

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



**FROM:** Youth Commission

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** June 25, 2013

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

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the Riverside County Youth Commission Annual Report for the 2012-2013 term, as required by Resolution 98-032 and the Youth Commission By-Laws (Article XIII).

**JUSTIFICATION:** In its role to initiate and support projects and services involving young people in Riverside County, the Youth Commission provides advice, assistance and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and all County Department heads. The Youth Commission works to anticipate the educational, recreational and cultural needs of the youth of Riverside County, and it works to ensure the coordination of community resources to improve the quality of life for all its youth.

One of the directives of the Board of Supervisors is the requirement to submit an annual report. This report is designed to be a compilation of the activities and accomplishments of the Youth Commission and its comprising five Youth Advisory Councils.

The Commission and Youth Advisory Councils wish to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support, insight and commitment by appointing the Commission to advise the Board on issues directly affecting youth. We are confident that the Youth Commission will continue to be a voice for the youth in Riverside County.

Tiffany Estevez, Legislative Intern  
Youth Commission

Riverside County  
Youth Commission

2012-2013 Term

# Annual Report



Riverside County Youth Commission  
Annual Report 2012-2013

In its role to initiate and support projects and services involving young people in Riverside County, the Commission shall provide advice, assistance and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and all County Department heads. They shall work to anticipate the educational, recreational, and cultural needs of the youth of this county, and work to ensure the coordination of community resources in order to improve the quality of life for all its youth.

Listed below are key projects that the Youth Commission of 2012-2013 accomplished throughout the year. The Commission would also like to thank the community for their constant support through their endeavors and dedication to the youth in Riverside County.

- **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Commission Retreat- August 2012**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Commission Retreat was held August 1 at the Edward Dean Museum in Cherry Valley. Motivational speaker Dee Hankins provided the keynote and leadership workshops for this event. Mr. Hankins helped youth learn valuable leadership, communication and team-building skills. Council members were also given the opportunity to meet and network with YAC members from all five districts.

- **Youth In Government Day –October 2012**

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Youth in Government Day was an exciting and important day for council members that participated. The event is an Annual Youth Commission Event, and provides a unique learning opportunity where participants are matched with County employees and spend the day learning from one another. Each participant was provided with a chance to job shadow a county employee and find out more about local government and the wide array of occupational opportunities that the County offers. Council members were able to job shadow positions in various departments including the offices of: Superior Court, Public Defender, Waste Management, Flood Control, Animal Services, Code Enforcement, Fire Department and the Board of Supervisors. The event was very successful and was the highlight of the year for many of the participants.

- **“Stuff the Bus” Operation SafeHouse-November 2012**

Each year, Operation SafeHouse shelters more than 600 teens in need of a safe place to stay. The house provides emergency shelter, intervention and outreach services to youth in crisis. By providing a warm caring environment, youth can address their problems and are offered positive alternatives to becoming victims of the streets.

Like many other nonprofits, the organization has been facing decreases in donations and grants while needs are increasing. In response, SafeHouse and Riverside Transit Agency, a partner agency, brainstormed ways to meet those needs. RTA suggested to “Stuff the Bus;” this event drives buses around downtown Riverside to gather donations of pillows, blankets, bathroom tissue, paper towels, toothbrushes, cleaning supplies and food. Each of the five districts assisted with the program by organizing their own supplies drive.

- **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit-March 2013**

Riverside County's Youth Commission held their Thirteenth Annual Youth Summit at the University of California, Riverside. The objective of this annual event is to create an avenue where Riverside County youth can discuss issues that affect their lives and community. Each year a theme is selected based on feedback from previous participants. This year students were given the opportunity to enjoy workshops focusing on Tolerance, Personal Safety & Self-Defense, and Distracted and Driving. Tiana Tozer served as the keynote speaker; Tiana inspired students to use compassion before they judge their peers based on stereotypes.

- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth District Youth In Government Day- April 2013**

YAC coordinated Youth in Government Day, pairing high school students with 45 county employees. Students shadowed Superior Court Judges Victoria Cameron and James Hawkins, rode along with public safety agencies, witnessed court trials, hiked through the Desert Mountains and got a glimpse into the rewarding career choices available in public service. After six hours of seeing county government in action, students regrouped to discuss their experiences. Participating departments included Superior Court, Cal Fire, Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Probation, Economic Development Agency, Parks and Recreation, Mental Health, Transportation and Land Management, Social Services, Law Offices of the Public Defender, Office on Aging and the Environmental Health Agency.

Riverside County First District Youth Advisory Council  
Annual Report 2012-2013

The Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in the First District of Riverside County. High Schools that are located within the First District include: Alvord, Arlington, Bethel Christian, California Lutheran, Citrus Hill, Corner Stone Christian, Elsinore, Hillcrest, John W. North, Keith McCarthy Academy, Lakeside, La Sierra, Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Notre Dame, Ortega Continuation, Poly, Raincross-Independent, Riverside Christian, Sherman Indian, Temescal Canyon, and Woodcrest Christian High School.

*Listed below are key projects that the Youth Advisory Council of 2012-2013 accomplished throughout the year. The council would also like to thank the community for their constant support through their endeavors and dedication to the youth in Riverside County.*

- **Deleo Regional Sports Park Grand Opening- August 2012**  
Youth council members attended the grand opening at Deleo Regional Sports Park in Temescal Valley. They helped assist with set-up and tear down of booths and assisted in cleaning up after the event. YAC members were thrilled that they were part of the grand opening and its wonderful addition to the Temescal Valley community.
- **Movie in the Park - August 2012**  
YAC members participated in the Movie in the Park event at Wildrose Park in Temescal Valley. They brought their lawn chairs and blankets to watch the movie Lorax. There were pre-show activities for the kids that youth council members were able to assist and lead. Overall, this was an enjoyable event for the YAC members to attend before the beginning of the school year.
- **Mariachi Festival – September 2012**  
The Youth Advisory Council volunteered their services at the Mariachi Festival. This event was held at Fairmount Park in Riverside. The event featured live mariachi performances and even a “wild or mild” salsa contest. YAC members helped volunteers set up and tear down booths. They also picked up trash around the park to keep it clean. This was an exciting event for the YAC members.
- **The Lisa Project - September 2012**  
The Youth Advisory Council participated in the Lisa Project. This was a free multi-sensory exhibit held at the Galleria at Tyler Mall in Riverside. The goals of this project are to enhance awareness of child abuse in our county and to encourage families to adopt abused children. YAC really enjoyed this event and were very touched emotionally by this experience. This helped them become more aware of what is happening around them.
- **Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful - October 2012**  
The Youth Advisory Council participated in the “Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful” Santa Ana River and Fairmont Park Watershed Cleanup. A total of four YAC members participated and helped clean up the area.

Members devoted most of their time to handing out waters and snacks to the hard working volunteers and helped feed 450 volunteers with food from Farmer Boys. The YAC members that were able to donate their time had a lot of fun helping with this great event and they heard nothing but praise from everyone including the KRCB workers.

- **Riverside Citrus Classic Bike Ride- October 2012**

The Youth Advisory Council was invited to help out at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Riverside Citrus Bike Ride”. The YAC was extremely excited to help with this noble cause of fundraising money for education. A total of 12 YAC members willingly and readily agreed to get their hands dirty to help. Much time was spent working and assisting at the bike valet. In the end, the YAC members had a great time helping all the bikers that were riding for education.

- **Halloween Harvest Festival Trunk or Treat- October 2012**

The Youth Advisory Council participated in Temescal Valley’s Halloween Trunk or Treat event. The 6 YAC members that attended had a plethora of fun. The YAC members that attended helped run the multiple Halloween booths and some even ran the bouncy jumpers. This event was a great experience because the YAC had the chance to interact with the Temescal Valley community and pass out candy before Halloween.

- **Good Hope Halloween Fun- October 2012**

Eight YAC members volunteered their services for the Good Hope community for Halloween. YAC members enjoyed being in charge of the arts and crafts booths that were open to the children. At this event, the YAC also unloaded pumpkins from a trailer to put in the event’s pumpkin patch. Best of all, the YAC were allowed to take a pumpkin home.

- **Stuff the Bus Scavenger Hunt/Operation Safe house - October 2012**

The Youth Advisory Council asked First District residents of Lake Hills community to donate items for Operation SafeHouse. The SafeHouse provides emergency shelter, intervention and outreach services each year to more than 600 runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. During the scavenger hunt, YAC collected items including paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, shower gel, toothbrushes and canned food.

After the scavenger hunt, the YAC members and the Youth Coordinator provided a pizza social for those at the SafeHouse. The teens shared their stories with the council members, which left everyone deeply touched. YAC has resolved to visit SafeHouse more often and help encourage those living there to continue moving forward.

- **Hope Food Drive at Albertson’s - November 2012**

YAC collected two boxes full of canned goods for H.O.P.E (Helping Our People of Elsinore) at the Albertson’s in Lake Elsinore. The organization is always in need of items to continue serving the community. After the event, the council went to H.O.P.E to drop off the food and were greeted with gratitude for the work they had done.

- **Lakeland Village Community Clean-up Day - November 2012**  
 The Youth Advisory Council volunteered their services to Lakeland Village Community by signing in the constituents who were dropping off their trash. YAC also directed traffic into this event to make sure the event was as organized and successful as possible.
- **Mead Valley's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast With Santa and His Elves-December 2012**  
 On this special day, Mead Valley families came together, shared breakfast and took a picture with Santa. Children made arts and crafts in "Santa's Workshop," participated in "Reindeer Games" and received prizes from council members. YAC members wore elf hats while assisting the community's youth and had a terrific time. A total of 700 Mead Valley residents attended this event. The YAC felt as if they made a difference that Christmas season.
- **Good Hope's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breakfast With Santa and His Elves-December 2012**  
 On this special day, Good Hope families came together, shared breakfast and took a picture with Santa. Children made arts and crafts in "Santa's Workshop," participated in "Reindeer Games" and received prizes from council members. YAC members wore elf hats while assisting the community's youth and had a terrific time. A total of 500 Mead Valley residents attended this event.
- **Deleo Regional Sports Park Winter Wonderland - December 2012**  
 11 YAC members attended the Winter Wonderland event. We had some YAC volunteer their services at the Snowman jumper and others volunteer at the ice skating rink. There were even a few YAC members who ran the real snow play area. This was a fun event and provided the surrounding Temescal Valley community with Christmas activities and arts and crafts. There was even a Christmas train. Overall, this event was successful because it brought the Christmas spirit to many families.
- **Riverside County Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Documentary at CBU- January 2013**  
 This event was provided by Riverside County and Operation Safehouse. This documentary, held at California Baptist University, brought awareness to the community about the real dangers of sex trafficking. This documentary was based on a true story of Carissa Phelps, who is a survivor of human sex trafficking. YAC was very eager to participate in this event. With 8 YAC members total volunteering their time to help direct people and sign them in to the event. Overall, the YAC members were touched by the event.
- **Janet Goeske Senior Center " Valentine's Day" Event- February 2013**  
 11 YAC members volunteered at the Janet Goeske Senior Center in Riverside. YAC members made homemade Valentine's Day cards for the seniors and passed them out that day. They also brought Valentine's Day cookies for the seniors to enjoy. After passing out the cards and goodies, the YAC conversed with the seniors in the art room and the bingo room. The seniors were very elated that the YAC came to visit them.

- **Adopt-A-Trail Event at Hartford Springs- March 2013**  
 5 YAC members participated in this event. Many of them worked with hoes, shovels, and rakes to amend the trail pathways. The trails also needed to be cleaned up due to a lot of trash. The YAC worked very hard at this event to make sure the trail was clean and leveled for their fellow community to enjoy.
- **SafeHouse Hangout-March 2013**  
 The SafeHouse provides emergency shelter, intervention and outreach services to runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. At this event, council members brought pizza and soda to share with SafeHouse members. After they ate, council members played Dance 4 on Wii, basketball, among other games. Everyone got well-acquainted with each other by sharing school and family experiences. Council members really enjoyed this event and plan on coming back next term.
- **Janet Goeske Gala Event- April 2013**  
 10 YAC volunteers participated in the annual Janet Goeske Senior Gala Event. This event featured a show just like “Dancing with the Stars” where judges included Mayor Rusty Baily and Supervisor Jeffries. At this event, YAC members helped sign people in and also helped organized the live auction that was conducted after the show. Other YAC members were guards over the VIP sections and some even sold cheerleading pom poms for the event. Overall, this event was one of the YAC’s favorite events they attended this council year.
- **Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful Litter Graffiti Abatement Clean Up- April 2013**  
 YAC members volunteered their time picking up trash in the local Riverside community. Most importantly, they helped remove unwanted graffiti from poles and street signs. They were given gloves and yellow shirts to wear while cleaning. YAC partnered with “Mormon Helping Hands” to make this event successful.
- **Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful Great American Clean up- May 2013**  
 YAC members will attended the Great American Clean Up on Saturday, May 11 to help clean up trash around the City of Riverside’s seven wards. This event was successful in cleaning up the community and making it a more beautiful place to live.
- **Temescal Valley Fair- May 2013**  
 The Youth Advisory Council assisted in the Temescal Valley Community Fair at Deleo Regional Sports Park. They volunteered their time by running such booths as the bouncy jumper and the arts and crafts station. There was also a YAC booth at this event to help promote the Youth Advisory Council.
- **End of Year YAC Dinner –May 2013**  
 Youth Advisory Council members hosted their end of the year dinner celebration at Spaghetti Factory Restaurant as a closure to the 2012-2013 YAC term. Council members were congratulated for their efforts in formulating a successful year and presented with an award following a delicious Italian meal.



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

Goals for the 2012-2013 YAC term:

- environmental awareness
- assist with the no smoking law
- help out the homeless
- control of graffiti
- recreation day for youth

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Council members delivered 25 projects and dedicated 1,155 hours of community service to the First District of Riverside County. Overall, YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their expectations and goals for the year.

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Riverside County Second District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2012-2013
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The Second District Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body of members who either reside in or attend high school within the Second District of Riverside County. Communities within the Second District include: part of the City of Riverside, the City of Corona, the City of Norco, the City of Eastvale, and the City of Jurupa Valley. In addition, the Second District includes the unincorporated communities of Coronita, El Cerrito, and Home Gardens.

If you want to find out more about the Second District YAC visit:

**2<sup>nd</sup> District YAC:** <http://www.rivcodistrict2.org/opencms/boards/yac/index.html>

**Youth Commission Website for 2<sup>nd</sup> District:** <http://www.rivcoyac.org/district-2>

*In order to achieve our three 2012-20123 goals, the council was divided up into three committees. Each committee worked to coordinate and volunteer at events which were related to their goals.*

- ***OpCo: Operation Community - September 20112***

The Youth Advisory Council members were very committed to setting out and helping all those in need, with a particular focus for children of the Riverside community. OpCo had a main focus on awareness and bringing awareness through their participation in events or awareness within their own schools. The committee was flexible and willing to help in all areas and held their primary focus on their community.

- ***Helping Hands for Seniors- September 2012***

The Youth Advisory Council members were very excited to have an opportunity to participate in a variety of projects that pertained especially to the elderly of our community. The committee members volunteered at local activities within the community and worked to help bring new light to the elderly community. This committee was extremely dedicated to getting involved within the Second District as they extended their vision and service by becoming active volunteers at the Riverside Soup Kitchen to help feed the homeless population.

- ***C.A.S.A –September 2012***

The Youth Advisory Council members were also very interested in working to clean, maintain and beautify the community. C.A.S.A sought to provide assistance in community clean-ups, endorsing a smoke-free environment and adopting a trail within our district.

Based on the 2012-2013 goals for the year, the council identified the following aspects that could be improved upon next year:

- Further recruitment for members in the Corona and Eastvale communities.
- Continuing to work with local organizations and non-profits to support them with needed volunteers during a difficult economy.

*Listed are the key projects the 2012-2013 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 – August 2012**

Council members had an open discussion and completed a survey regarding their experience at the Annual Retreat in order to attain feedback to report to the Youth Commission in order to improve the event for next year. Council member, Eden Rose Podgorski, expressed that she really enjoyed speaker, Dee Hankins, as she was able to interact in his great ice breakers, as well as gain insightful knowledge from his personal story. Council member, Zachary Houser, thought the activities and the food were the best and went on to share his newfound respect for Dee and the topics he covered. The council agreed that that they enjoyed the event and were very inspired by the speaker.

- **Soup Kitchen – September 2012**

Council members assisted in the Downtown Riverside First Congregational Church Soup Kitchen. Members were informed of their duties and briefed on what to expect in order to prepare them in their participation. Council members were of great help in feeding some of Riverside's homeless.

- **Mayor's Ball for the Arts – October 2012**

YAC members participated in attending and assisting at an event to benefit local arts and cultural organizations located in Riverside. During the event volunteers enjoyed setting up the event and monitoring the silent auction. Each volunteer felt the event was successful and enjoyed being in a formal fundraising event that helps to better the Riverside community.

- **Youth In Government Day –October 2012**

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Youth in Government Day was an exciting and important day for council members that participated. The event is an Annual Youth Commission Event, and provides a unique learning opportunity where participants are matched with County employees and spend the day learning from one another. Each participant was provided with a chance to job shadow a county employee 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 the offices of: Superior Court, Public Defender, Waste Management, Flood Control, Animal Services, Code Enforcement, Fire Department and the Board of Supervisors. The event was very successful and was the highlight of the year for many of the participants.

- **Lisa Project – October 2012**  
 Council members said the event was definitely hard-hitting and sad but was truly moving. The Lisa Projects aims at raising awareness about abuse within our own community by providing an interactive walk through experience. Council members would like to see more awareness activities within our community like the Lisa Project.
- **Zombie Crawl- October 2012**  
 The Council participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Riverside Zombie Crawl held in Downtown Riverside. Members were encouraged to dress the part and “zombify” themselves as they took part in the event. During the event members assisted in tabling, advertising and face painting. Downtown Riverside was overtaken with zombies of all ages. The Council found this event highly entertaining and enjoyable.
- **Soup Kitchen – November 2011**  
 Council members participated in their first Soup Kitchen a day before the Thanksgiving holiday. Members said that it was an eye opening experience for them as they were able to service the homeless and those in need with at least one warm holiday meal. Members were able to interact with those they served and see their direct impact. The S<sup>4</sup> Committee has taken charge of this service project and encouraged all members to attend throughout the year.
- **Operation SafeHouse: Stuff the Bus – November 2011**  
 Through the holiday season, Council members worked diligently to collect items to assist those in need. The 2<sup>nd</sup> District continues to support Operation Safehouse in providing needed items for all teens in care of the SafeHouse.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets – November 2012**  
 Council members worked to collect items to include in Thanksgiving dinner care packages for nine families that participate in the Grandparent Raising Grandchildren program through the County of Riverside. The council worked diligently to secure donations and collect goods from family and friends. The baskets were completely full with all of the necessary items for an enjoyable Thanksgiving dinner. All families were grateful for the baskets and members were exceptionally happy to do something nice for those less fortunate in the community.
- **Soup Kitchen – November 2012**  
 Council members participated in Downtown Riverside’s Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner. Council members were able to provide a great dinner and service to all those in attendance. Members were touched deeply by the sight of so many attendees and families. 2<sup>nd</sup> District YAC has voted the Soup Kitchen to be one of the most enjoyable and inspirational events to attend.

- **Fall Fashion Show – November 2012**  
 Council members were able to participate as models for Downtown Riverside’s Fall Fashion Show. Members stated that the fashion show was a fun event and a rare opportunity. Council members who participated encouraged others to participate in the case that the opportunity arises in the future, as it was quite the experience.
- **Winter Carnival – December 2012**  
 The Council was able to participate in the Jurupa Parks Winter Carnival. Members were in charge of carnival games, pictures with Santa, and serving as Santa’s elves in Crafts Corner. Members enjoyed crafting with children and teaching them how to make their favorite holiday symbol out of various materials. Council members enjoyed the improvement and participation of the event.
- **Eastvale ‘Light the Night’ Winter Carnival – December 2012**  
 Council members were able to participate in Eastvale’s Winter Carnival where they were in charge of various carnival games. The council members took turns in leading various booths and helping children find their way around all the activities offered throughout the evening. Council members enjoyed their participation and would like to participate again in the future.
- **TruEvolution Workshop – January 2013**  
 Gabriel Maldonado, the creator and representative for TruEvolution, attended the 2nd District Youth Advisory Council Meeting to present a workshop on leadership. In his presentation, Gabriel focused on three stones to success and greatness which consisted of direction, intensity, and persistence. He shared his personal story of triumph and struggle to give insight to those entering and pursuing higher education. Gabriel tied his leadership workshop back to TruEvolution and encouraged the council to apply and get involved.
- **RCAHT Screening – January 2013**  
 Council members shared the same thoughts of their experience in attending the Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce screening by stating that the event was very inspiring and motivational. YAC was able to direct and check-in guests to watch a short film and listen to a survivor of human trafficking. The council hopes to become involved in more projects similar to the screening and topic.
- **Soup Kitchen – January 2013**  
 Council Members shared their thoughts and experience in participating at our local Soup Kitchen. Members expressed their sense of gratitude but a definite emotional trigger seeing so many young people and families in need. The council plans on continuously assisting at the Soup Kitchen
- **Senior Sweet Heart Social – February 2013**  
 Our most memorable event each year is undoubtedly our annual Sweet Heart 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 music and dancing. During the latter part of the event the senior participants receive a handmade Valentine's Day card. 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.

- **Corona Skyline Hike – February 2013**

C.A.S.A. decided to continue the clean-up and hiking event at the Corona Skyline as a way to do both service and bond amongst one another. A council member served as the trail guide as the members followed, learning about plants, the history attached to the skyline and clearing any trash along the way. The members really enjoyed the experience of having an outdoors event that allowed them to come together and interact.

- **Soup Kitchen – February 2013**

Council members participated in Downtown Riverside's Soup Kitchen and were able to test out different duties. Some members were assigned kitchen duty, where they were able to interact with long time volunteers and prepare and serve food for the day, while others interacted with the guests and served drinks. Soup Kitchen is a continuous event due to its high need and the direct fulfillment in helping the hungry and homeless of our community.

- **Bring a Friend Recruitment – March 2013**

During the March meetings, YAC members were encouraged to bring a potential member for the 2013-2014 term. Members were also asked to recruit friends and family members to join the council for the upcoming term. Applications were accepted during the months of March and April.

- **Youth Summit Workday – March 2013**

Council member, Alma Lopez, shared her experience in participating in our own Youth Summit Workday. She stated that the council worked to prepare approximately 400 bags and folders for the Annual Youth Summit Event. The second district is appreciative for all council members who attended the workday as they worked so diligently and came together as a team to ensure the success of the Youth Summit.

- **Operation SafeHouse Ice Cream Social – March 2013**

Operation Community decided to host a social with the teens of Operation SafeHouse. The event was amongst one of the most favored of the year as council members were allowed to fully engage and interact with youth much like themselves.

The day was dedicated to ice breakers, bonding over ice cream, and playing Just Dance. Overall, the members enjoyed themselves, learned to empathize, and said that there was more to gain in their participation for the day than they could have expected.

- **Easter Eggstravaganza – March 2013**

Council Members reported that the event was a fun and well organized event. Volunteers were able to assist in the event by providing temporary tattoos and face painting to the children in attendance. The Riverside Downtown Partnership is a favored partner to join for volunteer activities as all events are creative, interactive, well organized, and rewarding.

- **Mother's Day Cards – May 2013**

Helping Hands for Seniors decided to take some time to recognize a specific group of mother's for Mother's Day. Council members spent a day making an assortment of cards for mothers at Sunrise Senior Living home, a center for seniors facing various levels of memory loss. Council members were excited to spread a bit of joy to such a great group of people.

- **Great American Cleanup – May 2013**

Volunteers helped provide support in keeping Riverside clean and beautiful by participating in a Riverside cleanup of about 900 volunteers. Members enjoyed the event as they were able to bond with their council all the while serving the community and the environment.

- **End of the Year Dinner – May 2013**

Council members enjoyed dinner with Supervisor Tavaglione and staff, as they celebrated the end of the YAC term. During the event, council members received special certificates for their dedication and volunteerism. The Council members commemorated immediate past Youth Coordinator, Tiffany Estevez, for her years of service and wished her luck in her future endeavors. All seniors were recognized for the accomplishments and contributions and shared their plans for the future. Overall, it was an enjoyable event and the members really had fun celebrating the term year.

- **Global Youth Summit – May 2013**

The summit was an exhibition of global issues, including a series of workshops conducted by some of the leading grassroots organizations in countless areas from Human Trafficking and Social Conflict to HIV/AIDS Awareness and Environmental Injustices. YAC members were invited to participate in the weekend long conference which was designed to be an unrestricted space of educated dialogue and meaningful conversation on the social issues directly and indirectly affecting our everyday lives.

Riverside County Third District Youth Advisory Council  
Annual Report 2012-2013

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a representative student body from the high schools in the Third District of Riverside County. Third District YAC is comprised of students from Academy for Applied Academics and Technology, Alessandro, Chaparral, Great Oak, Hemet, Hamilton, Mountain View, San Jacinto, Tahquitz, Temecula Valley, and West Valley high schools.

*Listed below are key projects that the Youth Advisory Council of 2012-2013 accomplished throughout the year. The council would also like to thank the community for their constant support through their endeavors and dedication to the youth in Riverside County.*

- **Third District Inaugural Meeting- September 2012**  
The first meeting for Third District YAC was on September 13. The council reviewed the goals they set at the Youth Retreat and began planning the types of events they wanted to create to achieve their goals. Elections for Commission Officers were held and the following council members were elected: Caroline Kittle– Commissioner, Itzel Tiscareno- Co-Commissioner, Mayra Tanori– Secretary, Lezza Rubio– Parliamentarian.
- **Lisa Project- October 2012**  
The Lisa Project is a free multi-sensory exhibit about child abuse prevention. The exhibit shows different examples of child abuse and tells the stories of children who have been abused. It focuses on teaching the signs of abuse and how to prevent it. YAC members passed out flyers and bookmarks at their local high schools to promote the event and toured the exhibit in Hemet on October 13.
- **Youth In Government Day- October 2012**  
Third District YAC members participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Riverside County Youth in Government Day on October 24. Council members shadowed a Riverside County Employee for a day in order to learn about county government and careers. The majority of Third District YAC shadowed employees from the Riverside County Flood Control Department and learned about the various jobs required in flood control including engineering, logistics, environmental science, and waste management.
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk- October 2012**  
YAC members participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet. The walk was a charity event to raise awareness about mental illness and help fund mental health services. YAC members collected donations and then participated in the 5km walk on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Operation SafeHouse “Stuff the Bus” Donation Drive-November 2012**  
Beginning in September council members began collecting supplies to donate to Operation SafeHouse. Operation SafeHouse is an emergency shelter that provides help, counseling, and other services to run-away, homeless and other youth in crisis.



Stuff the Bus was a donation drive to gather supplies needed for youth in the shelter. YAC collected supplies through September, October, and November and donated them on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The council collected over 200 items to donate to Operation SafeHouse.

- **Cards for Wounded Soldiers- November/December 2012**

Throughout November and December YAC members wrote Christmas cards to wounded soldiers who would be spending the holidays at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C. A Majority of these soldiers, many from Riverside County, were injured in Iraq and Afghanistan and would not be able to spend the holidays with their families. Walter Reed asks for cards to be sent each year to remind the soldiers that they are remembered for their service and others are thinking of them during the holidays.

- **Southwest Regional Detention Center Tour- December 2012**

On December 15 the YAC toured the Southwest Regional Detention Center in French Valley. The tour provided council members with information on how the County handles crime as well as the various programs employed to keep the communities in the district safe. The tour led the council members to make it a goal to provide help to outreach programs that help youth who are at risk of going to Juvenile Hall.

- **TrueVolution Business/Entrepreneurship Workshop- January 2013**

On January 3 Gabriel Maldonado, the founder of TrueVolution, presented a business/entrepreneurship workshop for Third District YAC. TrueVolution provides classes and workshops for youth targeted at leadership. The workshop taught YAC members about what is needed to run a business or project and how to turn their ideas into actual projects.

- **Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Documentary “Carissa”- January 2013**

The Riverside County Ant-Human Trafficking Task Force and Operation SafeHouse presented a screening of the Documentary *Carissa* on January 17 at California Baptist University. The Documentary was based on the story of Carissa Phelps a victim of sex trafficking. Following the film Carissa Phelps shared her story and explained how people can help to stop sex trafficking. Third District YAC volunteered at the event by helping to direct people to the screening room, signing them in for the event, and passing out literature at the end of the screening.

- **Adopt-A-Trail – February 2013**

On February 16, Third District YAC participated in a clean-up of their adopted trail at Lake Skinner. Council members cleaned up trash, leaves, and foliage from one of the lakes walking trails. This allowed the council to help improve one of the many public recreation areas within the county for the enjoyment of the community.

- **Lamb Canyon Waste Management Facility Tour- April 2013**

Members of YAC toured the Lamb Canyon Waste Management Facility on April 3. The tour taught council members about the importance of recycling and the correct way to dispose of hazardous materials.

Members also learned about what the county does to reduce the amount of waste that goes into the landfill through recycling and how the county focuses on environmental concerns. The council found many new ideas for projects that can help clean up their communities.

- **California Citrus State Historic Park Earth Day Cleanup- April 2013**

Members from Third District participated in a restoration and clean-up project at California Citrus State Historic Park on April 13. Members planted a total of 3 shade trees and cleaned up fallen fruit from the parks citrus grove.

- **CA Healthy Kids Survey Review- April 2013**

On April 24 YAC reviewed the results from the CA Healthy Kids Survey for Hemet United School District. They provided input on the survey data regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use at high schools in the districts. The data was used by the school district in the development of future anti-drug, anti-alcohol, and anti-smoking programs aimed at high school students.

- **Global Awareness Summit- May 2013**

Members from Third District YAC attended the TrueVolution Global Awareness Summit on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Summit focused on how youth can help with global issues including trafficking and social conflict, HIV/AIDS awareness, and Environmental Injustices.

**General Recommendations:**

- Recruit more students from all the high schools in Third District.
- Work more with programs aimed at helping troubled youth such as Operation SafeHouse.
- Participate in more events that help to clean up the community such as Adopt-A-Trail, Earth Day, and park clean-ups.

Riverside County Fourth District Youth Advisory Council  
Annual Report 2012-2013

The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council (YAC) identifies youth-related concerns and issues specific to the Fourth District. YAC is comprised of students from Desert Christian Academy, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Palo Verde, Marywood-Palm Valley and Xavier College Preparatory high schools.

*Listed are the key projects the 2012-2013 Fourth District Youth Advisory Council accomplished throughout the year. The Fourth District YAC would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support through the year.*

- **Fourth District Inaugural Meeting- September 2012**

The first meeting for the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council was held September 4<sup>th</sup> for the Coachella Valley Council and on September 5 for the Blythe Council. YAC members selected goals to work on throughout the 2012-2013 term. The Coachella Valley Council decided to direct their efforts toward: support for troops and their families, working with local animal shelters, building relationships with senior citizens, promoting environmental education and raising awareness on substance abuse. The Blythe Council decided they wanted to assist with: improving their local recreation center, helping Steps for the Cure, actively creating cemetery cleanups, supporting Operation SafeHouse and the Blythe Nursing Home. Elections for the 2012-2012 officers took place at the first meeting, the results were:

**Coachella Valley:** William Nelson- Commissioner, Ricky Huang- Co-Commissioner, Waverly Tseng- Secretary, Daniel Rolph- Parliamentarian, and Kaylie Chen- Public Relations.

**Blythe:** Damian Cortez- Commissioner, Reba Goodwin- Co-Commissioner, Phoebe Cyr- Secretary, Christian Castro- Parliamentarian, Taylor Cavazos- Public Relations

- **Stan and Carolyn Little Conference- October 2012**

Coachella Valley YAC members assisted with the Stan & Carolyn Little Early Childhood Education Conference held at the McCallum Theater and College of the Desert. The event was on Saturday, October 6 where council members helped with registration, speaker needs, and clean up.

- **American Cancer Society Relay for Life- October 2012**

The American Cancer Society held their annual event at Palm Desert High School. YAC members attended the second day of the fundraiser and were on hand to help clean up luminarias and sort through cans of donated food.

- **Steps for the Cure- October 2012**  
 The Blythe council volunteered at Blythe Cancer Resource Center's 6<sup>th</sup> annual "Steps for the Cure" fundraising event on Saturday, October 20. YAC members built a balloon arc, helped with set-up, and teardown. This event helps raise money that directly benefits those in the Blythe community stricken with cancer.
- **Miss Blythe Pageant- October 2012**  
 Blythe takes great pride in their yearly crowning of Miss Blythe who will go on to compete in the Miss California Pageant. During the 2012 Miss Blythe Pageant held at Palo Verde College, council members were available to assist with set-up and ushering before the show.
- **"Trick or Treating" for Canned Goods- October 2012**  
 The weekend prior to Halloween, YAC members in the Coachella Valley came together to go door to door asking for donations of canned goods or other non-perishable food items. All of the items collected were donated to the Office on Aging Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.
- **Can Collection with PV Fire Department – October 2012**  
 In late October, Blythe YAC members assisted the Palo Verde Fire Department with a can collection. Council members rode on fire trucks alongside firefighters and went door to door to ask Blythe community members to donate canned food to their local soup kitchen. Being a holiday season, this was a much needed and appreciated service.
- **SafeHouse's Stuff the Bus supplies drive - September - November 2012**  
 Coachella Valley YAC members collected toiletries and household supplies to donate to Operation SafeHouse's Stuff the Bus event on November 8. YAC members collected toothbrushes, razors, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, and cans of soup. All of the items that were collected were given to SafeHouse of the Desert during the week of the Stuff the Bus event.
- **Desert Arc Italian Festival- November 2012**  
 YAC members volunteered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Desert Arc Italian Festival. At this event YAC members assisted with selling raffle tickets, twirled signs pointing guests in the direction of the festival, and helped businesses with food sampling.
- **The Lisa Project- November 2012**  
 The Lisa Project is a free multi-sensory exhibit that was available in the Coachella Valley from November 2 through November 18. The program gives visitors some very real examples of child abuse. YAC volunteered at the exhibit on Saturday, November 10 and November 17 where they helped clean all of the audio equipment used for each participant. Council members helped spread the word by passing out bookmarks and fliers throughout the community.

- **A Million Thanks Christmas Cards- November 2012**  
 YAC members hosted a Christmas Card Writing Party in which council members wrote cards to stationed military soldiers. Each member was able to decorate and personalize a card and write an appreciative holiday letter to the soldiers. The cards were sent through A Million Thanks, an organization that collects, sorts, and sends letters to those serving home, abroad, or injured in hospitals.
- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren “Adopt a Family”- November 2012**  
 Blythe adopted two families in their city, from the Riverside County Office on Aging’s Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to provide complete Thanksgiving Dinners for their entire family. YAC members collected turkeys, side dishes, desserts, and beverages to feed both families. The items were then hand delivered by members from the Blythe council.
- **Super Pet Adoption- November 2012**  
 Loving All Animal’s Super Pet Adoption was held at Whitewater Park on November 18. The goal of the event was to find homes for over 500 animals. Throughout the day, YAC members helped the various animal welfare programs keep the dogs entertained by taking them on walks and giving them one-on-one attention. Council members also organized a photo booth for the newly adopted pets.
- **Palm Springs Festival of Lights Parade- December 2012**  
 The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Festival of Lights Parade was held in downtown Palm Springs on December 1 to celebrate the holiday season. YAC was responsible for walking banners in front of floats down the parade route.
- **Civil Servants for Santa- December 2012**  
 Each year for Christmas the Blythe Police Department invites children from low-income families to go shopping for their own Christmas gifts. On December 8, Blythe YAC members entertained the kids as they waited for their turn to shop with representatives from the Blythe Police Department.
- **For the Children Toy Drive & Holiday Party-November/December 2012**  
 With help from local businesses, YAC members diligently collected more than 100 gifts to make Christmas special for children living in foster homes. The toys were wrapped and distributed to the children at the annual Christmas party of For The Children, a nonprofit that supports foster children. The Christmas party was held at Hotel Zoso in Palm Springs on December 16. In addition to providing gifts, YAC members decorated cookies and did arts and crafts with the kids.
- **RCAHT “People are NOT for Sale”- January 2013**  
 Held at the UCR Palm Desert Campus, Jennifer O’Farrell from RCAHT created an avenue where human trafficking within the Riverside County could be discussed. Before the event, YAC made statistics posters to be displayed throughout the meeting. YAC members also helped assemble bracelets and distribute candles.

- **Teens for Jeans Campaign- January 2013**  
 During the month of January, the Blythe council ran a drive to collect jeans that would be given to homeless teenagers. Approximately 40 pairs of jeans were collected and donated to Aeropostale, the organization hosting the campaign.
- **Christopher’s Clubhouse Light of Hope Gala- February 2013**  
 Christopher’s Clubhouse, a community safety education and empowerment organization, held their annual awards gala on February 2. The event honors the heroes of the Coachella Valley that are protecting children and families. YAC members helped set-up silent auction items, decorate dinner tables, and coordinate bid sheets.
- **Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival Events- February 2013**

  - **Battle of the Bands**  
 YAC took an active role in the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, helping to coordinate two unique attractions. YAC held the Fourth Annual Battle of the Bands, where six local youth bands competed for the grand prize of top-of-the-line Fender instruments and equipment. The competition was a popular attraction at the Fair and generated great attendance and excellent news coverage. YAC members had a hands-on role in organizing the event and working with judges to ensure the event ran smoothly. Tacky Little Hatshop from Temecula won the 2013 competition.
  - **High School Competition**  
 In an effort to bring more young people to enjoy Fair traditions, YAC members also organized the Fourth Annual High School Competition, featuring a series of funny Fair contests: date pit spitting, “camel” racing, lasso throwing, musical carpets and school spirit. Teams from six high schools competed for the prestigious Date Cup Trophy. YAC members selected the games, acted as referees and awarded trophies to the first, second, and third place teams. Palm Desert High School won the 2013 competition.
- **Friday Night Live- February 2013**  
 The Joe Wine Rec Center in Blythe hosted a Friday Night Live on February 22 for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. YAC members refereed dodge ball games, ran an arts and crafts table, and played leadership games with the kids.
- **Game Day at Nursing Care Center- March 2013**  
 The Blythe Nursing Care Center provides activities for their senior citizens every day to keep them lively and positive. On March 9, YAC became involved in their afternoon session and played dominoes and bingo with the residents.
- **Baseball Buddies- March 2013**  
 Baseball Buddies is a local group that hosts weekly t-ball games for kids with disabilities. On Mondays throughout March and April Coachella Valley YAC members volunteered their time and helped these kids hit a baseball, run bases and cheer on their teammates.

- **Out of the Darkness Walk- March 2013**  
 Coachella Valley held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's 5k Walk on March 16. At the event YAC members set-up a memorial tree and managed the water and snack booth. This walk allowed YAC members to see just how important community outreach programs are within their valley.
- **Senior Center Talent Showcase- March 2013**  
 The La Quinta Senior Center hosted a multi-generational talent showcase where YAC assisted with set-up, greeting and ushering people to their seats. This event was used as a way of bringing community members together.
- **Desert Arc Annual Golf Fundraiser- March 2013**  
 The annual Desert Arc Golf Tournament is a vital fundraiser for Desert Arc client services. The 2013 event was held March 25 at the Classic Club in Palm Desert. The Coachella Valley YAC members assisted with hole spotting at this event.
- **California Citrus State Historic Park Cleanup- April 2013**  
 In honor of Earth Day, YAC members were on hand at Riverside's State Historic Park to take part in a cleanup and restoration project. At the site, Coachella Valley council members planted trees and picked up fallen fruit. Those that were able to attend this event overwhelmingly agreed that this was their favorite project because they were able to see the outcome of their work.
- **Car Wash Fundraiser- May 2013**  
 In collaboration with the Palm Desert Youth Committee, YAC members co-hosted a car wash fundraiser at Palm Desert Self-Serve for \$5 a car. A total of \$770 was raised with all proceeds benefiting Shelter from the Storm, a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence.
- **Memorial Day Flags– May 2013**  
 For Blythe's final service project of the term, YAC members decided to help the local VFW organization place honorary flags at the Palo Verde Cemetery. On Memorial Day weekend, council members placed flags at the corner of veterans' graves to honor them for their service.
- **Recruitment**  
 Recruitment for the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council is ongoing through the end of the term and summer. Council members provide contact information of students they recommend for the 2013-2014 council. Youth Advisory Council members have also invited potential applicants to events and meetings during the end of the term. The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council is advertised through local media, Supervisor Benoit's Web site and monthly e-report The Benoit Bulletin, letters to school officials, community leaders and local organizations, and word of mouth.

**General Recommendations:**

- Continue to host innovative community service projects
- Recruit members from all high school in the Fourth District
- Host more presentations from community organizations
- Continue council's positive attitude
- Host more events with fellow Riverside County YAC



Riverside County Fifth District Youth Advisory Council  
Annual Report 2012-2013

The Youth Advisory Council is comprised of high school 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, Menifee, Nuevo, Lakeview, Juniper Flats, Romoland, Homeland, Green Acres, Box Springs, Pigeon Pass, Reche Canyon, San Timoteo Canyon, Oak Valley, Cherry Valley, Banning Bench, and Cabazon.

*Listed are the key projects the 5<sup>th</sup> District Youth Advisory Council of 2012-2013 accomplished throughout the year. We thank you for your continued support and dedication to the youth in our county.*

- **The Lisa Project- September 2012**

On September 26, council members took a tour of The Lisa Project while it was at the Galleria at Tyler. The exhibit was a multi-sensory exhibit about child abuse prevention. They learned about the signs of child abuse, the people it can affect, and what actions they can take against it.

- **American Heart Association Heart Walk- October 2012**

On October 13, the 5<sup>th</sup> district YAC joined a team to walk for Heart Health. They raised money from their family and friends for their team to donate to the cause. The council really enjoyed the time they spent at the walk and hopes to participate in similar events in the future.

- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren- November 2012**

For the Thanksgiving holiday, the 5<sup>th</sup> district YAC adopted two families in need of a complete holiday meal. YAC members brought in items and others were donated from their family and friends to give the families enough food to last for a few days. The families were extremely grateful and appreciated the time and effort YAC had made to make their holiday complete. YAC loved the project and would definitely like to do it again in the future.

- **Operation SafeHouse- December 2012**

On December 29, YAC visited the SafeHouse located in Riverside. The day included playing indoor and outdoor games with the clients, sharing a meal together, dropping off supplies to another SafeHouse location, and just being a friend to the clients for the day. It helps both YAC and clients learn from each other about life and how different things happen to different people, even if they wouldn't suspect it. Both YAC and clients really enjoyed their day and expressed interest in doing this event again.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Talk - April 2013**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Talk was held April 27 at Perris High School by the Youth Advisory Council, Friday Night Live and Perris Valley Recovery Program. It was an informative event that spread awareness of April as Alcohol Awareness Month, and taught high school students the effects of underage drinking along with prescription drug abuse and illegal drug use. There were speakers from The S.H.A.E Project, speakers who have been affected by alcohol, a question and answer panel for the students. The council felt that the students in attendance gained a lot from this year's program. They look forward to hosting this event again.

- **Recruitment- April 2013**

Recruitment for the 2013-2014 YAC term began in April. Council members were asked to spread the word about recruitment to their respective schools and peers by passing out flyers and information packets. Chassity has sent out information to schools within the district to encourage students to join the program. The 5<sup>th</sup> District YAC looks forward to keeping a large council, and is working hard to achieve it.

- **End of the Year Dinner- June 2012**

In June, the Youth Advisory Council held an End of the Year Dinner to celebrate their accomplishments in the community from the past term. Council members gathered at Barry and Charlene Busch's home for a delicious meal and an evening full of fellowship and bonding. This will be their final meeting for the term year, for which they will receive their certificates of gratitude and appreciation.

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

Goals for the 2012-2013 YAC term:

- Assist the community through volunteer involvement and improvements
- Be more involved with the youth of Riverside County through mentoring and sponsoring events
- Promote unity in the community
- Create a positive impact on the community
- Produce community leaders

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**General Recommendations:**

- Increasing recruitment in surrounding 5<sup>th</sup> district cities.
- Recruit council members that are fully committed to their duties as a council member.
- Be involved in more community service projects throughout 5<sup>th</sup> district.
- Keep positive, team- working environment with respect for one another.
- Establish better methods of communication within the council.
- Reach out to the community and volunteer even more