

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



**FROM:** Riverside County Youth Commission

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
June 30, 2015

**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 2014-2015 term, as required by Resolution 98-032 and the Youth Commission By-Laws (Article XII)

**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 Department heads. The Youth Commission works to anticipate the educational, recreational and cultural needs of the Riverside County youth, and works to ensure the coordination of community resources to improve their quality of life.

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

Sophia Felix  
Chairman of Youth Commission

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost:</b>	<b>POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>	<b>Budget Adjustment:</b>
	<b>For Fiscal Year:</b>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**County Executive Office Signature**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Departmental Concurrence

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

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:** June 17, 2014 2-21 | **District:**1-5 | **Agenda Number:**

**2-20**

**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**

Each of the five Riverside County Youth Advisory Councils works toward improving the community by volunteering their time and efforts with organizations and members of the community. The Youth Commission also hosts several events aimed toward improving the lives of young people throughout Riverside County by providing them the resources to achieve their goals.

The Riverside County Youth Advisory Councils consists of 210 high school students from throughout the County. Cumulatively, they volunteered for over 7,950 hours of community service during the past year. If those students were paid California's minimum wage of \$9/hour, they donated the equivalent of over \$70,000 in free services to their communities. The website "[Volunteering in America.gov](http://Volunteering.in.America.gov)" places a value of over \$26 per hour for volunteer work, and using this figure the YAC donated nearly \$210,000 this year. While in reality it is not possible to place a dollar value on the services they provide, it is important to understand that they are accomplishing real goals, learning incredibly valuable life lessons and making Riverside County a better place for all of us.

**SUPPLEMENTAL:**

**Additional Fiscal Information**

N/A

**Contract History and Price Reasonableness**

N/A



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



RIVERSIDE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION  
Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Riverside County Youth Commission Annual Report 2014-2015</b></p>
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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 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 2014-2015 accomplished throughout the year. The Commission would also like to thank the community for their constant support through its endeavors and dedication to the youth in Riverside County.

- **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Commission Retreat – August 2014**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Commission Retreat was held August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Crestmore Manor. Motivational speaker Gabriel Maldonado provided the keynote and leadership workshops for this event. Mr. Maldonado helped council members learn valuable leadership, communication and team-building skills. One of the most important aspects of this event is the opportunity it provides for youth to meet and network with YAC members from all five districts.

- **Youth In Government Day – October 2014**

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Youth in Government Day was an exciting and important day for council members. The event is hosted annually by the Youth Commission and provides a unique learning opportunity where participants are matched with County employees and spend the day learning about specific career paths. 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: the Board of Supervisors, Economic Development Agency, Workforce Development Agency, Housing Authority, Superior Court, Public Defender, Waste Management, Flood Control, Animal Services, Code Enforcement, Fire Department and Sheriff's Department.

- **“Stuff the Bus” Operation SafeHouse – November 2014**

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. Due to the amount of individuals that the organization serves, they look to the community for support and rely heavily on their annual “Stuff the Bus” drive. Each of the five districts assisted with the program by organizing their own supply drive through assembling and donating the collected items.

- **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit – March 2015**

Riverside County's Youth Commission held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit at the Desert Princess Golf Resort in Cathedral City. The objective of this annual event is to create an avenue where Riverside County youth can discuss issues that affect their lives and community. High schools from throughout the County are invited to attend, at no cost to

their students or faculty. Each year a theme is selected based on feedback from previous participants and discussion amongst the commissioners from the respective districts. This year students were given the opportunity to enjoy workshops focusing on tolerance, self-defense and distracted driving. The students in attendance were able to receive a free autographed copy of the book "*A Freedom Writer's Diary*" as well as hear a speech from one of the original Freedom Writers, Melvin Logan. Along with Melvin, other workshop leaders included Matthew Boger from the Museum of Tolerance's "From Hate to Hope" program, Anna Kane from Impact Teen Drivers, and Mika Moulton from Christopher's Clubhouse.

- **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth District Youth In Government Day – April 2015**

The Fourth District YAC coordinated a separate Youth in Government Day for those in the eastern portion of the County, pairing high school students with county employees for a day of mentoring. The event was largest one held to date, with more mentors than ever before donating their time to advise the Coachella Valley's youth. 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, Law Offices of the Public Defender, Board of Supervisors, County Counsel, Child Support Services, Economic Development Agency, Environmental Health, Human Resources, Mental Health, Probation, Public Social Services, Transportation and Code Enforcement.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Riverside County First District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2014-2015</b></p>
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The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) 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 2014-2015 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.*

- **YAC Garden Cleanup – August 2014**  
YAC members created a garden cleanup in the unincorporated area of Mead Valley to help Mead Valley Elementary restore their K-6 garden. Many of the YAC members worked very hard to remove weeds and rake up the patch of dirt. They also had the opportunity to plant flowers for the elementary school students to enjoy.
- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Fair – September 2014**  
YAC members participated in the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Fair that was held in the Woodcrest community. The YAC members helped contribute to this great event by running the YAC booth, which provided detailed information about the Youth Advisory Council to the community. Additionally, they provided assistance with the jumpers and face painting. Some of the students volunteered to dress up as a character named “Potter the Otter” and helped pass out books to the children. Overall, the children and grandparents were very grateful this fair was put on for them and that the YAC members helped volunteer their time to this event.
- **Mariachi Festival – September 2014**  
The YACs volunteered their services at the annual Mariachi Festival held at Fairmount Park in the City of Riverside. This event featured live mariachi performances and participation from various organizations. YAC members helped set up and tear down the organizations’ booths in addition to picking up trash around the park to maintain the cleanliness of the festival.
- **Lakeland Village Cleanup – September 2014**  
YAC members helped facilitate a cleanup in the unincorporated area of Lakeland Village by scouting for vacant lots that needed heavy areas of improvement. The council members were provided tools from the County Parks Department to clean up trash and debris that were found scattered throughout the lots. Council members enjoyed this event because they felt they made an enormous impact that could be visibly seen by the local community.

- **Mead Valley Adopt-A-Trail Cleanup – October 2014**  
 A few years ago, the First District YAC adopted a trail that runs adjacent to the Mead Valley Community Center. Each year, council members visit the trail to clean and level it for fellow Mead Valley residents to enjoy. During this cleanup, YAC worked with hoes, shovels, and rakes to amend the trail’s pathway.
- **Mead Valley Health Fair – October 2014**  
 Mead Valley’s Health Fair provided community members with a chance to learn resourceful information about organizations designated to help their various needs. YAC members were able to partake in the fair by helping at Supervisor Jeffries’ booth, where they were tasked with the duty of sharing information related to the role of a County Supervisor. Additionally, YAC members were assisted with games and activities for the children in attendance.
- **Halloween Trunk or Treat – October 2014**  
 During Temescal Valley’s Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event the Youth Advisory Council helped run all of the activity booths. Some members volunteered to be a part of the haunted house, fully equipped with frightful costumes. The YAC members always enjoy this event because they get the chance to interact with the Temescal Valley community and pass out candy to the youth prior to Halloween.
- **Operation Safehouse “Stuff the Bus/Scavenger Hunt” – November 2014**  
 In support of Operation Safehouse’s annual item collection, the Youth Advisory Council asked First District residents of the Woodcrest community to donate items. 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, YAC members visited Safehouse and were deeply affected by the stories shared by the organization’s teens.
- **H.O.P.E. Canned Food Drive – November 2014**  
 YAC members were aware that the organization H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People of Elsinore) has an ongoing need for food items. Therefore, the council created a canned food drive at the Albertsons in Lake Elsinore to collect canned goods that could be donated to the non-profit. Community members that were shopping at the store donated grocery bags full of food, and money for YAC to purchase additional canned items. The council cherished the opportunity to give back to those in need during the holiday season.
- **Adopt-A-Trail – November 2014**  
 YAC members attended their second Adopt-A-Trail cleanup event in Mead Valley. During the last cleanup, there were not enough volunteers to finish the end of the trail in the length of time they were given. This second cleanup event requested as many volunteers as possible to donate their time. The turnout for the event was twice the size as the original, allowing for the council to finish the entire trail.

- **Mead Valley’s 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast with Santa – December 2014**  
 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. Some of the volunteers offered to help cook the breakfast for the community. Many Mead Valley residents attended this event along with an honored visit from Supervisor Jeffries. Countless volunteers assisted from various agencies to help the community with this wonderful event.
- **Temescal Valley Winter Wonderland – December 2014**  
 During the community of Temescal Valley’s Winter Wonderland event YAC members facilitated all of the activity booths. YAC members were assigned various outlets to oversee including game booths, decorating cookies with the youth, taking pictures, and passing out candy canes with Santa.
- **Good Hope’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast with Santa – December 2014**  
 Good Hope families had the opportunity to come together, share breakfast and take a picture with Santa during the annual festivities. 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. Many Good Hope residents attended this event along with an honored visit from Supervisor Jeffries. Countless volunteers assisted from various agencies to help the community with this wonderful event.
- **Valentine’s Day Card Making for Seniors – February 2015**  
 YAC members volunteered their time to help make Valentine’s Day cards prior to their Valentine’s Day event with the seniors at the Janet Goeske Senior Center. The YAC members took the opportunity to be creative and personalized each card. They were special to the seniors because each one was handcrafted by youth in their community.
- **Valentine’s Day Janet Goeske Senior Center – February 2015**  
 The council volunteered at the Janet Goeske Senior Center in Riverside for a Valentine’s Day celebration. YAC members brought all the homemade Valentine’s Day cards they made for the seniors and passed them out. After passing out the cards, the YAC members conversed with the seniors in the art room and the bingo room. The seniors were very appreciative that the YAC members came to visit them.
- **Operation SafeHouse Hangout – March 2015**  
 The YAC members returned to Operation SafeHouse to hang out with their fellow teens, or “clients” as Operation SafeHouse refers to them. The YAC members had a great time socializing with the clients and exchanging stories about what it means to be a youth right now. It was important to have the council members share the obstacles they have faced as well because it shows that everyone struggles, but there are always opportunities to make a difference and find success.



- **Mead Valley Easter Event – April 2015**  
YAC members were able to help assist with Mead Valley’s Easter event at the Mead Valley Community Center to help organize the Easter egg hunts. Additionally, the council helped entertain the children by spinning them around in a large, plastic human bubble.
- **Janet Goeske Gala – April 2015**  
YAC members participated in the annual Janet Goeske Senior Gala, where YAC helped with their “Dancing with the Stars” event coordination. The Inland Empire edition of this competition included judges Mayor Rusty Bailey and Supervisor Jeffries. The council was assigned the task of ushering guests to their seats, guarding VIP sections, and selling cheerleading pom-poms.
- **Temescal Valley Watermelon Festival – May 2015**  
YAC members helped volunteer at Temescal Valley’s Watermelon Festival where they were responsible for running all the game and activity booths, including the bouncy houses.
- **Jamil Dada Character Excellence Youth Awards Ceremony- May 2015**  
YAC’s commissioner and co-commissioner volunteered at the Jamil Dada Character Excellence Awards by assisting with set-up and the awards presentation. This event honors youth throughout Riverside County who were able to overcome difficult situations such as child abuse, neglect, and homelessness.
- **End of Year YAC Dinner – May 2015**  
Youth Advisory Council members hosted their annual end of the year celebration at Sky Zone as a closure to the 2014-2015 YAC term. Council members were congratulated for their efforts in formulating a successful year and were presented with an award following a delicious meal. In addition, all the senior council members were provided a royal blue honor cord to be worn at their graduation and to signify their completion of the Youth Advisory Council Program.

In addition to all of the wonderful community service events that YAC members participated in, some council members attended First District events on their own time. These events include “Cookies with Santa” in the unincorporated communities of Woodcrest and Lake Matthews and the Easter event that Deleo Regional Sports Park held in March. The YAC members go above and beyond to assist their district, and cannot be thanked enough for their dedicated service.

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

**Goals for the 2014-2015 Youth Advisory Council term:**

This council term, YAC members wanted to increase the awareness of issues related to tolerance such as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) issues, Suicide prevention, and Homelessness prevention. Many YAC members felt like students are neglected for their differences. To increase this awareness, YAC members worked on various events and projects that brought attention to these issues. YAC members also

made it an effort to talk to their peers that were struggling with these issues. YAC members definitely want to work on these issues next council term because it is a prevalent issue.

**Recommendations for the 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- Create service projects that directly serve the homeless, but still continue to organize food drives
- Outreach to more incorporated and unincorporated areas in first district of Riverside County
- Offer tutoring services to low income constituents
- Conduct more events with other district YAC members to create team building and interpersonal development

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The [2014-2015](#) Youth Advisory Council had 30 members and they delivered 23 projects in total. They have dedicated 1,660 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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Riverside County Second District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2014-2015</b></p>
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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.

*In order to achieve our 2014-2015 goals, the council was divided up into three committees. Each committee worked to coordinate and volunteer at events which were related to their goals.*

- **L.Y.E. Love Your Elders**

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. The L.Y.E. committee's main focus was to help create an impact on the communities' youth and coordinating events at local senior centers and community apartments such as Country Village. The committee was flexible and willing to help in all areas with their primary focus on serving their community.

- **H.E.L.P. Help Everyone Live Prosperously**

The council formed a committee based around helping at risk youth and homeless within the Second District. This committee designed and implemented events to help combat homelessness and help assist at risk youth by continually volunteering at the Project Food Soup Kitchen in downtown Riverside, as well as hosting a pizza party with the youth at Operation SafeHouse.

- **The Fault in Our Environment**

The Youth Advisory Council members were also very interested in working to clean up, maintain and improve their community. The Fault in Our Environment committee sought to provide assistance with community clean-ups, promoting environmentally friendly practices and volunteering at local nature centers.

*Listed are the key projects the 2014-2015 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.*

- **Project Food Soup Kitchen – September 2014 - April 2015**

The council participated in an ongoing event called the Project Food Soup Kitchen. At this event, members worked with the First Congressional Church to serve a hot meal to the homeless community in Downtown Riverside. Members always love assisting with this event and find it to be very humbling and fulfilling. This ongoing partnership occurred throughout the term to allow all members a chance to participate.

- **Downtown Riverside Fall Fashion Show – October 2014**

YAC worked with the Riverside Downtown Partnership at their annual event, the “Fall Fashion Show,” in Downtown Riverside. Members played a key role in this event by providing information about the Downtown Partnership and assisted with the coordination of the local fashion designers in attendance. The council enjoyed their experience and plan to assist with next year’s Fashion Show as well.

- **Santa Ana River Watershed Cleanup – October 2014**

In October, members volunteered with the Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful Santa Ana River Cleanup. During the project, members worked with the City of Riverside to help keep the Santa Ana River clear of excessive trash. By collecting bags of trash, YAC was able to make a difference in the local community’s environment.

- **Zombie Crawl – October 2014**

YAC played a key role in the 5th 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 setting up tables, advertising, running games and photo booths, and judging the costume contest. Downtown Riverside was overtaken with zombies of all ages. The council found this event highly entertaining and enjoyable.

- **First 5 Riverside “Books-R-Treats” Events – October 2014**

Youth Advisory Council members helped First 5 Riverside advocate for youth literacy within the Second District. Members were able to assist with a local book donation drive at book stores in Corona and Riverside. At the event, members had the opportunity to sit down and read books to students under age 5, as well entertain children in attendance by wearing a mascot suit named “Potter the Otter.” The council enjoyed developing a partnership with First 5 Riverside and made it a goal to continue working with the organization in the future.

- **Van Buren Bridge Clean up – October 2014**

The council, as well as the Fault in Our Environment Subcommittee was very interested in cleaning up a patch of land near the Riverside County Animal Shelter and the Van Buren Bridge. The council hosted its own clean up next to the bridge to help create a cleaner community in Riverside. Over 25 bags of trash were collected by the council members and it provided the council with team building and leadership skills, through the planning and implementation of the event.

- **California Riverside Ballet Ghost Walk – October 2014**

The council worked with the Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) and the California Riverside Ballet to help put on the Riverside Ghost Walk which is a fund raising event held every year during the Halloween season. The council played an important role by leading people through the various spooky mazes that were set up in downtown Riverside. The members were able to interact with Riverside youth in the community and enjoy scary mazes at the same time.

- **Country Village Fall Festival – October 2014**

Members were able to assist the local community at County Village with their annual Fall Festival. Members were asked to help with children’s activities occurring at the festival and help with setup as well as take down and clean up. During the event, YAC members facilitated arts and crafts, played games with children and coordinated various other activities.

- **Mt. Rubidoux Bike Trail Cleanup – October 2014**

The council hosted a local cleanup on the Santa Ana River Bike Trail near Mt. Rubidoux. It was discussed at a meeting that there was a lot of trash accumulating next to Mt. Rubidoux and members wanted to host a council cleanup to make a difference. The council coordinated with Waste Management and Western Riverside Council of Governments to get trash bags and a trash crew to come pick up the collected trash from the event. Members collected over 18 bags of trash that was piled up next to the area. Members could not believe how much improvement they were able to make and it inspired many to continue to help the local cleanup projects occurring throughout the district

- **“No One Eats Alone” Country Village Thanksgiving Event – November 2014**

The council participated at the Country Village Senior Apartments Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This event was put on to give those who don’t have anyone to share Thanksgiving with, a place to come and enjoy the holiday. It was a great opportunity for those who just want some company during the holiday and the council appreciated the opportunity make a difference in the lives of individuals from County Village. The council assisted with setting up and taking down the event and had the privilege of spending time with some of the fine people who reside at County Village.

- **First 5 Riverside “Let’s Read” Corona Event – November 2014**

The Youth Advisory Council continued their partnership with First 5 Riverside by attending one of their events at a bookstore in Corona which advocated for childhood literacy. Members entertained families by providing story time and helped children read short stories. It was a pleasure for the council to work with the young children of the Second District.

- **Country Village Veterans Day Brunch – November 2014**

Members were able to help honor local war veterans by assisting with the Veterans Day Brunch at County Village Senior Apartments. Members were able to deliver food and serve participating veterans with a freshly cooked breakfast, as well as take time to hear some of their war stories. Additionally, it provided YAC the opportunity to meet with Congressman Mark Takano who attended the event in support of the local veterans in his district. It inspired many members in the Love Your Elders Committee to create more events relevant to veterans within the community.

- **Festival of Lights – November 2014**

The Youth Council was asked to assist with the 22nd Annual “Festival of Lights” at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa in downtown Riverside. This event is now one of the largest and most recognized holiday lights displays in the United States. Ranked the number one event of its kind by USA Today in 2014, the Festival of Lights attracts tens of thousands of people which made this one of the most important and well attended events we were asked to help with this year. Council members assisted by staffing event information booths as well as any other services requested of them by event organizers. It was a very fun event and provided everyone who participated with a dazzling display of holiday cheer.

- **Miracle on Main Street – December 2014**

In December the Riverside Downtown Partnership asked for assistance with the second annual “Miracle on Main Street” event which is a toy drive and health fair held on the Main Street mall in downtown Riverside. The Second District assisted with staffing portions of the event and promoting the various activities that took place. We passed out information on the Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) and other information on healthy living as well as helped with the setup and takedown for the event.

- **Country Village Santa’s Workshop – December 2014**

The Country Village Workshop was an event that took place in December 2014, and was regarded as a very enjoyable and memorable event. The council was able to help hand out food and presents to families in need. Members were able to take photos with Santa, visit with local seniors, and help the youth with children’s crafts.

- **Jurupa Valley Children’s Christmas Party – December 2014**

Council members were able to assist with Jurupa Children’s Christmas Party held on two separate occasions. The council was able to help at the first day by wrapping presents at a local church and prepping for the actual event. Additionally, the council assisted at the party by passing out presents to local youth and interacting with families in attendance. This event encouraged the council to be more involved with local Christmas events for the next term.

- **First 5 Riverside Book Giveaway Corona Event – January 2015**

This book giveaway, hosted in the City of Corona, was a follow up event to a prior First 5 Riverside project, the October “Books R Treats.” At this event, the council was able to give out free books to families that had children under the age of 5 in attendance. Members were able to help give out a selection of books, from over 1,200 volumes donated at previous events.

- **Limonite Avenue and Adopt-a-Trail Community Cleanup – January 2015**

YAC hosted a cleanup on Limonite Avenue at the Second District Adopt-A-Trail, located next to an empty lot. The YAC was collected over 15 bags of trash that had accumulated in the area and members felt the event was very productive. Appreciation from local community members was shown and reported to the council and this encouraged our

members to continue to clean up the local community. In addition, the council was able to walk their Adopt-A-Trail and keep it clean for the others to enjoy.

- **Operation SafeHouse Pizza Party Social – January 2015**

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 board games, and watched a movie with them. It is a very humbling experience whenever there is a chance to host a pizza party with SafeHouse and the council members are appreciative of the opportunity to connect and engage with local at-risk youth.

- **Senior Sweetheart Social – February 2015**

The most memorable event each year is undoubtedly the Annual Sweetheart Social. During the Annual Sweetheart Social, council members plan and coordinate a variety of events for the seniors at the Eddie Dee Smith Center in Rubidoux. 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 and the council was able to collaborate with the Jurupa Valley Chamber singers to entertain attendees with a live choir concert. This was a successful event that brought the senior community and the Youth Advisory Council together.

- **Hidden Valley “Running Wild” Marathon – March 2015**

The YAC assisted the Hidden Valley Nature Center with a community marathon called the Running Wild Marathon. During this event YAC members staffed the water station and the turn-around point for the 10K runners. YAC members also directed runners to the necessary checkpoints throughout the event.

- **Crestmore Road Community Cleanup – April 2015**

The council coordinated a local cleanup in Jurupa Valley on Crestmore Road where members were able to go out and clean a large amount of trash that had accumulated along the side of the road. The council held two cleanup days on back-to-back weekends and was able to pick up over 20 bags of trash. The council was very pleased with the impact that they made and the council will continue to look for new cleanup opportunities for the upcoming 2015-2016 term year.

- **Healthy Living Extravaganza – April 2015**

The council participated in the “Healthy Living Extravaganza” where they worked alongside the City of Jurupa Valley to make a difference with developing healthy lifestyles in the Jurupa Valley community. Members helped by assisting with the human foosball court, which was setup for kids to get active and be encouraged to get out and play. Additionally, the council was also able to pass out lots of information to attending families. This was a very rewarding experience for all who participated.

- **Duck Daze – May 2015**

YAC was able to help 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 passing out information about the Parks Department. The event was a great way to help the local community and learn more about all that the Riverside County Parks Department has to offer.

- **Patriot High School Community Garden Planting – May 2015**

The council has been collecting donations throughout the year to give to the Patriot High School and their community garden. Members were able to bring in everything from seeds to planting soil. These materials were delivered to the school as they were received during the year. The council wanted to get more hands-on with the planting of the garden and coordinated to help with a planting date, in which members were able to improve and expand the garden. This event was very beneficial to the school and the council loved participating in it.

- **First 5 Riverside Open House – May 2015**

The council was able to help the First 5 Riverside with its Open House event at the beginning of May. This was an event to help celebrate a new location with First 5 Riverside. Members assisted by handing out information about the new location and the services provided by First 5 Riverside.

- **First 5 Riverside Kids Zone at the White Park Salsa Festival – May 2015**

The council was asked to help with the First 5 Riverside children’s activities at the Salsa Festival located at White Park in Riverside. The council focused on promoting literacy for kids aged 1 -5 by interacting with children at the event and playing games that are designed to help them learn to read.

- **Jamil Dada Character Excellence Youth Awards Ceremony- May 2015**

YAC’s commissioner and senior YAC member volunteered at the Jamil Dada Character Excellence Awards by assisting with set-up and the awards presentation. This event honors youth throughout Riverside County who were able to overcome difficult situations such as child abuse, neglect, and homelessness.

- **Riverside Downtown Partnership Spring Fashion Show – May 2015**

YAC was asked to participate in the Downtown Spring Fashion Show hosted by the Riverside Downtown Partnership. In addition to promoting the event, the council was able to help with staffing the information booth during the event.

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

**Goals for the 2014-2015 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- Assisting seniors by providing support and 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 through various activities, programs and events.

**Recommendations for the 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- 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.
- Further recruitment for members in all parts of the Second District

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The [2014-2015](#) Second District Youth Advisory Council had 32 members and they delivered 36 projects in total. They have dedicated over 920 hours of community service to the Second District of Riverside County. Overall, YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their expectations and goals for the year.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Riverside County Third District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2014-2015</b></p>
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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 Chaparral, Great Oak, Hemet, San Jacinto, Temecula Valley, Vista Murrieta, Murrieta Mesa, Linfield Christian and West Valley high schools.

*Listed below are key projects that the Youth Advisory Council of 2014-2015 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.*

- **Empower Youth Whale Project – September 2014**  
Youth council members attended the Empower Youth Whale Project event which provides stuffed whales to children placed in the foster care system. The council members took part in the sewing and construction of the stuffed whales. The YAC members also wrote letters and drew pictures that were given to the children, along with the whale and a toothbrush.
- **Teens Against Tobacco Use Youth Advocacy Training – September 2014**  
YAC members participated in the Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) Teens Against Tobacco Use Training program. The students were educated on the effects that tobacco use has on their community. The students were also educated on different leadership and planning skills that may be useful in helping to stop tobacco use among youth. They were also able to plan different events and outreach activities to discourage tobacco use. At the end of the Training session the students completed a park cleanup and studied the amount of tobacco products that were present at the park.
- **Winchester Community Fair – September 2014**  
The Youth Advisory Council attended the Winchester Community Fair, where council members hosted a booth. The fair provided an opportune avenue for YAC to outreach to the community and distribute information about the program. During the event, the council was able to connect with other county departments and build relationships. These partnerships would assist in creating future projects.
- **Boys and Girls Club Annual Great Gatsby Gala – October 2014**  
The Youth Advisory Council volunteered their services at the Boys and Girls Club Annual Fundraiser, which serves as the organization's largest event of the year. The students helped in the morning by setting up the auction items for the live and silent auction. Additionally, YAC made and placed the arrangements on the tables in the dining area. In the evening, the students helped with traffic control, check-in, bid placements, item distribution, and clean-up. The council members enjoyed this event because they were able to help the community and start a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club.

- **Riverside County Stand Down – October 2014**  
 Riverside County Stand Down was an event created to help veterans receive services they were lacking. Through the program, veterans received free clothing, haircuts, education about resources, amongst other things. Youth Advisory Council members participated in the effort by donating five large bags of clothing items.
- **NAMI Walk – October 2014**  
 The Youth Advisory Council members participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet. The walk is 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. While at the event council members also had the opportunity to learn more about mental illness and the programs available to them through the exhibitor booths that were present.
- **Empower Youth Harvest Fest – October 2014**  
 The Youth Advisory Council partnered with KinCare and California Family Life Center, Empower Youth to host a Harvest Fest. The festival was held in Hemet at the Empower Youth Center. The event was held for the children in the KinCare program. Third District's Youth Advisory Council had a booth at the event consisting of a hula-hoop contest, pin the spider on the web contest, and a spin-a-wheel for prizes. A handful of council members managed the YAC booth while the others helped at other stations, including face painting, hosting games, applying temporary tattoos and cleaning up.
- **Make-A-Wish Letters to Santa – December 2014**  
 The Make-A-Wish Letters to Santa is a campaign that Macy's hosts every year to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Macy's donates \$1 to the foundation for every letter to Santa that they receive up to one million dollars. The Youth Advisory Council wrote letters and drew pictures to Santa during a council meeting. The council was able to write 50 letters addressed letters to Santa and deliver them to the mail box inside one of Macy's stores.
- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Adopt-A-Family – December 2014**  
 The Youth Advisory Council donated toys and money in order to buy holiday presents for children who are currently being raised by their grandparents within the Third District. This year the council adopted two families for the holidays; a family of five in the San Jacinto area, and a family of four in the Winchester area. YAC raised a total of \$819.43 for the families, which allowed the council to have enough funds to buy each child four outfits, one jacket and six toys. Additionally, the council was able to buy the grandparents gifts including a vacuum, blankets, slippers, gift basket, and gift card. YAC members wrapped the presents at their council meeting and delivered the presents wearing Santa hats on December 17 and 19.
- **Riverside County Fire Department Tour – January 2015**  
 The council members of Third District received a guided tour of the CAL Fire and County Fire Station in Perris. The students were able to see how a firehouse operates

and given a tour of a fire engine. They were able to learn about the equipment, personnel and procedures. Additionally, they visited the dispatch center where YAC had the opportunity to talk to a dispatcher and get information on that particular career. This tour allowed YAC members to experience another career path through the County of Riverside.

- **Battle of the Bands – February 2015**

YAC members helped the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council with their annual Battle of the Bands event. This event is held at the Date Festival; it's a competition between different bands in Riverside County. YAC members held signs to promote the event, kept track of time to make sure a band did not exceed its limit, and helped with crowd control. This was the council's first time experiencing the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival.

- **Waste Management Facility Tour – February 2015**

Members of YAC toured the Lamb Canyon Waste Management Facility to learn more 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 various new ideas for projects that can help clean up their communities.

- **Habitat for Humanity Marathon – March 2015**

The Youth Advisory Council volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity Marathon, a fundraiser to help build more homes in the area. The council helped set up different stations and facilitated all of the aid stations throughout the marathon. The aid stations provided runners with water, Gatorade, electrolytes, snacks, and first aid. This event helped increase teamwork and bonding among the council members.

- **Valley Restart Breakfast – March 2015**

YAC members donated food items and supplies to the local homeless shelter in Hemet. The council members also learned how to cook and prepare different food items. This gave them the opportunity to prepare, cook and serve meals to the residents. The menu for breakfast included pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, orange slices and drinks. In all, they were able to serve about 30 individuals and left the event seeing the direct impact they made on their community.

- **Riverside County Animal Shelter Dog Wash - April 2015**

The Youth Advisory Council toured the Riverside County Animal Shelter in San Jacinto where they had the chance to learn about all aspects of the shelter from patient intake to grooming and adoption. After the tour the council members were able to interact with the animals. They played with animals, walked and fed them. At the conclusion of the day some YAC members applied to be an ongoing volunteer with the shelter.

- YAC Recruitment and Information Sessions – May 2015**  
 The month of May serves as the recruitment time for the Third District Youth Advisory. YAC members planned two information sessions for perspective members to attend. The first information session was held on May 5, 2015, in Murrieta, and the second session was held on May 19, 2015, in Hemet. The council members used a PowerPoint presentation to convey information about the council and provided food and drinks to everyone in attendance. The recruitment sessions were successful and helped fill every spot on the council.
- Youth Innovation Conference – May 2015**  
 Third district YAC members had the opportunity to attend the Youth Innovation Conference in Temecula, hosted by the Temecula Entrepreneurs Exchange. The event is used to educate high school students on the world of business. The conference had a panel of speakers which included a lawyer, banker, marketing expert, and a business professor. After hearing from the panel of experts, the students were split into groups. Each group was given a product and they had to pitch the idea to the experts. The group that was able to convince the experts to invest in their product won a prize. This was a great hands-on event for the youth.
- Jamil Dada Character Excellence Youth Awards Ceremony- May 2015**  
 YAC’s co-commissioner and historian officer volunteered at the Jamil Dada Character Excellence Awards by assisting with set-up and the awards presentation. This event honors youth throughout Riverside County who were able to overcome difficult situations such as child abuse, neglect, and homelessness.
- End of Year YAC Dinner – June 2015**  
 Youth Advisory Council members hosted their end of the year celebration at Mulligan’s Family Fun Center as a closure to the 2014-2015 YAC term. Council members were congratulated for their efforts in formulating a successful year and were presented with an award. Council members were also be able to enjoy pizza, cake, candy, and unlimited use of the facilities that included go-kart, laser tag, rock climbing, and miniature golf attraction.

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

**Goals for the 2014-2015 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- Partner with Animal Services to provide supplies and needed care to the animals in the local shelter. Our ultimate goal is to increase the animals’ adoptability.
- Help Increase Community Awareness by assisting organizations with several community events. We would like to educate our community and council members on the various programs and opportunities available to them.
- Outreach and assist at-risk youth through various activities and events.

**Recommendations for the 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- Host more events for children
  - Participate in more events Youth Commission wide
  - Continue an impact that can be seen by the youth in the community.
  - Continue to be innovative and service driven
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The [2014-2015](#) Youth Advisory Council had 28 members and they delivered 20 projects in total. They have dedicated 1,502 hours of community service to the 3rd District of Riverside County. Overall, YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their expectations and goals for the year.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Riverside County Fourth District Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2014-2015</b></p>
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The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council (YAC) identifies youth-related concerns and issues specific to the Fourth District. YAC is comprised of students from Cathedral City, Coachella Valley, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palo Verde, and Rancho Mirage high schools.

*Listed are the key projects the 2014-2015 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.*

- **Day at the Joe Wine Recreation Center – September 2014-January 2015**  
At the beginning of the term, the Palo Verde Valley council decided to create events focused on the youth by volunteering their services at the Joe Wine Recreation Center. This continuous project included weekly visits to the center, where YAC members facilitated leadership activities, arts and crafts with the children.
- **Toy Making for Animal Shelter – September 2014**  
In order to address the rising needs of the homeless animal population, the Coachella Valley council decided to provide support by making do-it-yourself toys. YAC used store bought items, such as fleece blankets, ping pong balls, tennis balls, socks, and wooden dowels to create items that could be used by both dogs and cats. Toys, including tug-a-braids and kitten wands, were donated to the Coachella Valley Animal Campus.
- **Books-R-Treats – October 2014**  
The Coachella Valley council assisted First 5 Riverside in their Early Literacy Campaign by volunteering at their “Books-R-Treats Celebration” at the Palm Desert Barnes & Noble Bookstore. YAC members dressed in playful costumes, helped kids make faces for pumpkins, and read stories to the children in attendance. The event’s aim was to encourage children to start reading early and read out loud.
- **Cemetery Cleanup – October 2014**  
Youth Advisory Council members conducted a cleanup at the Palo Verde Cemetery to help cemetery staff trim problematic bushes. The council’s assistance with the overgrown greenery allowed the cemetery to gain access to an irrigation system that was in need of repairs.
- **Bazaar Carnival Festival – October 2014**  
Over a three-day period, YAC helped the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church with their annual Bazaar Carnival Festival. During the event, YAC volunteered at a booth that helped serve food to fellow festival attendees.

- **29<sup>th</sup> Annual College Voc-Tech Night – October 2014**  
 With Supervisor John J. Benoit’s assistance, YAC was able to facilitate a trip to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual College Voc-Tech Night, held in Indio, for 110 Palo Verde High School students. Because there is only one high school in the Palo Verde Valley community, college representatives have never visited the area to speak with students about higher education opportunities. YAC and the Supervisor took a step to solve this issue and hope to continue to expand transportation capacity. This year, the Dr. Carreon Foundation helped offset the costs of bus transportation by providing \$500 in sponsorship.
- **Steps for the Cure – October 2014**  
 The Youth Advisory Council volunteered at Blythe Cancer Resource Center’s 8<sup>th</sup> Annual “Steps for the Cure” fundraising event. At the event, YAC members created an balloon arc, helped with set up and teardown, and sold lemonade. The profits from the lemonade, \$28, were donated directly to the Blythe Cancer Resource Center.
- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren “Adopt A Family” – November 2014**  
 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 the entire family. YAC members collected turkeys, side dishes, desserts, and beverages to feed all four families.
- **Healing Field – November 2014**  
 For the second consecutive year, YAC had the honor of being a part of the Healing Field memorial event at Patriot Park. Hundreds of volunteers came together to remember the lives of fallen soldiers from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. YAC members helped place 8,000 flags and accompanying name tags in memory of each individual life lost.
- **Palm Springs Festival of Lights Parade – December 2014**  
 The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Festival of Lights Parade was held in downtown Palm Springs in early December, helping local residents and tourists bring in the holiday season. YAC was responsible for walking banners and floats down the parade route. Some of the YAC members had the privilege of walking alongside Supervisor John J. Benoit’s float and singing Christmas carols.
- **Civil Servants for Santa – December 2014**  
 The Blythe Police Department invited 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, while keeping them entertained by playing games and singing Christmas carols.
- **Candy Cane Lane – December 2014**  
 Council members volunteered at Desert Recreation District’s Candy Cane Lane event in Thermal, a holiday themed event directed toward local youth in the area. YAC members were stationed at the game tables and craft areas, helping the children make snowmen



and Christmas themed door hangers, amongst other activities. The community does not host a lot of activities for youth and relies on those set-up by the Recreation District.

- **Santa's Hotline – December 2014**

Youth Advisory Council members took on the roles of Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their elves during one of the most unique service projects of the term. Santa's Hotline, hosted by the Desert Recreation District, gave children the opportunity to call a hotline and tell Santa or one of his helpers what was on their Christmas wish list. During the phone calls, YAC embraced their roles and changed their tone of voice to interact with the children.

- **Harmony Lunch Kitchen – December 2014**

Palo Verde Valley YAC volunteered at the Harmony Lunch Kitchen on December 22, 23, and 29. There was a maximum of 5 volunteers allowed from YAC to participate in each date, due to its limited ground space, resulting in multiple volunteer dates. At the event YAC helped serve food, carried guest's plates to the tables, and wiped down tables.

- **Cemetery Cleanup – January 2015**

An additional cleanup was organized by YAC at the Palo Verde Cemetery to resolve an issue with the bushes remaining after the first cleanup. YAC members helped staff trim the problematic bushes thereby allowing the completion of irrigation system repairs.

- **Clinton Day of Action – January 2015**

Both Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valley YAC participated in the Clinton Day of Action at the James O. Jessie Unity Center in Palm Springs. Led by Chelsea Clinton, the day was created in order to complete community beautification projects and provide helpful resources. At the event, both council's helped hand out food to volunteers and assisted with planting trees and painting benches.

- **Fair Poster Making – February 2015**

In preparation for the multiple events YAC hosted at the Riverside County Fair, council members created promotional posters. The posters were placed throughout the fairgrounds, for both council sponsored events, providing directions for location and time.

- **Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival Events - February 2015**

- **Battle of the Bands**

YAC took an active role in the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, helping to coordinate two unique attractions. YAC held the Sixth 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 YIP YOPS band from Palm Desert won the 2015 competition.

- **High School Competition**

In an effort to bring more young people to enjoy Fair traditions, YAC members also organized the Sixth Annual High School Competition, featuring a series of entertaining 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 2015 competition.

- **Game Day at the Nursing Care Center – March 2015**

The Blythe Nursing Care Center has an ongoing need for volunteers who can come and spend a couple of hours with the elderly. YAC took a step to help fill this need by visiting the Center and playing bingo with the residents.

- **Coachella Expedition – March 2015**

During the California Careforce Coachella Expedition, valley residents had the ability to receive free vision, dental, and medical services by clinics and hospitals. YAC assisted at the event by volunteering in the children’s craft area, a place for the youth to stay entertained while their parents accessed much needed care. Council members helped variously aged children create art out of recycled materials.

- **Baseball Buddies – March 2015**

One of the council’s most cherished projects involved volunteering for the Baseball Buddies program, which allows children with physical and emotional challenges to play baseball. Each player has a buddy that assists the child with playing the game. YAC members act as buddies and help the youth hit, catch, and run bases. The council participated as a group in two separate games, with some members dedicating themselves outside of YAC to all ten games.

- **Youth Force Cleanup – March 2015**

The Clean Youth Force program, sponsored by Supervisor John J. Benoit, provides an opportunity for school and community organizations to raise funds for their under-resourced programs. Council members spent hours in North Shore, cleaning up an illegal dumpsite covered with tires, waste, and household items. In turn they received \$2,000 for their efforts, with all proceeds donated to the nonprofit Galilee Center.

- **Palo Verde High School Rotary Cleanup – April 2015**

YAC was invited by the Blythe Rotary Club to lead a cleanup at Palo Verde High School. The project was aimed at beautification of the school grounds. At the event, YAC dusted ceilings and picked up trash that was littering the campus.

- **Relay for Life of La Quinta – April 2015**

This 12-hour event benefitting Relay For Life took place at the La Quinta Community Center to honor cancer survivors and help continue the fight against the disease. YAC was stationed at the registration booth, providing visitors with information about the

event and the organization's mission. Additionally, council members were responsible for raffle tickets, event pamphlets, and team donations.

- **Coachella Valley Animal Campus Visit – April 2015**

YAC members had the opportunity to take a tour of the Riverside County Animal Service's Coachella Valley Animal Campus and learn from various personnel. The tour, organized by their volunteer coordinator, provided the council with the chance to speak with veterinary staff, volunteers, and a partnering rescue organization. In addition, YAC prepared the animals for the adoption process bathing and walking the dogs.

- **Pet Toy Drive – May 2015**

The Riverside County Department of Animal Services asked the Blythe community to help raise funds to provide toys for the animals at the local shelter. YAC created a pet toy drive to help support the shelter and delivered the collected items together as a council.

- **Think Before You Drink – May 2015**

After being approached by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments at the beginning of the term with concern about the number of alcohol related collisions, the council made it their mission to create an event centered on the issue. After months of planning, the Coachella Valley YAC hosted their inaugural DUI awareness event entitled "Think Before You Drink." The event included a large scale simulation using DUI Goggles, exhibitor booths, a photo booth, pledge board, and raffle prizes. High school and college aged students valley wide were invited to attend the event and take the pledge.

- **Day at the Animal Shelter – May 2015**

The county animal shelter in Blythe welcomed YAC to spend a few hours playing with their animals. 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.

- **YAC Fest – May 2015**

Council members created a new recruitment event, "YAC Fest" hosted at the La Quinta Park, in which 8th-11th graders from throughout the valley were invited to attend and learn more about YAC. The council led attendees through leadership games and water activities in addition to sharing stories about past service projects and their personal experiences as YAC members.

- **Palo Verde Valley YAC Potluck – May 2015**

Palo Verde Valley YAC hosted a potluck to celebrate the accomplishments of the council during the 2014-2015 term. At the event, YAC also had the opportunity to bring a friend who may be interested in joining the 2015-2016 YAC term.

- **Jamil Dada Character Excellence Youth Awards Ceremony - May 2015**  
YAC's co-commissioner and photo journalist officer volunteered at the Jamil Dada Character Excellence Awards by assisting with set-up and the awards presentation. This event honors youth throughout Riverside County who were able to overcome difficult situations such as child abuse, neglect, and homelessness.
- **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.

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

**Goals for the 2014-2015 Youth Advisory Council term:**

Coachella Valley

- Provide support to educational programs for youth
- Find ways to help address the overpopulation of homeless animals
- Create service projects that increase the council's overall interaction with the community and leave a lasting impact
- Promote the importance of safe driving and raise awareness on the dangers of drunk driving and texting and driving

Palo Verde Valley

- Find ways to improve the Joe Wine Blythe Recreation Center
- Increase support and opportunities for youth
- Provide help to the less fortunate
- Promote the importance of higher education
- Find ways to unite the 4th District Youth Advisory Council

**Recommendations for the 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- Continue to host innovative community service projects
- Recruit members from all high schools in the Fourth District
- Host more presentations from community organizations
- Host more events with fellow Riverside County YAC

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The [2014-2015](#) Youth Advisory Council had 54 members and they delivered 34 projects in total. They have dedicated 2,046 hours of community service to the Fourth District of Riverside County. Overall, YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their expectations and goals for the year.

**Riverside County Fifth District Youth Advisory Council  
Annual Report 2014-2015**

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) 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 Fifth 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 Fifth District Youth Advisory Council of 2014-2015 accomplished throughout the year. The Fifth District Youth Advisory Council would also like to thank the community for their constant support through their endeavors and dedication to the youth in Riverside County.*

- **Moreno Valley Youth Fest - September 2014**

The Moreno Valley Youth Fest is a local Youth Festival focused on providing the citizens of Moreno Valley with access to information on recreational classes, child care, and library services. The event has an emphasis on children oriented businesses and activities. The Fifth District Youth Advisory Council assisted exhibitors who needed help with their booth and provided clean-up services.

- **City of Moreno Valley 7<sup>th</sup> Annual “Artober Fest” - October 2014**

“Artober Fest,” a local festival held in the City of Moreno Valley, focuses on celebrating the arts. The festival consisted of art exhibits, entertainment, dance performances, and a canned food drive. The Youth Advisory Council assisted in the event in multiple ways, including set-up, greeting community members, co-hosting booths, and donations.

- **Dia De Los Muertos Festival - November 2014**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dia De Los Muertos Festival was hosted by the Moreno Valley Cultural Arts Foundation to showcase the arts, as well as the culture regarding Day of the Dead. YAC provided assistance to all different aspects of the event, including arts and crafts, and parking directions.

- **Riverside County Regional Medical Center, Festival of Trees Gala – November 2014**

The Youth Advisory Council was able to support Riverside County Regional Medical Center Foundation by volunteering at their Annual Festival of Trees Gala Fundraiser benefitting RCRMC’s Pediatric Unit. YAC helped with preparation before the event, managed raffle items and sold raffle tickets while the gala was occurring.

- **Winter Festival - December 2014**

The council members held a Winter Festival for students at a local elementary school’s after school program. Fifth District YAC created several games and activities for the children to participate in. Many of the children enjoyed having teenagers support and

spend time with them. This mission of this event was to support the children in local after school programs and provide them with a treat before they all went on Winter Break.

- **Operation Safehouse Day of Action - January 2015**

The Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force's Day of Action gave council members the opportunity to help with the prevention efforts in the Fifth District. YAC went to different businesses and posted fliers, specifically targeted towards individuals who may be victims of human trafficking. The posters included information about where help can be received and hotlines to call.

- **Battle of the Bands - February 2015**

The Fifth District Youth Advisory Council assisted the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council with their Annual Battle of the Bands event at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Fest in Indio. Several bands performed at this event in order to win \$5,000 worth of Fender equipment. The council members walked around the fair, promoting the competition.

- **District Tour -March 2015**

The District Tour showcased landmarks located within the Fifth District and Riverside County as a whole. Throughout the day, Youth Advisory Council members toured locations such as: the Edward Dean Museum, The Morongo Mission Band of Indians Reservation and Tribal Council Chambers, the San Geronio Pass Wind Farm, and the Palm Springs Tramway. This District Tour made YAC members more knowledgeable on the Fifth District, Supervisor Marion Ashley and Riverside County.

- **Care Packages for the Less Fortunate - February-March 2015**

The Youth Advisory Council created fliers to get community members involved in a drive to help the area's less fortunate. The event lasted a month, including the time it took to acquire donations and package the supplies. Council members filled the care packages with toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and a variety of food items. YAC delivered these items to a veteran's shelter and a local food pantry. Both facilities expressed great appreciation for the support.

- **Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Brunch - March, 2015**

YAC partnered with Moreno Valley Parks and Community Services to help host their annual Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny Brunch. Council members prepared for the day by posting signage around the park and placing eggs throughout five baseball fields for the children to gather. The council assisted with the cleanup of the fields and prepared for the Bunny Brunch at the Senior Center. At the Bunny Brunch, council members passed out plates of breakfast food to the attendees and assisted with announcements.

- **Recruitment for the 2015-2016 Council Year - April-June 2015**

Recruitment for new members began in April, with the goal of recruiting high school students from underrepresented schools within the Fifth District. The ongoing effort strives to have students from every high school serve on the Youth Advisory Council.

- **Relay for Life - April 2015**  
 The Youth Advisory Council raised over \$300 for The American Cancer Society by participating in their Relay For Life event at Heritage High School in Romoland. YAC formed a team and each member took turns walking around the track, thereby fundraising for the organization and commemorating the lives of those who have been affected by cancer.
- **So Cal Day of Hope - April 2015**  
 Fifth District YAC was fortunate to be a part of the first Southern California Day of Hope hosted in Riverside County. This event was life changing for many members because it gave them an opportunity to directly interact with the less fortunate. YAC filled and organized bags of groceries, then helped hand out the supplies to families in attendance.
- **Serrano HOPE Resource Fair - May 2015**  
 Council members hosted a YAC booth at the Serrano HOPE Resource Fair. This event provided community members the chance to network with organizations aimed at enriching and supporting the lives of individuals in the area. YAC members passed out applications to parents and teenagers, encouraging local youth to give back by joining the Youth Advisory Council.
- **Jamil Dada Character Excellence Youth Awards Ceremony - May 2015**  
 YAC's commissioner and co-commissioner volunteered at the Jamil Dada Character Excellence Awards by assisting with set-up and the awards presentation. This event honors youth throughout Riverside County who were able to overcome difficult situations such as child abuse, neglect, and homelessness.
- **Lake Perris Clean-Up - May 2015**  
 YAC facilitated a clean-up at Lake Perris in an effort to maintain the cleanliness and appeal that the site holds in the community.
- **Senior Draping Ceremony - May 2015**  
 To honor and congratulate Fifth District's graduating seniors, a Draping Ceremony was held in recognition of their achievements, and commitment to their education and the Youth Advisory Council. Each graduating senior received an honor cord, as well as a certificate of recognition for their efforts.
- **End of the Year Party - June 2015**  
 YAC hosted an end of the year party at Sky Zone Trampoline Park. The event acted as a reward to the council members for their hard work and dedication to continuously improve the Fifth District communities and the Youth Advisory Council.

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

**Goals for the 2014-2015 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> District YAC would like to have the 5<sup>th</sup> District Youth Advisory Council name out in our community so that people are aware of the council.
- Create opportunities for more college preparation for the youth of the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

- Create opportunities to promote healthy youth behavior throughout the district.
- Create events that promote safe places for youth to spend time with one another.
- Improve our community.
- Create an opportunity for youth to get help with school, such as studying or tutoring.
- Connect with and promote the Workforce Development Youth Opportunity Centers of Moreno Valley and Perris.
- Reach out to special needs programs for volunteering.
- Begin plans to create a community garden.

**Recommendations for the 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Council term:**

- For the 5th District Youth Advisory Council to plan and coordinate events fully run by our YAC members.
- To create more events put on by the Youth Commission.
- To bond more with one another in order to create a more effective team environment.

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The [2014-2015](#) Youth Advisory Council had 36 members and they delivered 16 projects in total. They have dedicated 1,879 hours of community service to the Fifth District of Riverside County. Overall, YAC members felt that they excelled in accomplishing their expectations and goals for the year.