

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



FROM: Youth Commission

SUBMITTAL DATE:
June 17, 2014

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 2013-2014 term, as required by Resolution 98-032 and the Youth Commission By-Laws (Article XIII)

BACKGROUND:

Summary

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 Departments heads. The Youth Commission works to anticipate the educational, recreational and cultural needs of the youth of Riverside County, and its 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.

(Continued page 2)

Mario Sefrano
Mario Sefrano, Legislative Intern
Youth Commission

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A				Budget Adjustment: 0	
				For Fiscal Year: 2013/2014	

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Positions Added
- Change Order
- A-30
- 4/5 Vote

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: 4

Agenda Number:

2-21

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FORM 11: Riverside County Youth Commission Annual Report**

DATE: June 17, 2014

PAGE: 2 of 2

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

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 Boards on issues directly affecting youth. We are confident that the Youth Commission will continue to be a voice for the youth in Riverside County.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

N/A

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Additional Fiscal Information

N/A

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

N/A

Riverside County
Youth Commission

2013-2014 Term

Annual Report



Riverside County Youth Commission
Annual Report 2013-2014

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. The Commission 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 2013-2014 accomplished. The Commission would also like to thank the community for their constant support through their endeavors and dedication to the youth in Riverside County.

- **16th Annual Youth Commission Retreat – August 2013**

The 16th Annual Youth Commission Retreat was held August 1 at the Cove Waterpark in Jurupa Valley. Motivational speaker Michael Costigan provided the keynote and leadership workshops for this event. Mr. Costigan 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 2013**

The 15th annual Youth in Government Day was an exciting and important day for council members. 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 2013**

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 staying in 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 buses travel 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.

- **14th Annual Youth Summit – March 2014**
Riverside County’s Youth Commission held its Fourteenth Annual Youth Summit at the Riverside Convention Center. 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 drug and alcohol awareness, child and elderly abuse, and suicide prevention. Cary Trivanovich served as the keynote speaker; Cary inspired students to think about the consequences of their actions.
- **11th Annual Fourth District Youth In Government Day – April 2014**
YAC coordinated Youth in Government Day, pairing high school students with county employees. The event is held for those in the eastern portion of the county and was the largest version of the event to date. After six hours of seeing county government in action, students regrouped to discuss their experiences. Participating departments included Cal Fire, Sheriff’s Department, District Attorney’s Office, Board of Supervisors, 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 2013-2014

The First District Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in that district. 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 2013-2014 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.

- **Adopt-a-Trail - August 2013**
Youth council members attended the Adopt-A-Trail event in Mead Valley to prepare for the upcoming Mead Valley Community Center grand opening. Many of them worked with hoes, shovels, and rakes to amend the trail pathways. One of the YAC members even used a weed whacker to remove the weeds. The YAC worked very hard at this event to make sure the trail was clean and leveled for the fellow community to enjoy.
- **Mead Valley Grand Opening - August 2013**
YAC members participated in the Mead Valley Community Center grand opening. They helped assist with this great event by hosting booths and serving food to the community. Overall, the YAC members including those members who live in the area, enjoyed this event.
- **EDA Flier Distribution – September 2013**
The Youth Advisory Council helped the Economic Development Agency distribute fliers to local Mead Valley residents. The council members helped EDA spread the word throughout the community about EDA’s Beautification program, which encourages residents to clean up their property.
- **Mariachi Festival - September 2013**
The Youth Advisory Council volunteered at the annual Mariachi Festival. This event was held at Fairmount Park in Riverside. The event featured live mariachi performances and participation from many different businesses including Sam’s Club. YAC members helped the volunteers set up and tear down booths. They also picked up trash around the park to help keep the area clean.
- **Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful - October 2013**
The Youth Advisory Council participated in the “Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful” event. This event was at the Santa Ana River and Fairmont Park Watershed Cleanup. YAC members spent a lot of the time handing out water and snacks to the hard working volunteers and at the end of the day fed many volunteers with hotdogs and chips.

- **Halloween Trunk or Treat- October 2013**
 The Youth Advisory Council participated in Temescal Valley’s Halloween Trunk or Treat event. The six 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 to the little kids before Halloween.
- **Operation SafeHouse “Stuff the Bus/Scavenger Hunt” - October 2013**
 The Youth Advisory Council asked First District residents of Woodcrest community to donate items for Operation Safehouse. Additionally, the council created a scavenger hunt, where YAC collected items including paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, shower gel, toothbrushes and canned food. After the scavenger hunt, 11 YAC members picked up pizza and drove over to SafeHouse to have lunch with the teens in crisis. They all had a poignant experience at SafeHouse because the teens took the opportunity to share their touching stories.
- **Hope Food Drive at Albertson’s - November 2013**
 YAC collected multiple bags 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. Grocery shoppers were more than happy to help the cause and were encouraging of YAC’s efforts.
- **Mead Valley’s 7th Annual Breakfast With Santa and His Elves - December 2013**
 On this special day, Mead Valley families came together, shared breakfast and took a picture with Santa and his sleigh. Children made arts and crafts in “Santa’s Workshop,” participated in “Reindeer Games” and received prizes from council members. YAC members wore elf hats and reindeer hats while assisting the community’s youth and had a terrific time. Many Mead Valley residents attended this event along with an honored visit from Supervisor Jeffries. A wide variety of volunteers from various agencies assisted the community with this wonderful event. C
- **Good Hope’s 3rd Annual Breakfast With Santa and His Elves - December 2013**
 On this special day, Good Hope families came together, shared breakfast and took a picture with Santa and his sleigh. Children made arts and crafts in “Santa’s Workshop,” participated in “Reindeer Games” and received prizes from council members. YAC members wore elf hats and reindeer hats while assisting the community’s youth, making for an overall terrific time. Many Good Hope residents attended this event along with an honored visit from Supervisor Jeffries.
- **KRCB Lunar Festival – January 2014**
 YAC members helped assist with the annual Lunar Festival. At this event, YAC members volunteered at many of the arts and crafts booths that were available for the children in the community. The YAC members helped children make paper lanterns and paper fans. This event was a great opportunity for the Youth Council members to learn more about the Asian Culture.

- **80's Volunteer Recognition – February 2014**
 Eleven YAC members participated in this 80's themed event hosted by Riverside County Parks. The Parks Department set up this event to recognize the volunteers for all their hard work and service. The Youth Council members were able to play unlimited miniature golf and were given take home gifts. YAC was truly thankful for Parks display of appreciation.
- **Good Hope Park Cleanup – April 2014**
 YAC members helped clean up the Good Hope Park located adjacent to the Good Hope Community Center. Their duties included picking up trash and pulling weeds. Additionally, the council members also took part in some construction. This event was on "Global Youth Service Day" and members were invited by County Parks to help clean up a park in their representative district.
- **RCRMC Child Abuse Victims Unit – April 2014**
 YAC members made Easter cards to deliver to the Riverside County Medical Center's Child Abuse Victims Unit. Youth Council members were given a tour of the department and were surprised to hear all the horrific facts of child abuse including the fact that every day 3 out of 4 children that die from abuse are under the age of four. Overall, this event was very informative, and the council members were glad they could shine some light on the department with their Easter cards and snacks.
- **Janet Goeske Gala Event- April 2014**
 YAC volunteered at the annual Janet Goeske Senior Gala Event. This event featured a show filled with Motown dances where judges included Mayor Rusty Bailey 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 sold cheerleading pom-poms for the event.
- **A Flag for Every Hero Flag Placing Ceremony – May 2014**
 The First District YAC participated in A Flag for Every Hero Flag Placing Ceremony at the Riverside National Cemetery. With respect and in honor of our fallen soldiers, the First District YAC placed small American flags at soldiers' graves and spent the morning remembering their sacrifice for this country. YAC felt that this was an important event, reminding all what Memorial Day is truly about. The YAC members were blessed to have been able to show that the youth of Riverside County appreciate and will never forget the sacrifices made by these brave men and women.
- **End of Year YAC Dinner –May 2014**
 Youth Advisory Council members hosted their end of the year dinner celebration at Ancho's Restaurant as a closure to the 2013-2014 YAC term. Council members were congratulated for their efforts in formulating a successful year and were presented with an award following a delicious TexMex meal.

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

Goals for the 2013-2014 YAC term:

- Veterans Awareness
- Child Abuse Awareness
- Cultural Awareness

Council members delivered 20 projects and dedicated countless 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.

Riverside County Second District Youth Advisory Council
Annual Report 2013-2014

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:

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

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

In order to achieve three 2013-2014 goals, the council was divided up into two committees. Each committee worked to coordinate and volunteer at events related to their goals.

- **#Impact - September 2013**

The Youth Advisory Council members were very committed to setting out and helping all those in need, with a particular focus on children and the elderly. #Impact's main focus is to create an impact on the communities' youth and to coordinate events at local retirement homes and community apartments such as Country Village and the Eddie Dee Smith Center. The committee was flexible and willing to help in all areas and focused on their community.

- **E.V.A. - September 2013**

The Youth Advisory Council members were also very interested in working to clean up, maintain, and improve their community. The Environmental Volunteer Association, known by the council as E.V.A., sought to provide assistance in community clean-ups and participate at local nature centers.

Listed are the key projects the 2013-2014 Second District Youth Advisory Council accomplished throughout the year. The Second District YAC would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for its ongoing support throughout the year.

- **2nd Annual Sheltering Hearts Fundraiser – September 2013**

Council members were able to assist with setup and take down of the event, as well as help performance artist Greg Adamson put together the stage. The council helped set up the tables and do a good amount of the work necessary to make this event possible.

- **Zombie Crawl - October 2013**

The council participated in the 3rd Annual Riverside Zombie Crawl held in Downtown Riverside. YAC was able to play a key role in facilitating this event and it turned out to be a major success. Members were encouraged to dress the part and “zombify” themselves. Members assisted in tabling, advertising, and running the games and photo

booth. Downtown Riverside was overtaken by zombies of all ages. The Council found this event highly entertaining and enjoyable.

- **Rancho Jurupa Valley Clean and Green Volunteer Clean Up – October 2013**
The council was able to help Riverside County Parks Department this year at their annual Jurupa Valley Clean and Green Clean Up. Members helped beautify the Jurupa Valley Park by raking up old leaves, cutting down weeds, and cleaning up trash.
- **Van Buren Bridge Clean Up – October 2013**
The council was very interested in cleaning up the area near the Animal Shelter as well as around the Van Buren Bridge. YAC decided to host its own clean up next to the bridge to help create a better and overall cleaner community in Riverside. More than 25 bags of trash were collected by the council members alone, and it allowed everyone to form team building and leadership skills.
- **Ghost Walk – October 2013**
YAC members were able to work with partners in Downtown Riverside to help put on the Annual Ghost Walk which is held during the Halloween season. The council played an important role by leading people through the various spooky mazes that were set up around the City. The members were able to interact with the youth in the community and enjoy scary mazes at the same time.
- **No One Eats Alone Country Village Thanksgiving Event – November 2013**
Council members were able to participate with seniors of the Country Village apartments at their Thanksgiving dinner. The event was put on to give company to those who don't have anyone to share Thanksgiving with. The council was able to help with setting up and taking down of the event as well as having the privilege to "hang out" with people who attended and kept them company. The council members loved this event and want to have more events at the Country Village apartments in the future.
- **Operation SafeHouse: Stuff the Bus – November 2013**
Through the holiday season, council members worked diligently to collect items to assist the emergency housing and counseling center. The 2nd District continues to support Operation SafeHouse in providing needed items for all teens under the care of SafeHouse.
- **Festival of Lights – November 2013**
At this event YAC members were able to help the local Festival of Lights by handing out information at the local information booth as well as helping with the overall management of the event. The council loved being able to take part in such a big event for Riverside County and is looking forward to helping next year as well.
- **Festival of Trees – November 2013**
The council helped participate in the Festival of Trees by helping with the kids' area. The volunteers of the event were in charge of working at the Santa's Elves Workshop where

they helped the kids with arts and crafts. Attendees said it was a good experience. The volunteers felt they were very productive and busy.

- **Country Village Santa's Workshop – December 2013**

The council helped participate in the Festival of Trees by helping with the kids' area. The volunteers of the event were in charge of working at the Santa's Elves Workshop where they helped the kids with arts and crafts. From the attendees' feedback, it was said to be a good experience, very busy but overall the volunteers felt they were very productive

- **Rubidoux High School Children's Christmas Party – December 2013**

Council members were able to assist with a Children's Christmas Party on two separate occasions. First, the council was able to help by wrapping presents at a local church and prepping for the actual event. Additionally, the council helped out at the party by passing out presents to the local kids in attendance, as well as interacting with their families. The council loved helping with this special event and look forward to taking part in more meaningful projects during holiday seasons.

- **Senior Soul Food Social – February 2014**

Second District's most memorable event each year is undoubtedly the Annual Sweet Heart Social. During the Annual Sweet Heart Social, council members plan and coordinate a variety of events for the senior community at the Eddie Dee Smith Center. This year they council decided celebrate Black History Month by helping with a soul food dinner. Senior participants were served a delicious meal by the council members while enjoying music and games. During the latter part of the event, the senior participants were able to enjoy bingo and handmade center pieces created by the YAC members. In addition, a wide variety of gifts and goodies were distributed during the bingo games.

- **Patriot Hills Clean Up – February 2014**

E.V.A. decided to host a clean-up along a hiking trail near Patriot Hills High School as a way to do both service and bond with one another. Council members found this area to be an important area to clean up and showed a lot of interest in helping. The council was able to fill an entire waste management truck full of trash. The council was approached and thanked by passing walkers and families for helping to clean up an area that doesn't get a lot of attention.

- **Country Village Art Show – February 2013**

The council was asked to help participate with Country Village's 1st Art Show. Members were very excited to help with this event and they really enjoyed it. Council members were put in charge of setting up the event and all the fine pieces of art for the show. Additionally, the council was able to help with the catering set-up and making sure the event went smoothly overall.

- **Operation SafeHouse Pizza Party Social – March 2014**

The YAC members decided to host a social with the teens at Operation SafeHouse. The event was one of the most favored of the year as council members were allowed to fully

engage and interact with youth much like themselves. The council served the teens pizza, played some board games, and watched a movie with them. Overall, it was a successful social, and the council is interested in holding more socials in the future.

- **Soup Kitchen – April 2014**
Council members assisted Project Food and the Downtown Riverside First Congregational Church Soup Kitchen by providing help to some of Riverside’s homeless.
- **Downtown Riverside Easter Event – April 2014**
The council helped Robbie Silver and The Riverside Downtown Partnership put on a Riverside Easter Event. Council members helped set up and coordinate the Easter Egg Hunt for kids who showed up to participate. Additionally, the council was able to pass out information at the information booth and help out with face painting.
- **Global Youth Service Day – April 2014**
The council was able to participate in Global Youth Service Day and help out the community, alongside millions of teens who are helping out the same day around the world. By partnering with the Parks Department, council members helped make paving stones for the outdoor classroom being built at the Hidden Valley Nature Center. Additionally, the council was able to help create tree cookies for kids to be able to play with later.
- **Soup Kitchen – April 2014**
Council members participated in Downtown Riverside’s Soup Kitchen and provided a great dinner and service to all those in attendance. Members expressed their gratitude for being able to serve the community. It was an emotional trigger seeing so many young people and families in need. The council plans on continuing its assistance with the soup kitchen in the future.
- **Easter Eggstravaganza – April 2014**
The council worked alongside the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department while participating in the Annual Easter Eggstravaganza. The council was able to help with set up, pass out information, manage game booths, and assist in face painting for the kids who attended.
- **Helping Hands Day Clean Up – April 2014**
The council helped out with the Helping Hands Day Clean Up where members assisted Sheridan Park by cleaning up trash, pulling weeds, and planting plants. The council was very happy that they were able to make a difference at a local park.
- **Duck Daze – May 2014**
YAC helped out with the Annual Duck Daze at the Hidden Valley Nature Center. Council members helped with the festivities by working the game booths, face painting, and running the various children’s activities.
- **Country Village Cinco De Mayo – May 2014**

The council was able to help out at the County Village Cinco De Mayo event. The council loves to help out at the various Country Village events, and when they heard about another volunteer opportunity at Country Village the council was very eager to participate. Members were able to help cater the event and enjoy the festivities while helping out the community.

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

Goals for the 2013-2014 YAC term:

- Assisting senior citizens by providing support, organizing fun activities or projects at local hospice locations and senior center facilities.
- Helping to keep the Second Supervisorial District clean and beautiful by organizing and participating in local community clean-up events, as well providing assistance at the YAC Adopt-A-Trail in Jurupa Valley.
- Assisting disadvantaged youth and the homeless or low-income populations of the Second District.

General Recommendations:

- Help make an impact that can be seen by the youth in the community.
- Recruit council members that are fully committed to their duties as a council member.
- Keep a positive, team-working environment with respect for one another.
- Establish more bonding within the council.
- Reach out to the community and volunteer even more.

Based on the 2013-2014 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.

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 2013-2014 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.

- **Anza Health and Safety Fair – September 2013**
Members of the Third district assisted with the First Annual Anza Valley Health and Safety Fair. The fair was designed to bring the residents in Anza Valley information and resources on health and safety that they did not have access to in their area. Members of Third District YAC assisted in setting up the area, helping vendors, and taking down the fair when it ended.
- **NAMI Walk – November 2013**
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 5k walk.
- **Stuff the Bus – November 2013**
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 to donate. The council collected one bus full of items to donate to Operation SafeHouse.
- **Tinsel Triathlon – December 2013**
Third District volunteered at the Tinsel Triathlon held at West Valley High School. The council operated a water station for the cycling section of the triathlon, handed out water to cyclists, and cheered them on.
- **A Brush With Kindness – December 2013**
The council worked with Habitat for Humanity to help paint the home of a veteran. Members painted the outside of the home as well as the gutters and trim around the house.
- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Christmas Toy Drive – December 2013**
The Third District YAC donated toys and money in order to buy children, who are currently being raised by their grandparents within the Third District, presents for the

holidays. Additionally, Third District YAC raised enough funds to buy each family a \$25 grocery store gift card to help with any needed items for Christmas dinner. Third District YAC raised a total of \$727.00 and was able to adopt four families. Each child received between roughly six and twelve toys each depending on the price of the toys. YAC members then got together and helped wrap the presents and deliver the gifts.

- **Letters to Troops – December 2013**

The Third District YAC met in December to spend an evening writing heartfelt thanks and good wishes to wounded soldiers who would be spending the holidays at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C. Third District YAC members made small paper ornaments and hand-crafted cards created. A majority of the 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.

- **Brush With Kindness – January 2014**

YAC participated in a Habitat for Humanity Brush with Kindness event. Third District YAC members assisted other Habitat for Humanity volunteers in doing a yard clean-up which involved weeding, stripping and painting a fence, and gardening.

- **Adopt-a-Trail at Lake Skinner – January 2014**

Council members worked with the Adopt-a-Trail program to help provide maintenance to one of the trails around the Lake Skinner Recreation Area in Temecula. This included weeding, trash clean-up, foliage clean-up, and some minor fencing repair.

- **2014 Riverside County Fair and Date Festival – January/February 2014**

The Third District YAC met and travelled throughout the Third District to distribute posters and informational flyers for the 2014 Riverside County Fair and Date Festival. The Third District YAC members provided information on the event and encouraged locals to attend. Additionally, Third District YAC volunteered at the event by distributing handouts, helping with booths, and giving direction to participants.

- **Global Youth Service Day at Lake Skinner – April 2014**

The Third District YAC participated in Global Youth Service Day and National Volunteer Week by helping to plant a new garden at the Alamos School House located in the Lake Skinner Recreation Area. Global Youth Service Day celebrates and mobilizes the millions of young people who improve their communities through service. The Third District YAC was excited to assist in planting a new garden, full of plants native to the area. The goal was to help re-integrate these plants into the ecology of the Lake Skinner area.

- **Earth Dance – April 2014**

The council members volunteered at Earth Dance, an event geared toward bringing the community together in celebration of Earth Day and National Dance Week. Members of

the community gathered to host booths, dance together, and watch performances with an emphasis on environmental awareness. Additionally, Third District YAC was able to host a booth at this event and invited high school students to learn more information about the Youth Advisory Council and Commission and how they can help make a difference for the youth in Riverside County by joining YAC.

- **A Flag for Every Hero Flag Placing Ceremony – May 2014**

YAC participated in the A Flag for Every Hero Flag Placing Ceremony at the Riverside National Cemetery. With respect and in honor of our fallen soldiers, the Third District YAC placed small American flags at soldier's graves and spent the morning remembering their sacrifice for this country. The Third District YAC felt that this was an important event, reminding all what Memorial Day is all about. The Third District YAC were blessed to have been able to show that the youth of Riverside County appreciate and will never forget the sacrifices made by these brave men and women.

- **Senior Social at Atria Vintage Hills – June 2014**

The Third District YAC worked with Atria Vintage Hills Senior Living Center to host a Senior Social. YAC sought to provide entertainment to the residents by putting on short performances including music, dance, and games. Additionally, the YAC members sat with the residents and spent some time talking with them. YAC members brought hand written letters of appreciation and warm thoughts to give to the residents and were able to show them how valued they are to our community and to the local youth.

- **National Innovative Communities Conference – June 2014**

The council attended the National Innovative Communities Conference. The conference focused on bringing valuable information to local residents, youth, law enforcement, non-profits, faith-based organizations, educators, business proprietors, parents, and policy makers. Third District YAC enjoyed the privilege of learning about various organizations throughout the county and were inspired by how they plan on improving the lives of residents within Riverside County.

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 2013-2014

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 and Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Palo Verde, Cathedral City, Shadow Hills, Amistad, and Indio high schools.

Listed are the key projects the 2013-2014 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 throughout the year

- **Fourth District Inaugural Meeting – September 2013**

The first meeting for the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council was held September 11 for the Coachella Valley Council and on September 9 for the Palo Verde Valley Council. YAC members selected goals to work on throughout the 2013-2014 term. The Coachella Valley Council decided to direct their efforts toward: finding ways to promote environmental awareness and help make 4th District a cleaner place, raising awareness on the issues of food insecurity and poverty, working with local organizations to provide support to children experiencing health complications, and creating service projects to promote community safety. The Palo Verde Valley Council decided they wanted to assist with: creating an engaging community for youth, providing help to the less fortunate, supporting and working with “Blythe Cancer Resource Center”, promoting the importance of higher education, and finding ways to unite the 4th District Youth Advisory Council. Elections for the 2013-2014 officers took place at the first meeting, the results were:

Coachella Valley: William Nelson- Commissioner, Sophia Felix- Co-Commissioner, Sarah Pennypacker- Secretary, Stephan Landes- Parliamentarian, and Kaylie Chen- Public Relations

Blythe: Hannah Draszt- Commissioner, Bailey Smith- Co-Commissioner, Frances Relampagos- Secretary, Elena Rodriquez- Parliamentarian, Caylin Cavazos- Public Relations

- **National Coastal Cleanup Day – September 2013**

Council members started off the year by partnering with another local youth group from the Esperanza Youth & Family Center. The two groups decided to take part in National Coastal Cleanup Day at Dana Point. YAC was able to clean up the shoreline as well as the connected bridge and park area, collecting a total of 16 buckets full of trash and debris.

- **National Night Out – October 2013**

National Night Out Against Crime was hosted in Cathedral City by a variety of organizations all focused on promoting a safe lifestyle for families. YAC members were

asked to take part in the event by the District Attorney's Office – Division of Victim Services. During the festivities, YAC members helped with set up and teardown, and oversaw numerous crime prevention related booths and children's activity areas.

- **Steps for the Cure – October 2013**

The Blythe council volunteered at Blythe Cancer Resource Center's 7th annual "Steps for the Cure" fundraising event. 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. Additionally, the council provided free pink lemonade to everyone at the event and created "Flips for a Cure" which helped raise \$40 for the cause.

- **Trick or Treating for Troops – October 2013**

After some research YAC found that things as simple as candy are not always available to the soldiers serving our country. Throughout the month of October, YAC members asked local businesses to provide candy donations that would go towards troops. In addition, on the day of Halloween, YAC members in Blythe and Coachella Valley went door to door asking for candy donations.

- **Animal Samaritans Walk for the Animals – November 2013**

The annual event raises money for the care of Animal Samaritans' homeless shelter animals and its Humane Education program. YAC members were able to help facilitate the "Dog Art Booth" and Kids Zone. The council interacted with both children and animals of the community, promoting animal welfare education, and providing entertainment.

- **Multicultural Festival – November 2013**

A Multicultural Festival was held at the Palo Verde College and featured dancing, music, ethnic foods and informational booths, promoting lifestyles from throughout the world. At the event, Palo Verde Valley YAC collected tickets, monitored doors, and helped direct vendors to their assigned areas.

- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren "Adopt A Family" – November 2013**

Palo Verde Valley and Coachella Valley YAC each adopted two families from the Riverside County Office on Aging's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. The objective was to provide complete Thanksgiving Dinners for their entire family. YAC members collected turkeys, side dishes, desserts, and beverages to feed both families.

- **Operation SafeHouse's Stuff the Bus – November 2013**

Palo Verde Valley and Coachella Valley YAC members placed boxes at their respective schools and local businesses to collect household supplies to donate to Operation SafeHouse's Stuff the Bus event. YAC members collected bags of clothes and much needed toiletries. All of the items that were collected were given to SafeHouse of the Desert during the week of the Stuff the Bus event.

- **Healing Field – November 2013**

YAC felt blessed and honored to take part in the Healing Field flag memorial at Patriot Park. Volunteers came together to remember the lives of all fallen soldiers from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Council members placed 8,000 flags and name tags in memory of each individual life lost. This was an experience that each YAC member felt grateful for, ultimately being given the opportunity to see how many have sacrificed.

- **WE Connect Health Fair – November 2013**

Uninsured families in the Eastern Coachella Valley were able to access critical services and learn about new benefits available at the WE Connect Health Care Enrollment and Resource Fair. YAC members were able to assist in the Kids Zone, hand out packages of donated food, and help people share their health story.

- **Palm Springs Festival of Lights Parade – December 2013**

The 22nd annual Festival of Lights Parade was held in downtown Palm Springs in early December, helping local residents and tourists ring in the holiday season. YAC was responsible for walking banners and floats down the parade route.

- **Civil Servants for Santa – December 2013**

Each year the Blythe Police Department invites children from low-income families to go shopping for their own Christmas gifts. Palo Verde Valley YAC members helped the event coordinator check children in. YAC also entertained the children by playing games and singing Christmas carols.

- **Mecca Festival of Lights Parade – December 2013**

YAC members had the opportunity to represent Supervisor Benoit and the 4th District Youth Advisory Council by participating in the Mecca Festival of Lights Parade. They rode inside CAL Fire's utility truck with Santa Clause, bringing seasonal cheer to eastern valley residents.

- **Harmony Lunch Kitchen – December 2013**

Palo Verde Valley YAC volunteered at Harmony Lunch Kitchen on December 23, 30, and 31. There was a maximum of 5 volunteers allowed from YAC to participate in each date, due to its limited ground space. At the event YAC helped serve food, carried guest's plates to the tables, and wiped down tables.

- **For the Children Toy Drive & Holiday Party – December 2013**

With help from local businesses and the 29 Palms Marine Base, YAC members diligently collected more than 300 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. This was the first event both Coachella Valley YAC and Palo Verde YAC got to work together and during the party they helped with set up, created ginger bread houses with the children, and handed out toys. Additionally, YAC decided to donate 100 leftover toys to the Galilee Center in Mecca to help with their annual giveaway.

- **Holiday Arts & Crafts at Desert Regional Medical Center – December 2013**

The council was motivated to center a project on children experiencing health problems and reached out to Desert Regional Medical Center to create a holiday themed event. YAC members decorated stockings, snowflakes, and hats with patients at DRMC's Pediatric Unit.

- **Survivors of Trafficking Speak Out – January 2014**
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 conference. YAC members then helped assemble bracelets and distribute candles.
- **Cemetery Cleanup – January 2014**
Council members visited the local cemetery to help with a much-needed cleanup. At the cemetery, YAC members cleaned head stones, raked leaves, and disposed of tree trimmings.
- **Graffiti Cleanup – January 2014**
YAC members thought it was important to address the graffiti that can be seen in the cities of the Coachella Valley. The council turned to the Economic Development Agency's Graffiti Task Force to help them accomplish this goal. Through this collaboration, YAC was able to scrub, clean, and paint graffiti that had been reported in Desert Hot Springs and Thousand Palms.
- **Game Day at the Nursing Care Center – January 2014**
The Blythe Nursing Center is always in need of volunteers to spend a couple hours with the elderly. YAC visited the Nursing Care Center and became involved with the elderly by playing bingo, dominos, and chess.
- **Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival Events- February 2013**
 - **Battle of the Bands**
YAC took an active role in the 68th Annual Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, helping to coordinate two unique attractions. YAC held the Fifth Annual Battle of the Bands, where seven local 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. The Hive Minds from Palm Springs won the 2014 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 four 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 2014 competition.

- **Love and Care Packages for Troops – February 2014**
 An organization called Operation Gratitude helps collect care packages filled with snacks, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation. These items are delivered to U.S. service members deployed in hostile regions, service members' children, and wounded warriors recovering in military hospitals or transition units. Palo Verde Valley YAC helped collect personal care products for a care package that was shipped through Operation Gratitude, which dispersed the care package to U.S. service members deployed in Afghanistan.
- **Friday Night Live – March 2014**
 YAC visited the Joe Wine Recreation Center for Friday Night Live. At the event, the council played games with the children, facilitated arts and crafts, and played musical chairs for prizes. In addition, the Joe Wine Recreation Center was hosting a Scarf Drive for Troops, in which YAC also participated.
- **Baseball Buddies – March 2014**
 Baseball Buddies is a local group that hosts weekly t-ball games for children with disabilities. On Mondays throughout March and April, Coachella Valley YAC members volunteered their time and helped the participating kids catch a baseball, run bases, and bat.
- **Youth Force Cleanup – March 2014**
 The Clean Youth Force is a program sponsored by Supervisor John J. Benoit which has designated funds to assist eligible representatives of under-resourced nonprofits serving the Coachella Valley and Blythe areas. Council members spent hours in North Shore, cleaning up an illegal dumpsite covered with tires, waste, and household items. They received \$2000 for their efforts, with all proceeds donated to the nonprofit, Christopher's Clubhouse.
- **Rotarians at Work Day Mural Project – April 2014**
 The Rotary Club, Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valley YAC painted a mural on a blighted building at former gas station on First Street and Hobsonway in Blythe. Wayne Cusick, the current Rotary Club president and project coordinator, hosted the project and invited YAC to participate. This mural depicts the Palo Verde Valley's desert, farmland, river, mountains, and sky. It was also the first time the Coachella Valley YAC took part in a Blythe project within the last couple of years.
- **Global Youth Service Day – April 2014**

 - **Mayflower Park**
 Palo Verde YAC hosted Global Youth Service Day at Mayflower Park with resources provided by RivCo Parks. At the event, YAC and volunteers spent the morning assembling benches, collecting trash, and debris throughout the park.
 - **Lake Cahuilla**

Coachella Valley YAC members joined their fellow districts by partnering with Riverside County Parks to facilitate Global Youth Service Day. YAC members joined other youth volunteers at the Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area, where they helped paint brand new benches for the entire park and gave the children's playground a full cleaning.

- **Day at the Animal Shelter – May 2014**

The Riverside County Department of Animal Services welcomed YAC to spend a few hours playing with the animals at the shelter on a Friday afternoon. The animals don't get enough attention at the shelter, and YAC was honored that they could spend some of their time connecting with the homeless animals in their community.

- **Pet Toy Drive – May 2014**

The Riverside County Department of Animal Services asked the community's help to raise toys for the animals at the shelter in Blythe. YAC created a toy drive to support the local animal shelter. The toys were collected at the May YAC meeting and were delivered when YAC visited the shelter for "Day at the Animal Shelter."

- **Afternoon Fun at Blythe Recreation Center – May 2014**

In an effort to promote higher education, Palo Verde YAC committed their time to working with children at the Joe Wine Recreation Center by helping with homework for the month of May. After assisting the children complete their homework, the council had the opportunity to play games, do arts and crafts, and other activities.

- **Christopher's Clubhouse Light of Hope Gala – May 2014**

Christopher's Clubhouse, a community safety education and empowerment organization, held their annual awards gala in early May. The event honors the heroes of the community that are protecting children and families. YAC members took a vital role in this year's event by helping set up silent auction items, facilitating check-in, decorating dinner tables, coordinating bid sheets and payment, and cleaning up silent auction items.

- **Jill Grant Memorial Scholarship Car Wash Fundraiser – May 2014**

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 \$1000 was raised with all proceeds benefiting the Jill Grant Memorial Scholarship, a fund set-up in the name of a local beloved math teacher who was tragically killed in December.

- **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 2014-2015 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 schools in the Fourth District
- Host more presentations from community organizations
- Continue council's positive attitude
- Host more events with fellow Riverside County YAC

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 5th 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 5th District Youth Advisory Council of 2013-2014 accomplished throughout the year. We thank you for your continued support and dedication to the youth in our county.

- **Global Youth Service Day – April 2014**

For Global Youth Service Day the Youth Advisory Council members travelled to the historic Gilman Ranch. YAC had the opportunity to celebrate Earth Day while simultaneously leading games and activities for all the people who came out to the ranch. Each council member was assigned a station that had various Earth Day activities. Activities included making potted plants, making bird feeders, and participating in potato sack races for the children.

- **Annual Sports Event for After School Program Students – April 2014**

The Youth Advisory Council members were invited to volunteer at Honey Hollow Elementary School in Moreno Valley. Their after school program holds an annual sports game each year. The sports game that YAC assisted at was a kickball game versus another elementary school's after school program children. The council members helped with the overall coordination of the event.

- **Recruitment – March/June 2014**

Recruitment for the 2014-2015 YAC term began in March. Council members were asked to spread the word about recruitment to their respective schools and peers by passing out flyers and information packets. Since becoming employed by Riverside County's 5th District in February, Amber has sent out information to schools within the district to encourage students to join the program. The 5th District YAC looks forward to gaining a large and effective council and is working hard to achieve it.

- **Field Day Event for Elementary School After School Students – May 2014**

The council members held a field day event for elementary school students in an after school program. The YAC members introduced several teamwork and individual success games to the children to play as a reward for their achievement at the end of the year.

- **End of the Year Dinner/Recruitment Party – May 2014**

The Youth Advisory Council worked hard on the idea for a potluck dinner at the end of May 2014. They also used this event as a recruitment party to end this year's council year and start a new one. This was their final meeting for the term year and they look forward to having new council members join on to their growing team.

General Recommendations:

- Increasing recruitment in surrounding 5th District cities.
- Recruit council members that are fully committed to their duties as a council member.
- Be involved in more community service projects throughout 5th 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