esther Hernandez 587-3500 ex. 5119 <a href="mailto:hernan1@episd.org">hernan1@episd.org</a>
Ysleta High School	2007: New counselor – schedule pending	



**Youth Initiative Program**  
[www.eppd.org](http://www.eppd.org)  
**911 N. Raynor, 79903**  
**(915) 564-7173**

**Auxiliary Support Division**  
**Lt. Adrian Medina**  
**(915) 564-7037**  
[MedinaA@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:MedinaA@elpasotexas.gov)

**Officer Raul Garcia**  
**(915) 564-7272**  
[GarciaR@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:GarciaR@elpasotexas.gov)

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

**YIP Coordinator**  
**Nell Tovar**  
**(915) 564-7256**  
[TovarM@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:TovarM@elpasotexas.gov)

**“The Mayor’s 100 Teens” – Request for Promotional Items**

"The Mayor's 100 Teens" is a program designed to create a community that values teens and promotes a positive image of them. The teens are introduced at a kick-off banquet where they are honored and presented with a certificate and goodies, and they participate throughout the school year at many different events. Promotional items, literature and/or teen activities information are requested for the gift bags. Donations are needed by Wednesday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>! If you can assist, please contact Diana Nuñez, Office of Mayor Cook, at [nunezdx@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:nunezdx@elpasotexas.gov) or (915) 541-4015.

**Children, Youth and Families At Risk 2008 Conference**

The Children, Youth and Families At Risk Program (CYFAR) 2008 Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk, May 6-9, 2008. CYFAR is requesting proposals for workshops, computer labs, research posters, and program showcase exhibits; deadline for proposals October 31, 2007. All proposals must be aligned with one of the CYFAR program areas: early childhood, school-age, teens, parent/family, or community: <http://www.cyfernet.org/cyfar08/>.

**Focus Group Seeking Parents of Teens**

The “Two Should Know” Initiative of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation will be conducting focus groups on communicating about sexual health topics with teens. They are looking for parents of teens to participate; you will receive a \$25 gift certificate for your time. The focus groups will be conducted in the Boardroom at El Paso Drive at 5:30 p.m. There will be two focus groups: one for mothers of teens on October 16 and one for fathers of teens on October 18. Register with Kathleen Thompson at (915) 593-1000 ext. 407. Web site: [www.pdnhf.org](http://www.pdnhf.org).