

Youth Initiative Program

June 2008

Network Provider's Newsletter

Issue 6

YIP Forum Reminder

The Youth Initiative Program (YIP) will hold its next networking forum at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2008 in the assembly room of the El Paso Housing Authority, located at 5300 East Paisano.

"Gangs", the featured topic, will be presented by Detective Roger Chairez of the El Paso Police Department Gang Unit. Please plan to come and hear about gang issues in El Paso, how to recognize if your child may be gang-involved and what to do.

The first 100 will receive a hand-held U.S. Flag in celebration of 4th of July. YIP Helpline Directories will be available for pick up!

Sierra Providence Teen Health Resource Center (pg.4) will provide traditional 4th of July hamburgers and hotdogs! Our thanks!

Tables will be available for your agency brochures and activity flyers.



Housing Authority City of El Paso

Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force Meets June 21st

The Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force will meet at the Northeast Regional Command Center, 9600 Dyer Street, on Saturday, June 21, 2008, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The public is encouraged to attend to hear presentation of 2008 report and recommendations. Contact: El Paso County Attorney's Office, Tracy Almanzan, Community Prosecutor at (915) 546-2050 or e-mail Tracy at tracy.almanzan@ca.epcounty.com.

Report internet crime to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at: <http://www.ic3.gov>.



Reasonable Suspicion Training for Supervisors

Confidential Drug Testing will be holding a "Reasonable Suspicion Training for Supervisors" on June 11, 2008, from 8 a.m.-noon, at 1801 Wyoming, Ste. 102. For group rates or reservations call (915) 351-6832 or (915) 630-1581. Contact: Richard Arguelles, RMA/CPCT.

El Paso Public Library's Teen Town

Teens, want something to do?! Teen Town is just for you! There are video/board games, pool table, ping pong, movies, magazines, novels, and friends! Hours: Monday – Wednesday from 3-8 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 3-6 p.m., Saturday 1-6 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Teen Town, Main Library, downtown, 501 North Oregon. Call (915) 543-5495.

Free Parenting Classes

The El Paso Center for Children Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program is offering a free 8-week "Common Sense" parenting class at their 2216 North Stevens location beginning June 21, 2008, from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. noon. Parent(s)/legal guardian must have a child under 18 years of age; Parent(s)/legal guardian must make less than \$63,000 annually; child cannot be on probation; cannot have an open case with CPS. Register by calling (915) 562-4765.

Rally on the River

World Day Against Illegal Drug Use and Drug Trafficking

Mark your calendar to participate in this year's event that will be held on June 28th, 2008, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Anapra, New Mexico, beside the Brick Factory at Monument 1 (follow the signs from Sunland Park, NM/corner of McNutt Road and Race Track Drive to the area). Horseback riders from two countries will carry the flags and an arch of balloons will fly over the border at Monument 1. There will be music, breakfast, drinks and refreshments. Bring your kids, musical instruments, chairs, hats, and sunscreen! Information: (915) 775-2555.

Teen-Fest 2008 Summer Carnival Concert and Car Show!

The El Paso Public Library will host their annual Teen-Fest 2008 at Cohen Stadium, Saturday, June 21, 2008 from 1-7 p.m. The event is free and suitable for the whole family. Local bands will perform throughout the day and there will be educational interactive booths.

If your agency would like to set up a free information table, please have a carnival game included. Donations of bottled water, prizes such as hats, t-shirts, food coupons, gift certificates, and monetary donations would be appreciated. Call Carmen Hernandez, El Paso Public Library, (915) 543-5479 hernandezca@elpasotexas.gov.



Volunteers Needed for Book Reading Club

La Fe at Montana Vista Resource Facility is seeking volunteers to read to little children for their book reading club. Call James Aguirre (915) 857-1567 or e-mail james_aguirre@yahoo.com.



Patrick Perez (left) of Lead, Encourage, and Dance (L.E.A.D.) is a motivational speaker on leading teen-issue topics which he incorporates with dance. Call (915) 577-9057 or visit website: www.patrickperrez.org.

La Fe YouthBuild Academy

Earn your G.E.D.; get paid training in construction or medical training. Now enrolling for Fall 2008 for the La Fe YouthBuild Academy. Requirements: must be 18-24 years of age, a U.S. citizen or resident, El Paso county resident, and low-income. Visit 616 East Father Rahm 2nd Floor. (915) 545-7103.

Free Counseling for Military in Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment

The Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS) is providing counseling at no charge to veterans of Iraq-Afghanistan Theaters of Operation through a grant, Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment or TRIAD (not affiliated with Triwest, Tricare or U.S. military). Services include individual, couples, family, group and play therapy, support and staff development for school personnel working with the families. JFCS works with concerns including, but not limited to adjustment, depression, post-traumatic stress, brain injury support, anxiety, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Military personnel and any family members who are/have been/will be deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan qualify for free counseling. Military personnel who have not served in Iraq-Afghanistan can receive services payable through Triwest, Tricare, private insurance, Medicaid or on a sliding fee scale. Call (915) 581-3256; TRIADINFOJFCS@aol.com.

Diabetes and its Consequences Poster Contest

The El Paso Diabetes Association is calling for participants for the 5th Annual Diabetes Conference poster contest. A total of 20 posters will be accepted in the competition and displayed at the meeting on initially submitted abstracts of 500-700 words, typed double spaced. Call (915) 747-8507 for details. First place \$250; second place \$150; third place \$75. Deadline is September 1, 2008. Visit www.epdiabetes.org.

Free Training for Individuals with Disabilities and Their Families

The purpose of these trainings is to promote and increase access to and use of assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities and their families. Location will be at the El Paso Rehabilitation Center in the Roderick Room, 1101 East Schuster Avenue, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. noon for all trainings:

June 12th – Art Adaptations

July 10th – Game Adaptations

September 11th – High School/High Tech Program Development.

Please RSVP to Fred Gromand at (915) 544-8484 extension 209 or e-mail Fred.Gromand@elprc.org.

Free Training & Employment Services for Migrant Families

If you or your parents worked in agriculture during the last 24 months you could qualify for free training and employment services. Motivational Education & Training (MET) has a work experience program for migrant and seasonal agriculture workers and family members that offers free training and pays a stipend while you work. To qualify you need ID document, social security card, birth certificate; documents establishing agricultural work performed within the last 24 months and earnings of at least \$800 during 12-month period. Please contact MET, located at 1359 Lomaland Drive, Room 701, El Paso Texas, phone (915) 598-9071 or 206 8th Street, Fabens, Texas, phone (915) 887-2792 for assistance and details. E-mail: met09@htg.net.



The Youth Initiative Program Welcomes New Members:

Excel Learning Center

Location: 1220 Lomaland Ste. G-6, El Paso, TX 79907

Phone: (915) 590-5415

E-mail: Salvador Rodríguez Jr. at srodriguez@ethos-edu.org.

Services: Provides educational services in customer service (4-6 weeks course) and general office computer specialist (16-24 weeks course) through Workforce Solutions, GED, ESL programs, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA); benefits may include retraining, health coverage tax credit, job search, relocation allowances and weekly benefits.

Eligibility: 18 and over; in-school or drop-out. Potential students must qualify for Worker's Investment Act (WIA), Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) or Choices (enrolled in TANF).

Fees: No cost to qualifying student

Hours: Vary, depending on course
Intake: Workforce Solutions makes assessment to qualify

Geographic Area Served: North east and east sides of El Paso

Young Life of El Paso

Location: 1857 Copa de Oro, El Paso, TX 79936.

Phone: (915) 857-9092

E-mail: Joe Gavaldon at ylmerrymex@hotmail.com.

Web site: www.younglife.org

Services: Night/day outreach programs; life skill sessions & activities; evening fun club; camping spring/winter/summer.

Eligibility: high school, ages 14-17

Fees: None for weekly program; can earn scholarship for camping

Hours: 7-9 p.m., days vary at each of four sites.

Intake: Phone or e-mail to join.

Geographic Area Served: Southside Segundo Barrio and Lower Valley to Ysleta.

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Crimes Against the Elderly

The FBI Citizens' Academy Alumni Association El Paso Chapter is sponsoring a Crimes Against the Elderly Seminar on Thursday, June 5, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Paso Community College, Administrative Service Center Auditorium, 9050 Viscount Drive. Featured topics are Dementia as a Risk Factor for Elder Mistreatment, Senior Citizen Fraud, Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation of the Elderly: What it Means and How You Can Help, and Elder Abuse. Social Work CEU's and TCLEOS available. Register at (915) 831-7802.

Leadership Academy for Families

Leadership Academy for Families will be held on Tuesday and Thursday for seven weeks, from June 1-July 22, 2008 at the El Paso Rehabilitation Center, 1101 E. Schuster Avenue. Topics include laws that protect individuals with disabilities, advocating for your child's rights, what to consider in preparing child for adulthood, how might assistive technology help, how does a special needs child affect the family. Classes will be in Spanish and are for parents and persons that care for children with disabilities. Cost is \$30; no childcare available. Call Tania Alvare (951) 544-8484 ext. 195.



Jennifer Ann's Group

Jennifer Ann Crecente was a high school honors student who was murdered by an ex-boyfriend on February 15, 2006. The Jennifer Ann Crecente Memorial Group, Inc., a 501 c-3 charity, was formed in her memory to educate teens about the very real danger of Teen Dating Violence.

Ten Warning Signs of an Abusive Relationship, available in card form at www.jenniferann.org:

1. History of legal or discipline problems.
2. Blames you for his/her anger.
3. Serious drug or alcohol use.
4. History of violent behavior.
5. Threatens others regularly.
6. Insults you or calls you names.
7. Trouble controlling feelings/anger.
8. Tells you what to wear, what to do or how to act.
9. Threatens or intimidates you in order to get their way.
10. Prevents you from spending time with your friends or family.

Could you be in an abuse relationship? Create a safeguard:

- Talk to someone that you can trust.
- Plan in advance a safe place to go.
- Keep money and cell phone or calling card with you at all times.
- Memorize important numbers in case your phone is taken.
- Establish a code word/sign so family, friends know when to call for help.

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline 1-866-331-9474.

Jennifer Ann's Group will host their 2nd annual fundraiser on September 13th, 2008 at St. Pius' Hall, 1050 N. Clark Street; \$45 per person or \$400 reserved table of eight. Call (915) 584-3636 or visit JenniferAnn.org.

Talent Bash! 2008

The Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande "Talent Bash! 2008" will take place at the University of Texas at El Paso, Union Cinema East Wing, 500 West University Avenue, on Friday, June 6, 2008 at 6 p.m. Sign up for auditions! Call (915) 566-9433 ext. 16 or website at www.gsriogrande.org. All students, boys and girls in grades K-12 can participate. First place receives \$500; cash prizes awarded to the first, second, and third place winners.

PFLAG Support Group

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a national non-profit organization with over 200,000 members and supports and over 500 affiliates in the U.S. The El Paso Chapter of PFLAG meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, 216 S. Ochoa. For information contact Gery and Lorain Amundson at (915) 571-9046 or camundso@elp.rr.com. Websites: www.geocities.com/pflagelpaso or www.pflag.org.

Summer Reading Program

The Fabens Independent School District Community Library, located at 400 NE 4th Street in Fabens, is the site of the Summer Reading Program which runs from June 2nd through July 31st, 2008; Monday-Thursday 1-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Pre-K – 18 years of age can read 10 books or 10 hours throughout the summer and receive a certificate at the Program Party on August 4th. Story Time will be every Wednesday morning from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. Contact Manuela Gutierrez, School/Community Librarian at (915) 765-2611 or <http://www.fabensisd.net>.

Chemical Dependency Care Peak Behavioral Health Services

Peak Behavioral Health Services, 5045 McNutt Road, Santa Teresa, New Mexico, provides exceptional care for those who suffer with psychiatric/chemical dependency issues. Peak Hospital is currently accepting clients. Beds are open on all units including: Acute adolescent boys and girls ages 12-17, Acute adult men and women ages 18 -55, Gero-psych unit men and women ages 55 and older. Assessments and referrals are completed at no charge.

Peak accepts Texas/New Mexico Medicaid, Medicare, Tri-care, and private insurance. Call (915) 542-1515, (505) 589-3000 or toll free at 888-599-9808.



Partners Across Texas

All federal, state, local and private organizations who provide services to military members and their families are invited to the American Legion Post 58 "Partners Across Texas" quarterly meeting to network that will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at the American Legion Post 58, 4725 Vulcan Avenue, from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Lynne Tucker, Texas Military Forces State Family Program Office at (512) 782-5666 or lynne.day@us.army.mil.

New members continued from page 2...



**Omega Rehab Services
Pediatric Division**

Location: 6028 Surety Drive, El Paso, TX 79905

Phone: (915) 771-9523

E-mail: sballmer@elp.rr.com

Dr. Scotti Ballmer

Services: Speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy; transportation provided as needed

Eligibility: Ages 0-21 years; referral by primary care physician (PCP); qualification by evaluating therapist

Fees: Medicaid, Superior Health Plan, El Paso First, CHIP

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.– 7 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Intake Procedure: With referral by PCP, patient is scheduled for evaluation, case history and consents are obtained; parent is notified of recommendations by evaluating therapist.

Area Served: Greater El Paso

**El Paso Police Department
Youth Police Academy**

The El Paso Police Department's Youth Police Academy consists of five days of instruction and demonstrations designed to give El Paso area youth a basic overall working knowledge of the El Paso Police Department's (EPPD) personnel, philosophies, procedures, and policies. Two sessions are held in June/July; each will meet Monday - Thursday at the Police Training Academy, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and at Police Headquarters, 911 North Raynor, on Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Graduation will be held at Police Headquarters at 3 p.m. Friday.

Participants must be between 13 - 18 years of age, have no outstanding warrants and have never been convicted of a felony. Applicants must pass a background check conducted by the EPPD; submit a completed application, letter of commitment, and Waiver of Liability. Certain driving violations will not exclude an individual from attending, but other violations may. Those approved will be notified of acceptance. No grades will be kept and no homework will be assigned.

For information, contact Office of Public Affairs at (915) 564-7322.



The **School Facilitators** for the Multi-Agency Referral System or MARS have done an excellent job in bringing health and social services to the school level where partnership efforts can readily take place to assist student and family, and **Community Service Organizations** have done an exceptional job as well in providing those services! We have witnessed these partnerships develop and strengthen over the past school year, and it is quite amazing to see the support system in place. Many, many students and families have been served.

For school year 2008-2009, Andress High School and Options High School will implement MARS so we will be called to even greater outreach and service.

Our sincerest appreciation to our school and community partners for your dedication and contribution.

If your agency provides services we encourage you to participate when MARS meetings resume for school year 2008-2009!



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

Lt. Adrian Medina
MedinaA@elpasotexas.gov

Sgt. Glenn Shelley
ShelleyG@elpasotexas.gov

Officer Raul Garcia
GarciaR@elpasotexas.gov

**SSgt. Adrian Lopez, TX NGB
Drug Demand Reduction**
Adrian.E.Lopez@us.army.mil

Nell Tovar, Coordinator
TovarM@elpasotexas.gov

**Sierra Providence
Teen Health Resource Center**

The Sierra Providence teen outreach program is designed to provide information about basic health care and community resources. There are no fees; no appointment necessary. If you think you are pregnant, the center offers:

- Free pregnancy testing
- Physician Panel Services (need a doctor? - they can help)
- Scheduling of doctor's appointments
- Prenatal education and basic infant care classes
- Medicaid eligibility program representative on site.

Locations: **4717 Hondo Pass**, (915) 755-TEEN (8336), **110 Candelaria**, located in the Ysleta Health Clinic, (915) 859-TEEN (8336) and **907 Chelsea, Suite D**, (915) 532-TEEN (8336).

For information contact Ruth Armstrong, Outreach Education Coordinator, Sierra Teen Centers at (915) 755- 8336 or ruth.armstrong@tenethealth.com.



**Jewish Family and
Children's Services (JFCS)**

Providing services to anyone in need without regard to religion

The JFCS located at 401 Wallenberg Drive on the west side includes services (bilingual): Individual, family, couple, group sessions; parenting classes; counseling at no charge for military personnel served in Iraq-Afghanistan and their family members (page 2); community outreach, crisis intervention; and staff development workshops. JFCS accept Medicaid, private insurance, Tricare/Triwest; sliding fee scale; other programs assist financially. Call (915) 581-3256.