

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Lissette Raya, Chairman

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** June 23, 2009

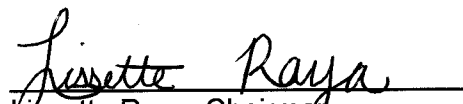
**SUBJECT:** Riverside County Youth Commission Annual Report

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Riverside County Board of Supervisors receive and file the Riverside County Youth Commission Annual Report for the 2008-2009 Term, as required by Resolution 98-032 and the Youth Commission By-Laws (Article XIII).

**JUSTIFICATION:** The Youth Commission serves as a forum for young people in Riverside County to come together in order to take greater control and responsibility of the well being of all youth in the county. In order to provide true representation of youth in Riverside County, each of the five Supervisorial districts have formed specific Youth Advisory Councils (YAC), which report to the countywide Youth Commission.

One of the Board of Supervisor's directives during the formation of the Youth Commission was the requirement for the Youth Commission to submit an Annual Report. This Report is designed to be a compilation of the activities and accomplishments of the Youth Commission and the Youth Advisory Councils.

The Commission and Youth Advisory Councils would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support, concern, insight, and commitment in appointing the Commission to advise the Board on youth related in Riverside County.

  
Lissette Raya, Chairman  
Riverside County Youth Commission

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The  
Riverside  
County  
Youth  
Commission

2008-2009 Term Year

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# Annual Report

# Riverside County Youth Commission

## Annual Report

For the 2008-2009 Term

The Riverside County Youth Commission is comprised of a representative body for each of the Youth Advisory Councils (YAC). Commissioners from all five supervisorial districts comprise the Youth Commission.

The mission of the Riverside County Youth Commission is to empower young people to focus on their vision and goals for the future and to plan and implement strategies that will allow them to reach those goals. The Commission provides advice, assistance, and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and all County Department heads on issues related to youth. In addition, the Youth Commission focuses on anticipating the educational, recreational, and cultural needs of youth. The Commission works to ensure the coordination of community resources in order to improve the quality of life for all young people in Riverside County. Monthly meetings allow Youth Commissioners to discuss their district's community service projects, and listen to presentations by various agencies.

By giving the youth a voice, a chance to make a difference and an opportunity to positively influence our surroundings, the Youth Commission, as well as the Youth Advisory Councils has become a growing organization that will continue to flourish.

During the 2008-2009 Youth Commission term, many projects and events were achieved. These include:

- **Tenth Annual Youth Commission Retreat**

The Youth Commission Annual Retreat was held at Miracle Springs Desert Resort & Spa on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. All five Youth Advisory Councils joined together to interact on a personal level, the all day event included activities designed to help the councils meet their goals, improve their public speaking skills, learn the process of the Brown Act and Parliamentary Procedures. The councils also participated in team building and group leadership skills through workshops under the guidance of motivational speaker, Stu Cabe. During the retreat, each district youth council elected their executive board: Commissioner, Co-Commissioner, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

- **Commissioner Training**

The Commissioner training brought together the Commissioners from the five districts of the Youth Advisory Councils to introduce them to their position. Bonding activities allowed the Youth Commissioners to familiarize themselves with their colleagues. The Youth Commissioners were showed how to operate and conduct a meeting in the Board of Supervisors Chamber room. The elected officials from each district were as follows:

*First District: Danielle Carter*  
*Second District: Katie Elder*  
*Third District: Lissette Raya*  
*Fourth District: James Nelson*  
*Fifth District: Rousseau Kazi*

- **Installation of Commission Officers**

During the first Youth Commission meeting, Youth Commissioners voted to determine the Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary of the Youth Commission. Lissette Raya of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District was selected as Chair; James Nelson of the 4<sup>th</sup> District was selected as Co-Chair, and Katie Elder of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District was selected as Secretary. Youth Commissioners had the privilege and honor of being sworn into office by Judge Gloria Trask.

- **Smoking Ordinance Decoy Program – Department of Health**

Nick Stack from the Department of Health made a presentation at the first commission meeting on November 13, 2008 regarding the smoking ordinance. The smoking ordinance was passed in 2005. The countywide ordinance requires those who sell tobacco to obtain a license to sell tobacco. With the license, if the merchant is caught selling tobacco to minors, the County Health Department can suspend or revoke the merchant's license. Licensing curtails illegal sales, which has been rampant in Riverside County. Since the passing of the ordinance members from each district have went through training to become decoys in the mission to crack down on underage tobacco selling. Youth Advisory Council members served as decoys and helped stop merchants from selling tobacco to minors.

- **Student Pollworker Program**

Mr. Ed Thomas from the Registrar of Voters gave a presentation about the County's Student Poll Worker Program. He provided the students with a comprehensive overview of the program which requires a short training, and a long day of work on Election Day. He also emphasized the importance of being a student poll worker, which include gaining work experience, community service, and promoting democracy. This year alone in the County, it is estimated that 4,000 poll workers will be needed to make this election successful and run smoothly. Several council members were able to participate in the 2008 historic elections.

- **Youth in Government Day**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, the commencement of the Tenth Annual Youth in Government (YIG) Day was hosted at historic Carriage House in Riverside County. This program allows Youth Advisory Council members to job shadow a county employee in order to inform them of the proceedings and opportunities in County government positions. Council members had the opportunity to be mentored by Riverside County personnel such as Superior Court Justices, Public Defenders, Flood Control, Transportation and Land Management, Waste Management, and the Board of Supervisors. On January 16, 2008, the Fourth District hosted their Youth in Government Day in Coachella Valley in order to expose council members in the Fourth District to local county occupations.

- **Youth Commission Website**

The Youth Commission collected information, photos, and ideas for the proposed Youth Commission website. All five districts will be given separate web pages, as well as a main Youth Commission page that will connect them all. This website will serve as a valuable

communication tool, where upcoming events will be posted, as well as information on how to get involved with the Youth Advisory Councils.

- **Riverside County Community Action Planning- Ninth Annual Youth Partnership Summit**

The Ninth Annual Youth Partnership Summit “*Youth Partnership for Safer Communities- Wake Up Call*” was hosted Thursday, March 20, 2008 at the Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center. Approximately 300 students were in attendance at the daylong event which focused on teen peer pressure and substance abuse. The workshops consisted of three sessions: substance abuse & the law, substance abuse & your life, and emotional wellness. Alex Khan, a speaker from Teen Line, opened the event and shared her personal experiences with substance abuse. Each district’s youth council assisted in the Summit and ensured the success of the event. This event was made possible thanks to the support of the Board of Supervisors and staff, community sponsors, and the hard work from the five Youth Advisory Councils.

- **Youth Summit Video**

The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council leads the efforts in creating a video that demonstrates the various aspects of the Youth Summit such as the speakers, breakout sessions, lunchtime activities, breakfast and lunch, and vendors.

- **Public Service Announcement Project**

During the Youth Summit, high school students were able to collaborate in producing a public service announcement. The goal was to target high school students during the months of prom and create awareness to make wise decision when faced with peer pressure. The ideas formed during the Summit were taken back to the Youth Commission, where the Commissioners voted on the winning Public Service Announcement. It was recorded in both English and Spanish in order to reach all Riverside County youth. The 30 Second PSA Winner was recorded as follows: “*Hi, my name is Daniel and today would have been my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, but I left prom drunk and I never made it home. I never got a chance to graduate. I wanted to be a success but instead I became a statistic. 62% of Riverside County high school students think it is okay to drink during ceremonial events like prom and graduation. Don’t be a statistic. Brought to you by the Riverside County Youth Commission.*”

- **Youth Commission Billboard Project**

The Youth Commission was able to obtain three billboard locations within the Riverside County to continue the council’s campaign against substance abuse and drinking and driving. Each district’s youth council generated two ideas for the billboards, which were collected and presented to the Youth Commission. The winning billboard selections are on the following page.

## **Riverside County First District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2008-2009**

The Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in the 1<sup>st</sup> District of Riverside County. High Schools that are located within the 1<sup>st</sup> District include: Alvord, Arlington, California Lutheran, Citrus Hill, Corner Stone Christian, Elsinore, John W. North, Lakeside, La Sierra, Lincoln, Linfield Christian, Martin Luther King, Norte Vista, Notre Dame, Ortega, Poly, Riverside Christian, Sherman Indian, Temescal Canyon, and Woodcrest Christian High School.

Listed below are key projects that the Youth Advisory Council of 2008-2009 accomplished throughout the year. We would also like to thank you for your constant support through our endeavors and for your dedication to the youth in our county.

- **Summer Retreat-July 2008**

This year's Youth Commission Annual Retreat was held in Desert Hot Springs with Stu Cabe as key note speaker. Stu presented his "What do you stand for" program which focuses on building leadership and teamwork skills. Council members also participated in a jeopardy game which quizzed them on the Brown Act, the Youth Laws Booklet and the rules and regulations of the Youth Commission. Youth Advisory Council members also had a chance to discuss a new commission project they would like to accomplish this year.

▪ **Mead Valley Health Fair-September 2008**

The Council volunteered their services at the Mead Valley Fair. This event was geared towards raising health awareness. It also provided more information regarding voter registration, a graffiti clean-up program and environmental awareness. YAC members helped volunteers set up booths as well as their own. In the YAC booth, council members sought to recruit new members.

▪ **Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful: "Day of Caring"-September 2008**

The Youth Advisory Council participated in a community service activity with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful. Council members helped pick up trash along Van Buren Boulevard from Dufferin Avenue to Lincoln Avenue. Council members were given a free t-shirt and food in appreciation for their participation.

▪ **Temescal Valley Faire-September 2008**

The Council volunteered their services at the Annual Temescal Valley Community Faire. Council members monitored activities for children throughout the day. In addition, they passed out raffle tickets and reusable waste-management bags to the participants. Supervisor Bob Buster provided a speech at the event.

▪ **Multi-Cultural Festival-October 2008**

The Council members volunteered their time to enrich themselves with other cultures at a Multi-Cultural festival in Riverside. YAC members went around the different booths and learned a little bit about each culture, tasted their cuisines and made arts and crafts. YAC members greatly enjoyed this event.

▪ **Youth In Government Day-October 2008**

The youth engaged in their Annual Youth in Government Day. Council members were invited to shadow a Riverside County employee throughout the day to learn and understand the importance of County (local) government inter-workings. YAC members expressed the educational significance of this event and urge that this project continues in operation. 1<sup>st</sup> District YAC members are eager to participate at next year's event.

▪ **Book Drive-Celebration of Children Event-October 2008**

1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council sought to collect new children's books to give out at Riverside County Volunteer Center's "Celebration of Children" event held in Riverside. Donation boxes were placed at the following 1st District libraries: Lake Elsinore County Library, Lakeside County Library, Mission Trail County Library, and Wood Crest County Library. A sum of almost 300

books was collected from the 1<sup>st</sup> District libraries. Council members placed boxes at schools and at parents' job-sites. They also handed out flyers in order to generate more donations.

▪ **Celebration of Children Day Event-October 2008**

1<sup>st</sup> District Council members volunteered their services at Riverside County Volunteer Center's "Celebration of Children" event this month. Council members helped set up the booths that would be used by various youth centered organizations that would be in attendance at this event. Council members also helped decorate, set up tables and chairs, and assisted at the "Flex your Power" booth. YAC members felt gratified seeing the children receive the books that they helped collect. Overall council members felt it was a great event.

▪ **Santa Margarita Watershed Clean-up-November 2008**

YAC members facilitated residents to the correct Waste Management Truck where they could drop-off their unwanted waste. YAC members also helped distribute resource bags to all of the attendees. Council members were provided with a free BBQ lunch for their assistance.

▪ **Canned Food Drive-November 2008-December 2008**

The Council enacted a food drive in an effort to help the less fortunate during the holiday season. The drive proceeded for a month. Donation boxes were placed at the following locations: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Riverside County building, Lake Elsinore Sherriff Station, Workforce Development Center and Mead Valley Community Complex Center. YAC members also participated in various activities during this month. Thanks to those efforts and the donations received from the donation sites, 1<sup>st</sup> District council members successfully collect a total of 455 canned goods. These items were donated to the non-profit "Helping Our People of Lake Elsinore" (H.O.P.E) for distribution to the homeless in the Lake Elsinore and the Lakeland Village area.

▪ **Passing out fliers at Albertsons-November 2008**

Council members stood outside Albertsons passing out fliers about the Canned Food Drive hoping that customers would keep our drive in mind while they shopped.

▪ **Passing out fliers at Stater Bros-November 2008**

Council members stood outside Stater Bros passing out fliers to shoppers hoping that they would keep our drive in mind while they did their shopping.

▪ **Thanksgiving "Giving Back" Food Bags for Families in Need-November 2008**

1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council helped the Riverside County Volunteer Center make bags of food items to be donated to needy families for Thanksgiving. Council members helped place boxes of stuffing, cans of cranberry sauce, bags of potatoes and other food items into bags. These bags were later given to needy families that had applied for the packages.

▪ **Student Poll worker Program-November 2008**

The Board of Supervisors passed resolution 310 on June 24, 2003 to support the establishment of a Student Poll worker program, which permits eligible students to participate in the polling process countywide. Council members in partnership with the Riverside County Registrar of Voters, helped promote the program at their schools to raise public awareness of the election process. Eligible council members worked the election polls and received a stipend of \$90 and a certificate for their participation. Students received valuable experience and useful skills during a historic election.

▪ **1<sup>st</sup> Environmental Brainstorm and Potluck-November 2008**

Council members came together for a time to brainstorm ideas for a green project. It was decided that they wanted to have a fair sometime in May. Prizes, the itinerary and activities were also discussed during this time.

▪ **Mead Valley's Breakfast With Santa and His Elves-December 2008**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mead Valley Breakfast with Santa and His Elves event was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Six Mead Valley Code Enforcement staff, four Mead Valley Firemen, six Mead Valley Community members, three Sherriff Department staff, seven from DPSS, three from MARS program and one from EDA volunteered to assist YAC members at this event. On this day, Mead Valley families enjoyed a complimentary breakfast meal. Once the participants were finished eating, children were directed to one of the two other activities and then went to the second. The first option was for the children to take a picture with Santa. After taking a picture with Santa, they kids were given a present including a stuffed penguin, a March of the Penguins book and a little gift box with a candy cane and thank you note from the council members. The second activity was "Santa's Workshop." Here, the children made arts and crafts with the YAC members who were wearing elf hats. Council members had a terrific time helping out at this event. Overall a total of 452+Mead Valley residents attended this event along with an honored visit from Supervisor Buster.

▪ **Potluck at Operation Safe House-January 2009**

Council members decided since they could not attend the safe house during the holidays they would do something special in January. Council members each brought items of food such as rice, muffins, bread and pizza to share with Safe House members. After they ate lunch, council members played spoons, basketball and "Dance-Dance Revolution." Council members really enjoyed this event and would love to come again this year or next year.

▪ **Valentine's Project -February 2009**

In the spirit of Valentines, YAC members decided to do something special for Riverside County Regional Medical Center's Pediatric Unit. They decided to hand create Valentine's Day cards with special messages and hand deliver them to the patients on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The patients and the parents of the patients were greatly touched by the Council's thoughtfulness and care. The medical staff was also deeply gratified at the YAC members' generosity and time.

▪ **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit- March 2009**

On Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> of the year 2009, Riverside County's Youth Commission held their Ninth Annual Partnership Summit, titled: "Youth Partnership for Safer Communities" at the Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center. Students were given the opportunity to enjoy

workshops focusing on drug and alcohol abuse. They also listened to a personal testimony from Alex Kahn who now partners with Teen Line to discuss the dangers and substance and alcohol consumption. The ultimate goal of the Youth Summit was to provide a solution to the problem. Participants were challenged with creating a slogan and logo. Two of the slogans will be used for the creation of a Public Service Announcement which will be aired throughout high-school campuses within Riverside County during Prom and Graduation season. The PSA will also be aired on various radio stations throughout the county. In addition to the PSA, two bill-boards have also been created to further eliminate the problem of alcohol and substance abuse among youth.

▪ **2<sup>nd</sup> Environmental Brainstorm and Potluck-March 2009**

During this time, YAC members finalized the ideas from the 1<sup>st</sup> brainstorm. They would like to begin planning a “Battle of the Bands” in order to raise environmental awareness among high-school students. The faire will take place sometime in the coming council year.

▪ **MARS Program-April 2009**

The 1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council coordinated with the MARS program from EDA to assist with their Spring Break programs on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Coral Canyon Park in Temescal. YAC members played sports, made crafts and supervised the safety of the elementary students while at the park. YAC members greatly enjoyed working with the elementary students and look forward to working with the program during the summer.

▪ **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Path to Success Tour-April 2009**

YAC members coordinated the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Path to Success Tour” on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Forty-Nine participants attended this event in addition to six YAC members. The participants were given the opportunity to tour Riverside Community College (RCC) and the University of California, Riverside (UCR). While at RCC, students were provided breakfast, went on a 30 minute tour of the campus and listened to a presentation by Tony Ortiz regarding community college and the benefits that come with attending such an institution. While at UCR, participants went on a 60 minute tour of the campus, heard a 45 minute presentation from an admission’s counselor, dined at Lothian (a dormitory), participated in interactive activities with council members, heard a presentation from college students regarding their personal experiences in college and heard a panel from 1<sup>st</sup> District’s Youth Advisory Council regarding the college application process. Students also received a resource bag filled with youth centered information. YAC members were successful in encouraging early college preparation among eighth and ninth grade students through this program.

▪ **Recruitment-April 2009**

Recruitment for the First District Youth Advisory Council is ongoing through the end of the term and summer. Council members provided contact information of students they recommended for next year’s council. Youth Advisory Council members were asked to bring potential applicants to projects and meetings during the end of the term. Our council is promoted through the media, letters to school officials and word of mouth. We would really like to consider advertisement through the Youth Commission Web-site once it is launched.

▪ **Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful: “Great American Clean-Up”-May 2009**

The Youth Advisory Council participated in a community service activity with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful. Council members helped pick up trash throughout the city of Riverside. Council members were given a free t-shirt and food in appreciation for their participation.

▪ **Mead Valley Festival-June 2009**

1<sup>st</sup> District Youth Advisory Council members will be helping out at Mead Valley’s Festival on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Council members will help with set-up, pass out free items to participants, monitor the booths and assist with any other duties as needed.

▪ **End of Year Dinner-June 2009**

Youth Advisory Council plans to hold an end of the year dinner as a closure to the 2008-2009 YAC term during the month of June. Council members will be congratulated for their efforts in formulating a successful year.

▪ **Youth Commission Retreat-July 2009**

Returning and new council members are looking forward to attending the Youth Commission Annual Retreat that will be held in Desert Hot Springs. Council members will learn about the importance of team building and leadership skills. In addition, the council members will be deciding the theme and developing ideas for next year’s new Youth Commission project.

-----Summary of the Year -----

**Goals for the 2008-2009 YAC term: PLEASE!** We vow to help the Planet, we will provide aid to those Less fortunate, we will Educate in any opportunity that may arise, we will Address Societal issues and we will Embrace the community as it is ours

P) Helping the Planet

- Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful-September 2008
- Santa Margarita Watershed Clean-up-November 2008
- 1<sup>st</sup> Environmental Brainstorm and Potluck-November 2008
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Environmental Brainstorm and Potluck-March 2009
- Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful-May 2009

L) Providing aid to less fortunate

- Book Drive-Celebration of Children Event-October 2008
- Canned Food Drive-November 2008-December 2008
- Thanksgiving “Giving Back” Food Bags for Families in Need-November 2008
- Mead Valley’s Breakfast With Santa and His Elves-December 2008

E) Educating others

- Mead Valley Fair-geared towards raising health awareness-September 2008
- Multi-Cultural Festival-gaining knowledge in different cultures-October 2008
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit-addressing drug and alcohol abuse-March 2009
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Path to Success Tour-higher education-April 2009

A/S) Addressing Societal Issues

- Book Drive-importance of literacy and education-October 2008
- Canned Food Drive-hunger-November 2008-December 2008
- Thanksgiving “Giving Back” Food Bags for Families in Need-hunger-November 2008
- Student Poll worker Program-November 2008
- Potluck at Operation Safe House-abuse in the home-January 2009
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Path to Success Tour-importance of higher education-April 2009

E) Embracing the Community

- Mead Valley Faire-September 2008
- Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful-September 2008
- Temescal Valley Faire-September 2008
- Book Drive-Celebration of Children Event-October 2008
- Operation Safe House-January 2009
- Valentine’s Project –February 2009
- MARS Program-April 2009
- Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful-May 2009

-----Did we accomplish our goals? -----

Overall YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their goals for the year.

## Riverside County Second District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2008-2009

The Second District Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in the Second District of Riverside County. High Schools in the second district include: Buena Vista, Centennial, Centennial Vista, Corona, Corona-Norco, Corona-Norco Adult, Corona Vista, Orange Grove High School, Norco, Santiago, Jurupa Valley, Rubidoux, Patriot, Nueva Vista, Rio Vista, Abraham Lincoln, and Ramona High School.

*In order to achieve our three goals, the council was divided up into three committees. Each committee worked to coordinate and volunteer at events which were related to their goals. The three main goals for the year were as follows: Assisting the animals of Riverside County, working within our district in various community projects, and developing ways to improve our local environment.*

### ▪ **Heroes – September 2008**

The Youth Advisory Council was enthusiastic about developing ways to become more involved in their local community. The committee HEROES was created to search for local community service opportunities within the Second District where volunteers were needed. During the year the committee worked at a variety of events including local fundraisers such as the Walk for Kids and the Heart Walk. In addition, this committee worked to locate green efforts within our district by finding and volunteering at events like Second District Community Cleanups.

### ▪ **Animal Services – September 2008**

The Youth Advisory Council wanted to contribute some of their time to help the Animals of Riverside County. The committee worked closely with the Department of Animal Services to plan and coordinate activities to raise funds and supplies for the animals. Committee members assisted at a wide array of events including fundraisers and adoption events as well as coordinating supply drives for the Department of Animal Services.

### ▪ **Youths To The Rescue – September 2008**

Because the Youth Advisory Council wanted to participate in a wide array of projects that pertained to youth, they decided to form a committee directed at gathering information about general youth oriented community events that the council could participate in. Throughout the year, the committee members supported local youth events by volunteering. In addition, the committee worked to fundraise for items on the Operation Safe House wish list. The committee also worked to host parties at Operation Safe House to spend time with kids their age who are in need.

*Listed are the key projects the 2008-2009 Second District Youth Advisory Council accomplished throughout the year. The Second District YAC would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support throughout the year.*

### ▪ **Summer Retreat – July 2008**

The Youth Commission Annual Retreat in Desert Hot Springs focused on motivation, teambuilding, and community service. This year, the council members had the opportunity to listen to an extraordinary speaker, Mr. Stu Cabe. This annual retreat gave the opportunity for our youth council to interact with one another as well as with the other council members from the other districts. The Second District also elected their Commissioner, Katie Elder; Co-Commissioner, Maddie Loomis; and Secretary, Isaura Ochoa. The Second District council also elected Jennifer Gonzalez to serve as the Chief Justice. Council members really enjoyed the annual retreat and thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued dedication and support.

▪ **The Heart Walk – September 2008**

Council members had the opportunity to volunteer at the American Heart Association's Inland Empire Heart Walk. Council members volunteered their time giving out water and snacks to the participants of the walk. Proceeds from The Heart Walk helped support research, education, and advocacy for: heart disease, stroke and cardiovascular diseases.

▪ **Supervisor Tavaglione's Columbus Day Event – October 2008**

Council members participated registering and escorting guests at Supervisor Tavaglione's Annual Columbus Day Event. The council enjoyed greeting members of the community and helping make the Supervisor Tavaglione's event a huge success. This was also an opportunity for our council members to network with elected officials and promote our council within our community.

▪ **Halloween Fun Festival – October 2009**

In October, the Second District Council hosted the Halloween Fun Festival at the Jurupa Family YMCA. During this event, council members conducted various activities for the children of the community to participate in. These activities included: face painting, a coloring contest, musical chairs, a bone hunt, and mask making. Council members enjoyed working with the children in their community and the event proved to be an enjoyable opportunity for the youth and council members alike.

▪ **Dogtober Fest - Department of Animal Services – October 2008**

Council members volunteered their time at the Department of Animal Services "Dogtober Fest." The council had the opportunity to spend time volunteering at the pet adoption event, which was held at a local Harley Davidson dealership. During the event, council members helped walk dogs that were available for adoption around the facility, as well as assist with adoption paperwork. The Dogtober Fest also featured a raffle, animal micro chipping and vaccinations. Council members enjoyed the opportunity to meet one of their primary goals by working closely with the Department of Animal Services to make this event a success.

▪ **Youth In Government Day –October 2008**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Youth in Government Day was an important day for council members that participated in this Youth Commission Annual Event. Each council member was given the opportunity to job shadow a county employee during the event and find out more about local government and the wide array of occupational opportunities that the County offers. Our council members were able to job shadow positions in various departments including: Superior Court

Justice, Public Defender, Waste Management, Flood Control, and the Board of Supervisors. The event was very successful and the council members are excited to participate again next year.

▪ **Student Pollworker Program – November 2008**

The Board of Supervisors passed resolution 310 on June 24, 2003 to support the establishment of a Student Pollworker program, which permits eligible students to participate in the polling process countywide. Council members in partnership with the Riverside County Registrar of Voters, helped promote the program at their schools to raise public awareness of the election process. Eligible council members worked the election polls and received a stipend of \$90 and a certificate for their participation. But moreover, they received valuable experience and useful skills during a historic election.

▪ **Pet Supplies Drive – November 2008**

As part of the Animal Services Committee goals, the committee wanted to gather supplies to donate to the Department of Animal Services. As a result, they visited a local Petsmart in Mira Loma two weekends in a row to collect needed supplies. The Animal Services Committee collected 5 large boxes of dog and cat food, puppy toys and much needed supplies for the animal shelter. The drive was a success!

▪ **Riverside Transportation Agency Goodie Bags – December 2008**

Council members had the opportunity to help create and stuff goodie bags for the Riverside Transportation Agency's Holiday Trolleys. During this two hour event, members helped add various items and treats to bags which were given out on the trolley senior citizens during the holiday season.

▪ **Christmas Cards for the Elderly – December 2008**

The HEROES Committee worked on crafting Christmas cards that were handed out to the Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center. Each member of the council was in charge of making six decorative cards to deliver to the local senior center in hopes of bringing joy to the senior community during the holiday season.

▪ **Santa Claws – Department of Animal Services – December 2008**

The Animal Services Committee worked at the Santa Claws event during weekends in December at the Petsmart in Corona. Council members assisted by posing animals and their owners for photographs with Santa. Each photo that was purchased help raise \$5.00 for the Department of Animal Services.

▪ **Valentine's Day Cards – January 2009**

The Youth to Youth committee worked on crafting Valentine's Day cards that were handed out to the Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center during the Second District annual Senior Sweet Heart Social. Each member of the council was in charge of making six decorative cards for the special event.

▪ **Senior Sweet Heart Social – February 2009**

Our most memorable event each year is undoubtedly our annual Sweet Heart Social. Council members that complete surveys about their experiences on our youth council always indicate that their most enjoyable event was the social. During our Annual Sweet Heart Social, council members plan and coordinate a variety of events for the senior community to participate in. Senior participants are served a delicious meal by the council members while enjoying the tunes of local talent including barber shop singers and songs on the piano. During the latter part of the event the senior participants receive a hand made Valentine's Day card and a Polaroid photo of themselves with one of the council members. In addition, a wide variety of gifts and goodies are distributed during the bingo games. This was a successful event that brought the elderly citizens of the community and the Youth Council together.

▪ **Operation Safe House Party– February 2009**

The Youths to the Rescue Committee hosted a party at the Safe House facility. The council members spent time playing games with the safe house members and getting to know one another in a stress free environment. The Youth Council brought pizza, cookies and soda to share with the kids as well as little gift bags to celebrate Valentine's Day. The event proved to be an enjoyable occasion to spend time with kids who are in need.

▪ **Safety Expo – February 2009**

Youth Council participants had the opportunity to volunteer at a local Safety Expo in the Corona area. This event sought to teach local community members about the required steps in adequately preparing for unexpected events including earthquakes, and fires. Council members assisted by checking in the vendors for the event and by delivering water and lunch to the vendors during the day. The Safety Expo provided a great resource for the local community, and council members played an important role by assisting as needed around the event.

▪ **Youth Summit Goodie Bag Stuff – February 2009**

In an effort to volunteer at events that were in need of local community assistance, the Second District Youth Council joined forces with the other four districts in an effort to stuff the goodie bags that would be handed out at the upcoming Youth Summit. Council members had to make a total of 400 bags for the participants of the summit.

▪ **Youth Partnership Summit – March 2009**

One of the Youth Commission's Annual events is the Youth Partnership Summit. This year the event took place on March 4, 2009 and was hosted at the Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center. There were approximately 400 students and adults in attendance and the event was primarily focused around substance abuse. During the event, the Second District Youth Council assisted by serving as the student ambassadors for each of the three groups. The Second District Council led each of the groups from workshop to workshop making sure that all of the participants had an opportunity to learn from each of the three distinct presentations that were available. The day consisted of fun activities to get teens thinking about living a substance free life, while also providing an opportunity for them to get involved in being a part of the solution. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to get involved by creating sample public service announcement texts for our Youth Commission PSA campaign. The event was very successful overall!

- **Walk for Kids – March 2009**

Council members volunteered their time at Cesar Chavez Elementary School's Walk for Kids. This event was aimed getting youth outside and active. In an effort to provide volunteer assistance at the event Youth Council members counted the laps that the children completed while other council members assisted in tying shoes and providing water to the children.

- **Animal Services Fundraiser – March 2009**

The Animal Services committee held a Flapjack Fundraiser at the Applebee's in Mira Loma in hopes of generating much needed funds for the Department of Animal Services. Each council member sold five tickets to friends and family, in an effort to raise money for the local animal shelter. During the event, council members served pancakes, eggs, bacon, and refreshments to those who purchased tickets. The committee raised \$250 for the local animal shelter.

- **Recruitment- April 2009**

The last two council meetings in April were designated as "Bring a Friend" meetings. These meetings were designed to encourage students to join the Second District Council. Recruitment for the 2009-2010 term that ran from March until May. Council members were asked to spread the word about recruitment at their respective schools while encouraging interested friends to visit one of the council meetings to see how YAC functions. Additional methods of recruitment were made possible through the District Two website, letters to school administrators, work of mouth, recruitment meetings, and flyer distribution in the area.

- **Community Clean up- May 2009**

In an effort to be more personally involved in their local community, members of the Second District Youth Council assisted at the Annual Community Cleanup at Patriot High School. Council member met bright and early at 7:30am on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> to help clean up their community in cooperation with the County Department of Code Enforcement and EDA. The entire council worked diligently with Supervisor Tavaglione's staff to collect blow trash, paint out graffiti, and enjoy a day in the community. This event was a required event for both current and prospective council members in hopes of kicking off the next term year with a dedicated and well attended council wide event.

- **Mother's Day Cards for Eddie Dee Smith Resident Mothers – May 2009**

In order to continue to provide joy to the elderly community in the second district, the Youth Council created Mother's Day cards for the elderly at the Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center. Each council member decorated their own cards which were delivered in time for Mother's Day, in hopes of bringing joy to the Mothers of the local senior center.

- **Dollars for Scholars Fundraiser – May 2009**

Several council members volunteered at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dollars for Scholars Charity Dinner hosted on behalf of the Tavaglione family on Thursday, May 6, 2009. Council members arrived early to greet and check in guests during this special fundraiser. During the fundraiser, Council members

greeted guests with a friendly smile, seated guests at their respective tables and volunteered as needed around the event.

▪ **Operation Safe House Fundraiser- May 2009**

In an effort to raise much needed funds for Operation Safe House, a local crisis center for teens in need, the Second District Council opted to participate and coordinate a variety of fundraising activities. During the month of May, the HEROES Committee hosted two car wash fundraisers in the Second District and a scoops for hope fundraiser at Cold Stone Creamery.

▪ **Dollars for Scholars School Presentations – May & June 2009**

Each year a number of Dollars for Scholars scholarships are given to high school seniors in the second district. In an effort to assist Supervisor Tavaglione in the task of presenting the many scholarships that were awarded, the Youth Council members had the opportunity to present scholarships to their peers at high schools throughout the Second District. Council members visited local high schools and presented the scholarships at graduation and senior awards ceremonies. In total, council members presented at ten senior awards ceremonies as representatives of Supervisor Tavaglione's Youth Council.

▪ **End of the Year Dinner – June 2009**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> council members enjoyed an end of the year dinner to celebrate the accomplishments of the Second District Youth Advisory Council for the past term. Council members were able to get together one last time to celebrate their accomplishment of participating in over 30 events and projects during the term. Supervisor Tavaglione, Karen Christensen and Julia Luna were in attendance to present the council members with special awards for their hard work and remarks on their dedication to the Second Supervisorial District and the youth of our area.

▪ **Youth Commission Annual Retreat – July 2009**

Council members will be participating in the Annual Youth Commission Annual Retreat scheduled for July 30, 2009. As one of the kick off events for the council year, members will be expected to attend this fun event in hopes of learning about the procedures and history of the Youth Councils and Youth Commission.

**YAC Website**

Please visit us on the web at: <http://www.rivcodistrict2.com>

**General Recommendations for next year:**

- Look for applicants that do not have too many commitments in order to improve the expectations of council members.
- Continue the use of Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary procedure during meetings.
- Expect and enforce an increased level of participation at meetings and events.
- Continue to hold council members accountable to check the regularly updated website.
- Host initial meetings prior the retreat in order to identify our goals early.
- Limit the number of council members to 35 maximum participants to ensure full dedication of all council members.

- Continue enforcing the 2<sup>nd</sup> district Participation Agreement and Attendance Policy.

**Did we reach our goals?**

After reviewing the Second District Council End of the Year Survey, 97% of council members indicated that they believe our council performed above and beyond our goals for the year. Although our council is losing over half of their dedicated council members due to graduation, the Second District Council has recruited 18 new members. The returning members will continue to display a notable level of dedication while welcoming the new council members, in hopes of having another successful year.

## **Riverside County Third District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2008-2009**

The Third District Youth Advisory Council is made up of high school students between the ages of 14 and 17 years old that reside in the Third District. The Third District is made up of the Cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Hemet, San Jacinto, Menifee and Canyon Lake. Unincorporated areas within the Third District are: Anza, Aguanga, Idyllwild, Pinyon Pines, Quail Valley, Valle Vista, Sun City, French Valley, and Winchester. The schools represented this year were: Hemet, West Valley, San Jacinto, Great Oak, Linfield, Vista Murrieta, Murrieta Valley, and Temescal Canyon High Schools.

Listed below are key projects that the Youth Advisory Council of 2008-2009 accomplished throughout the year. We would also like to thank you for your constant support throughout our endeavors and for your dedication to the youth of our county.

- **Summer Retreat- August 2008**

This year's Youth Commission Annual Retreat was held in Desert Hot Springs, with Stu Cabe as the key note speaker. Stu focused on the importance of being a leader within their communities. All five Councils were able to learn a little bit about the County structure and their role within the structure. In addition, Council members from each district brainstormed together to create project idea which they would work on throughout the year. Their main focus for the year would be substance abuse prevention.

- **Youth Summit Planning Committee – September 2008-March 2009**

Representatives from all Five Supervisorial Districts met from September to March to plan the Ninth Annual Youth Summit. This Summit was called "The Wake up Call" and was held at the Moreno Valley Recreation Center, in Moreno Valley. Due to the limited space this year we were only able to allow 300 students to participate. The committee members met once a month to create implement, and discuss ideas geared towards the planning of the event. In addition, they launched a media campaign to deter students from consuming illegal substances.

- **Youth in Government Day – October 2008**

The youth engaged in their Annual Youth in Government Day. Council members were invited to shadow a Riverside County employee throughout the day to learn and understand the importance of local government inter-workings. YAC members expressed the educational significance of this event and urge that this project continues in operation. YAC members that will serve next year's term are eager to participate.

- **NAMI Walk – October 2008**

The Council along with some of Supervisor Stone's Legislative Assistants formed a team which they named the *Rolling Stone's* to participate in the 5k NAMI Walk at Diamond Valley Lake. The NAMI organization is designed to help educate people about mental illness and to break some of the stereotypes that accompany it.

- **Oktober Fest – October 2008**

The Council volunteered at the October Fest Fair. The Event was hosted by the Ramona Animal Shelter to promote animal adoption. It was held in October because October is pet adoption month. The Council manned game booths where children played for an opportunity to win great prizes.

- **Fall Festival – November 2008**

During the month of November the Council Hosted a Festival for The San Jacinto Unified School District After School Program. This festival was held at San Jacinto Elementary School. They met periodically throughout the Month of October to plan this event. The Council decided how many games would be played, what games would be played, the types of crafts that would be done, and the entertainment. To entertain the participants they began the event with the Chicken dance. The eighty elementary aged kids immediately join them in their dance. Before the festival ended they left with a small snack and prize.

- **Dare to be Aware – November 2008**

In November the Council participated in the Dare to be Aware Conference. This conference focused on reducing the stigmas associated with mental illness. To do so they had workshops that touched on issues such as gang awareness, self-mutilation, unhealthy relationships, and depression.

- **Extreme Life Youth Conference Planning Committee – December 2008-May 2009**

From December through May the Council met twice a month to plan two Extreme Life Youth Conferences. One would be in the City of San Jacinto and the second in the City of Menifee. The overall theme of these two conferences would be to live a healthier life free of substance abuse. The Planning Committee for this event included Friday Night Live members and Youth Advisory Council members. Both organizations partnered to make this event a success. Some of the things discussed at these meetings were the event agenda, possible speakers, food, decorations, color themes, advertisements, etc.

- **Winter Festival – January 2009**

During the month of January the Council hosted another festival for the San Jacinto School District after school program. This time the school they collaborated with was Jose Unified Antonio Estudillo Elementary School. Once again they met a month before to develop their game plan. Some of the games they played with the participants were bingo, basketball, pin the carrot on the snowman, and they also had face painting. The Council also danced the chicken

dance with the participants to get them pumped up for the day's events. At the end of the day the participants left home happy with a snack and a prize.

- **Southwest Detention Center Tour – January 2009**

During the month of January the Council was able to tour the correctional facilities at Southwest Detention Center. The Council walked through the jail stopping at the booking station. Where they were taught about the process for booking an inmate. Members learned that inmates are divided into three specific colors which determine what living quarters they are placed in. They saw the type of food the prisoners were given and where they spend their allotted recreational time. Also they peaked into one of the prisoners living quarters from the pod stations, where the officers supervise the prisoners. Most importantly, they were given an insight as to what a prisoner's life is like on from the moment they enter the detention center.

- **Riverside County Coroner's Office Tour – February 2009**

In February the Council took a tour of Riverside County's Coroner's Office in the City of Perris. They were given an overview of the day to day duties the Deputies execute. The presenter explained what types of deaths handle which is all except death by natural causes. The presenter also gave anecdotes of places he has had to go to pick up bodies from. At the end of the presentation the Council was able to take a look at the equipment used to conduct autopsies. They also were taken to a warehouse where all the belongings of the unclaimed deceased were kept. Those belongings are auctioned off and they have everything from cars to pinball machines.

- **Extreme Life Youth Conference (Hemet) – February 2009**

The first of three conferences was held on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the San Jacinto Valley Wide Recreation Center. The Council partnered up with Friday Night Live (FNL) to help make this event youth lead. The objective of this Conference is to educate the participants of harmful effects substance abuse can cause. Also, to get them thinking about their future and to help them realize that there are alternative ways to have fun. At this event we not only touched on the illegal substance but we also discussed legal substances such as Caffeine. Our guest speaker was Alex Khan from Teen Line who is a recovering drug addict. Participants were group together in a poster drawing competition against each other. The winning team received a bag full of goodies. Tons of great prizes were given away that day such as a flat screen t.v., Ipods, a video game system, etc. Also, the council created a short infomercial to show participants just how dangerous these substances can be. As a reward for attending the conference participants were given six hours of community service.

- **Youth Summit – March 2009**

The Youth Commission hosted their Ninth Annual Youth Summit on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Moreno Valley Recreation Center. This year the topic discussed was alcohol and drug abuse. We invited guest speaker Alex Khan from Teen Line a recovering drug addict to share her life with the participants. The Youth Commission launched a media campaign to remind their peers not to drink and drive. A great portion of the material for this campaign was developed during the Summit. Three breakout sessions were held which discussed three difference aspects of substance abuse. The first session was lead by the Sheriff's Department and discussed the legal

consequences of driving under the influence. The second workshop discussed the psychological effects of substance abuse. During the third workshop participants developed public service announcement texts for the Youth Commission to select one and record a public service announcement. The Public Service Announcements were recorded in English and Spanish. They were aired during the months of May and June in an attempt to deter high school students from drinking and driving. The second component of our media campaign was to create billboard ads for the youth to look at on their way to places where they might be tempted or pressured to consume these substances. Each Youth Council developed three billboard ideas for the Commission to select the top two.

- **Temecula Youth Council Mixer – March 2009**

The Third District Youth Advisory Council was invited to participate in a mixer with the Temecula Youth Council. The theme of the mixer was Iron Chef both councils were mixed to create two teams. Each team had an hour to cook their meals they were each given ingredients to make hamburgers, salad, and dessert. Both councils enjoyed the mixer and will be working together during the fall to plan the Third Extreme Life Youth Conference in Temecula.

- **Canned Food Drive – January 2009- April 2009**

Council members collected cans and other non-perishable foods items during the months of January-April to donate to some of the organizations present at Race for Humanity.

- **Race for Humanity – April 2009**

In April the Youth Advisory Council volunteered for the Third Annual Race for Humanity. They spent some time at the Supervisor's booth and also helped clean up once the event was over.

- **Extreme Life Youth Conference (Meniffee) – May 2009**

During the month of May the Council participated in the second Extreme Life Youth Conference of the year. The Commissioner and Co-Commissioner co-conducted this event. Once again the Council collaborated with Friday Night Live to make this a youth lead event. This time around the Council added a skit. The skit gave the participating youth a parent's perspective. The skit touched on what a parent goes through after finding out their child is abusing a substance. Also, at this conference we targeted a younger age group which was eighth to tenth grade. The conference ended with the announcement of the winners of the poster drawing contest they each won 250.00 dollars.

- **Recruitment – May-June 2009**

From May to June the Council will focus on recruiting new members for the 2009-10 year.

- **End of the Year Lunch – June 2009**

In June the Youth Advisory Council will enjoy their end of the year lunch. They will be presented with certificates in recognition of their dedication to their Council.

## **Riverside County Fourth District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2008-2009**

The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council (YAC) identifies youth related concerns and issues that specifically address the fourth district. YAC is comprised of a representative student body from: La Quinta, Indio, Palo Verde, Desert Christian, Xavier Prep, and Palm Desert High Schools.

Listed are accomplishments by the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council of 2008-2009. Thank you for your continued support and dedication of youth in our county.

- **Annual Youth Commission Retreat-July 2008**

At the Annual Youth Commission Retreat the students in the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council went to Miracle Springs Resort in Desert Hot Springs. There they obtained the crucial skills needed to organize run effective meetings, leadership skills, and teamwork. Stu Cabe was the keynote speaker and each district intern led discussions on Parliamentary Procedure, behavior and conduct, and the purpose of the Youth Advisory Councils/ Youth Commission.

- **Fourth District Inaugural Meeting and Council Retreat- September 2008**

At the first meeting for the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council, members picked three goals that they would like to work on for the year, their goals were: Help the Homeless, help in the fight against substance abuse, and to provide more activities bridging the gap between the young and elderly. Elections for the 08-09 officers took place at this meeting as well, the results were:

Coachella Valley: James Nelson- Commissioner, Lizette Romo- Co-Commissioner, Sarah Sullivan- Secretary, Jacqueline Cecil- Parliamentarian, and Brittany Boiko- Youth Summit Representative.

Blythe: Cassidy McKinney- Commissioner, Adam Kehl- Co-Commissioner, Candice Lule-Secretary, Dylan Walsh- Parliamentarian, Monica Bullock- Youth Summit Representative

- **Voter Registration Drive- September 2008**

YAC members hosted voter registration boots at their schools throughout the month of September to encourage high school students that are 18 years old to vote in the upcoming Presidential Election.

- **Second Annual Celebrate Recovery in the Desert 5K walk-September 2008**

YAC members volunteered at this event held at Palm Desert's Civic Center Park by passing out medals and gift bags to the participants as the crossed the finish line. This event was held to celebrate people who are/ have started their lives over to be free from drug and alcohol addiction.

- **Share Our Strength "Tee Up For Hunger" Golf Tournament- October 2008**

YAC members volunteered at the inaugural Share Our Strength “Tee Up For Hunger” fundraiser. YAC members helped at this event by passing out donated items to the golfers and assisted with the dinner and auction. All of the proceeds from this event were donated to Well in the Desert, an organization that provides low income or poor families with wholesome and nutritious meals.

- **Story Time at Palo Verde Public Library- October 2008**

YAC members visited the Palo Verde Library to read to elementary age children. YAC members decided to have a fantasy theme for their story time and only read fantasy stories. YAC members separated into three groups and each group read two stories to the kids that attended this event.

- **Trick or Treating for Canned Goods- October 2008**

Trick or Treating for Canned goods is an annual event for the Fourth District YAC. Every year on Halloween YAC members go door to door in their neighborhoods asking for canned goods or other non-perishable items to be donated to people in need. This year YAC members collected over 300 canned goods and donated them to the Riverside County Canned Food Drive so they could be distributed throughout the county to families for the holidays.

- **Start! American Heart Association Heart Walk- October 2008**

This annual event raises awareness of Heart Disease and also serves as a fund raiser for the American Heart Association. YAC members helped out in the Kids Zone at this event by helping out with the face painting, art, and inflatable bounce house booths.

- **Halloween Costume Drive- October 2008**

YAC members hosted a Halloween Costume drive during the first two weeks of October. YAC members collected over 30 costumes that were donated to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

- **Holiday Toy Drive- November/December 2008**

Fourth District Youth Advisory Council collected over 100 toys and given to children living in foster care. YAC members met at Cathedral City Elementary School to wrap all of the toys the night before the event.

- **For the Children Holiday Party- December 2008**

On December 13, 2008 the Fourth District Advisory Council passed out the gifts they had collected to the children in foster care. The holiday party was held at the Cathedral City Elementary School.

- **Manna Projects Holiday Party in Mecca- December 2008**

The Manna Project hosts an annual holiday party in Mecca for low income families. This event provides families with new clothes, food, Christmas toys for children, and entertainment. YAC members assisted this organization by helping at various game booths and passing out toys to the children.

- **Palo Verde Valley Winter Coat Drive- December 2008/ January 2009**

YAC members in Blythe hosted a winter coat drive during December and January. All items collected were donated to a soup kitchen in the Palo Verde Valley area.

- **Story time at the Palm Desert Public Library- January 2009**

To promote literacy in children, YAC volunteered at the Palm Desert Public Library to read story book to kids. YAC members separated into two groups and read three or four books to the kids that attended this event.

- **Youth in Government Day-January 2009**

The students in the Fourth District Advisory Commission participated in Youth in Government day on January 14, by job shadowing Riverside County employees. Some of the departments that participated were Fire Department, District Attorney, Sheriff Department, Probation, Transportation and Land Management, and Social Services.

- **Valentine's Day Dance at the Joslyn Senior Center- February 2009**

YAC volunteered at the annual Valentines Day Dance at the Palm Desert Joslyn Senior Center. YAC members danced and passed out refreshments. All YAC members enjoyed this event and hope to participate again next year.

- **Youth Summit- March 2009**

The topics for this year were mental health, peer pressure, and staying fit and eating healthy. YAC members from the Coachella Valley and Blythe participated in this event by helping to facilitate and filming the event for future reference.

- **March Canned Food Drive Contest- March 2009**

YAC members hosted a canned food drive contest to see what class could collect the most canned food. The class that collected the most was treated to a pizza party. The high schools that participated were Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and Desert Christian. All items collected were donated to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

- **Blythe Nursing Care Center- Game Day- March 2009**

YAC members hosted a game day at the Blythe Nursing Care Center. YAC members played bingo and many other games with the residents. Both the residents and YAC members that participated found this to be a very fun and rewarding experience. YAC members look forward to volunteering at the Blythe Nursing Care Center in the future.

▪ **United Cerebral Palsy “Baseball Buddy”- April 2009**

YAC members volunteered to be “Baseball Buddies” for kids with disabilities. YAC members helped the kids play baseball by helping them throw/ hit the ball and run the bases. YAC members enjoyed this event so much they volunteered to help again in May.

▪ **Palo Verde Valley Relay For Life – April 2009**

YAC members volunteered at the Palo Verde Valley Relay for Life which is an annual fundraising event hosted by the American Cancer Society. YAC members helped out with registration, handing out T-shirts, setting up the Luminaries, and worked in the DJ booth while also managing the PA system.

▪ **Recruitment**

Recruitment for the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council is ongoing through the end of the term and summer. Council members provided contact information of students they recommended for next year’s council. Youth Advisory Council members were asked to bring potential applicants to projects and meetings during the end of the term. Our council is promoted through the media, letters to school officials, and word of mouth

**General Recommendations:**

- Continue inviting Supervisor Wilson to meetings
- Continue to host innovative community service projects
- Recruit committed members
- Establish better methods of communication with members
- Recruit members from all high school in the fourth district
- More presentations from community organizations
- Continue council’s positive attitude
- Hold more events with the other Youth Advisory Council Districts

**Riverside County Fifth District Youth Advisory Council  
Annual Report 2008-2009**

The Youth Advisory Council is comprised of high schools students who represent the youth in their district. They identify issues that directly affect the youth and collectively search for solutions. The 5<sup>th</sup> District includes the cities and unincorporated areas of Moreno Valley, Perris, Calimesa, Beaumont, Banning, Desert Hot Springs, North Palm Springs, Nuevo, Lakeview, Juniper Flats, Meadowbrook, Good Hope, Romoland, Homeland, Green Acres, Highgrove, Box Springs, Pigeon Pass, Reche Canyon, San Timoteo Canyon, Oak Valley, Cherry Valley, Banning Bench, and Cabazon.

For the 2008-2009 council year, the 5<sup>th</sup> District established three main goals that were to be reached by the end of the term. The three main goals are listed as follows:

- Assisting the local community through volunteer involvement
- Increasing public awareness in beneficial environmental activities
- Focusing on today’s youth through mentoring and sponsoring events

Listed are the key projects the 5<sup>th</sup> District Youth Advisory Council of 2008-2009 accomplished throughout the year. We thank you for your continued support and dedication to the youth in our county.

- **Youth Retreat – July 2008**

The Youth Commission hosted the 11th Annual Retreat in Desert Hot Springs; an event which focused on leadership, teamwork development, and community service. This year, the council members had the opportunity to listen to a wonderful motivational speaker, Stu Cable who inspired the students to “stand up for what was good.” The Fifth District also elected their Commissioner, Rousseau Kazi; Co-Commissioner, Ashley Bennett; and Secretary, Josh Valdez. Council members really enjoyed the retreat and commend the Board of Supervisors for supporting this annual event.

- **Youth Fest – September 2008**

The annual Youth Fest, hosted by the Moreno Valley Parks and Recreation Center, was a day filled with activities for the youth who reside in area. There were dance performances, booths that displayed information about the Moreno Valley area, a petting zoo, and food vendors. This event gave the 5<sup>th</sup> District Youth Council the chance to actively recruit members for the new council term. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Council set up a booth, passed out information packets, and candy to interested participants. This was a great opportunity to highlight the council’s past accomplishments and explain their goals for the 2009 term. Several interested parents and students picked up applications.

- **Student Pollworker Program – September 2008**

In 1996, the California State Legislature amended an elections code to permit eligible high school students to participate at their local election polls. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved this program, because it gave students the opportunity to get involved, assist voters, and understand the electoral process. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Council was fortunate to have several of its members participated in the memorable 2008 Presidential Elections.

- **Recycling Program – October 2009**

One of the goals of the 5<sup>th</sup> District was to create environmental awareness within their community. Council members decided to decorate their own recycling boxes and distribute them to various classrooms on campus. All proceeds were donated to the Riverside County Animal Shelter.

- **YIG Day – October 2009**

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Youth in Government day was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Carriage House in Riverside. This event gave the council and other high school students the opportunity to experience firsthand how government operates within various departments. Council members arrived early to help setup decorations, direct participants and assist with closing ceremonies.

- **St. Jude Give Thanks One Step at a Time – November 2009**

Council members participated in the annual St. Jude Walkathon to raise awareness and funds for pediatric treatment and research for their patients. They learned about the medical center, the amount of time and dedication they devote to finding cures for cancer, and meet children who had been past patients of the facility. The day concluded with closing speakers and refreshments. The council members were touched by the efforts of all the people involved who were dedicated in making a change.

▪ **Twin Pines Ranch – December 2009**

Council members attended the annual Christmas at Twin Pines Ranch on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>; an event sponsored by the Riverside County Blue Knights, Supervisor Marion Ashley, and Supervisor Jeff Stone. The Ranch is a residential boot camp for young men from the ages of 15-18. This juvenile detention facility is designed to give these boys the opportunity to learn skills that will assist them once their term has been served. During the festivities, the council members mingled with the boys and handed out Christmas gifts to the cadets. Gifts included warm blankets, stationary, personal hygiene products, and books; items that were donated from local community members. Council members look forward to attending next year's event and hope to take part in donating items for the Twin Pines Christmas packages.

▪ **Christmas at the Norton Younglove Community Center – December 2009**

The Norton Younglove Community Center put on a Christmas celebration for the families of the less fortunate. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Council worked on making over 100 goodie bags and created a game for the event. Council members assisted in serving candied yams, cookies, turkey and mashed potatoes to over 100 participants who showed up. The council also set up a booth where the children played "The Christmas Tree Topper," and won prizes.

▪ **Tobacco Ordinance Presentation – January 2009**

Dr. James Jo, from the Mental Health Department of Riverside County has been involved in getting the youth to participate in making smoke free parks nation-wide. Co-Commissioner Ashley Bennett attended Banning's City Council meeting and urged the council to adopt an ordinance that promotes smoke free parks within their community. The council voted 3-2 in favor of this ordinance and opted to place a one-year trail and evaluation on its effectiveness before making it mandatory.

▪ **Youth Summit – March 2009**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Riverside Youth Commission held their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Partnership Summit which focused Peer Pressure and Substance Abuse. Each district contacted high schools within their communities and invited students to the informative event. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Youth Council encouraged the students to collectively create a Public Service Announcement and assisted in the event set-up.

▪ **Public Speaking Training – March 2009**

Dr. James Jo attended the Moreno Valley Youth Council meeting in March to discuss the importance of effective public speaking. He taught skills ranging from maintaining eye contact, being direct when making a point, and showing confidence in the information being provided.

The students practiced speeches and performed skits. The council enjoyed the overall presentation and felt as if their skills had improved through the training.

▪ **Beaumont Park Clean-Up – March 2009**

The 5<sup>th</sup> District Youth Council assisted the Riverside County Department of Mental Health in a local park clean-up in Beaumont. The focus of the project was to assist Dr. James Jo in collecting cigarette butts in hopes of persuading council members to ban smoking in local parks. The council enjoyed making a positive environmental impact in the community and meeting other concerned active community members.

▪ **Relay for Life – April 2009**

The Relay for Life took place at Valley View High School. Participants walked to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The general public and several cancer survivors walked the Valley View track to help raise money through sponsorship. Several speakers, bands, and support groups dedicated their day to “Finding a Cure.” Council members participated in cheering on walkers and handing out cancer remembrance bracelets.

▪ **Recruitment – April 2009**

Recruitment for the 2009-2010 term began in March and ended in June. Council members were asked to spread the word about recruitment at their respective schools by passing out flyers and information packets. Several council members took time to promote the Youth Council at local high schools by making a 5-minute presentation to their interested peers during lunch and pep rallies.

▪ **Highgrove Days – May 2009**

The Youth Council was in charge of directing the arts and crafts booth for the young children who attended Highgrove Days on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The council loved interacting with the youth and enjoyed helping them paint mother’s day gifts and putting together other festive decorations. They also ran the raffle booth and handed out prizes to lucky winners. The council also enjoyed free Wiener Schnitzel for their efforts.

▪ **End of the Year Dinner – June 2009**

On June 17<sup>th</sup> council members enjoyed an end of the year dinner to celebrate the accomplishments of the Youth Advisory Council for the past term. Council members were able to get together one last time at the Olive Garden in Moreno Valley. Supervisor Ashley, his Chief of Staff Robin Hastings, and the Intern Youth Coordinator Kym Reis, attended the final festivities and helped hand out certificates to the dedicated 5<sup>th</sup> District Youth Council.

**General Recommendations:**

- Increasing recruitment in surrounding 5<sup>th</sup> District cities
- Invite county employees for presentations pertaining to council goals
- Get council members active in their local government
- Recruit council members who are committed to the council

- Find ways service projects that directly impact high school students
- Put together a proposal and submit it for the Board's review
- Update council on Board agenda items and activities

