

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FOURTH DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

▪ **Voter Registration Drive- September 2008**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Halloween Costume Drive- October 2008**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

▪ **Valentines Day Dance at the Joslyn Senior Center- February 2009**

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

▪ **Youth Summit- March 2009**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

▪ **Recruitment**

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

**General Recommendations**

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