



# This Just In...

Issue 5

Youth

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## Goshen Community Development Coalition

2008 Hamilton Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
Ph: 702-880-HELP (4357)  
Fax: 702-383-9898  
www.goshenonline.org

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Belinda Thompson  
Executive Director

Ms. Eugenia Young  
Administrative Assistant

Kathleen M. Dickinson  
Coordinator

Mary L. Harris  
Chief Financial Officer

Rekaya M. Gibson  
Data Project Manager

Lindsay Garcia  
Project Manager

Stephen Booker  
Clearinghouse Coordinator

I have been wanting to write an article on the subject of “prevention is about connection” but I did not quite have my angle yet. That changed one night when I arrived home. My street was blocked with cones and crime tape with flashing lights a few doors down.

I learned that 4 year old girl named Jenny had been run over by a furniture delivery truck. I did not know the child other than to say “hello” to her as I slowly drove down my street every day or walked to my mail box. She was a darling tow headed innocent. She did not seem to have any sense of danger – nor did she seem to have a parent, although I often saw her with her older brother and other neighborhood children. The truck was not speeding. It was backing up in preparation to make a delivery. The truck driver is, as you can imagine, devastated.

My neighbors’ perception has been that Jenny’s mother is always drunk. Jenny’s mother, who had been cautioned many times by neighbors to watch Jenny more closely, and to teach her to be careful around cars, did not come out for 30 minutes. When she did, the neighbors stated the smell of alcohol was strong. Apparently, Jenny and her brother had been taken from her just a month ago, by Child Protective Services, but returned two weeks later. Their pet dog was hit by a car just five days earlier. No one could get Jenny’s

mother to indicate she cared enough to pay attention. My goal with this story is to take people deeper into the layers of prevention. You can have the best neighbors with the best intentions but unless you know what is going on inside the home and inside the people, we will not have reached all of the prevention components. What do Martin Luther King’s

**“Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the inter-related structure of reality.”**

**Martin Luther King**

words, shown here, mean to you?

Prevention is about connection. Connecting to the children. Connecting to families. Connecting to information. Connecting to neighbors. How are we weaving our community tapestry today? Where are the gaps? How can we fill them?

How can we truly believe in the children and their future if we do not look more deeply at connection and prevention?

### Where are the gaps?

When I spoke to several middle school counselors in late September about Prevention

and the 40 Developmental Assets, I learned that there had been a number of crises during the first month of the school year at one particular school. They have a 13 year old pregnant youngster and a 12 year old was raped the day before by a man in her neighborhood.

You probably do remember that between July and December there were at least five incidents in the news of 18 and 19 year old boys/men who drove under the influence and either killed or harmed innocent drivers and passengers. Did you see anywhere in the story that these boys were “underage drinkers”? Is there a disconnect in our community – where we think of children over the age of 18 as adults and we do not recognize that there are a few things they cannot legally do? Does the belief that drinking is considered a “normal” rite of passage color adults taking care of children and their education in terms of what drinking leads to?

Did you read about these events? If you were reporting these stories what would you focus on? Are there adult role models? Are adults watching out for the children? Are the children instructed on sex education? Or safety education? Where are the gaps?

## Parent Patrol at Quannah McCall is Thriving

The Goshen Community Development Coalition—Quannah McCall Elementary School Parent Patrol is thriving. The members of the Parent Patrol ensure safe passage of the students to and from school in the morning and afternoon. The Tuesday morning classes have also continued with new students as part of the Clark County School District Adult Education GED curriculum. We have had guest speakers from US Bank, Planned Parenthood, the Office of Suicide Prevention, and the Clark County Neighborhood Justice Center. We have also continued providing information on bullying prevention, drug and alcohol prevention, and promoting reading with children through the Pajama and Books program.



Photo of members of the Goshen Community Development Coalition/Quannah McCall Elementary School Parent Patrol Autumn 2007.

## 2008 State Prevention Infrastructure Grant (SPI) information

Goshen Community Development Coalition held our State Prevention Infrastructure grant (SPI) bidders conference on November 5, 2007 (applications were due December 7, 2007). All SPI programs begin January 2008. The purpose of the funding is to implement evidence based direct service substance abuse prevention programs, policies, and strategies

at the community level. The funding that we have received through the SPI grant stipulates that 95% must be used to fund evidence based prevention programs. For information on model programs please visit

<http://modelprograms.samhsa.gov/model.htm>.

Eleven of the applications received on December 7, 2007 will be funded. We look forward to deepening the work with all of our Community Partners.

Please visit [www.goshenonline.org](http://www.goshenonline.org) to read our Comprehensive Community Prevention Plan.

### Statewide Most of Us Methamphetamine Free Campaign

Dr. Jeffrey Linkenbach from Montana State University was back in Las Vegas during October 2007 to review the key elements of the current statewide Most of Us Prevention and Public Awareness campaign. Dr. Linkenbach is the founder of the Most of Us Social Norms-Science of the Positive. Visit [www.mostofus.org](http://www.mostofus.org) for more information. The 12 Nevada statewide prevention coalitions will personalize the message for their communities. Let us know your thoughts after you view the PSA on television in the near future.

### We urge you to watch “Life Beyond The Lights” a Jose Diaz film and learn firsthand about the homeless teens in Las Vegas

The Goshen Community Development Coalition staff recently viewed “Life Beyond The Lights” and were impressed by the film created by Jose Diaz, and his students at Faith Lutheran Junior and Senior High School and a member of Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. We urge you to watch this powerful film about the homeless youth who survive the streets of Las Vegas 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and meet the men and women who interact with them on a daily basis in an effort to help them. You can help the youth in our community by being observant, getting involved with your local coalitions, police departments, neighborhood watch groups, schools, family resource centers, and after school programs. Help the youth in your neighborhoods find safe havens in an unsafe world. If you would like to order a copy, please call Jose Diaz at 804-4436.

**Photos from The Goshen Community Development Coalition Second Annual A Family Affair - October 27, 2007, at the West Las Vegas Library and the West Las Vegas Center for Performing Arts**



The West Las Vegas Library Performing Arts Center is a beautiful location for a community event.



Luz Community Development Coalition Staff, Olga, Rosa and Rocio, enjoyed the day.



Genesis II Christian Center Youth Praise Dancers prepare to dance.



The Las Vegas Metro Police Volunteers take a momentary respite.



Las Vegas Fire and Rescue provide great information.



Ms. Earlene White talks to young customer about animal purses.

## Breakfast With Santa 2007



Sharing the Holiday Spirit



Special reading time with Santa

"The American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every man feels safe on his streets and in the house of his friends. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. It should be a place where each of us can find the satisfaction and warmth which comes from being a member of the community of man. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today."

President Lyndon B. Johnson



Santa and his Elves at the Goshen Community Development Coalition



Dr. Porter Troutman and Ms. Belinda Thompson creating ideas

The Goshen Community Development Coalition Welcomes New Staff — Mary L. Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Lindsay Garcia, SPI Project Coordinator and Stephen Booker, Resource Coordinator.

Martin Luther King Week Activities are not to be missed. Please check [www.goshenonline.org](http://www.goshenonline.org) for details.

Goshen Community Development Coalition received 75 books for distribution from the Pajama Program. For more information, please contact Rekaya Gibson at [rekaya@pajamaprogram.org](mailto:rekaya@pajamaprogram.org) or visit [www.pajamaprogram.org](http://www.pajamaprogram.org).

## Teen Choices Meets with Class!

Members of Goshen Community Development Coalition Teen Choices met with the reporters and staff of Class! On November 28, 2007. We are all impressed by the professionalism of the Class! Stories. We talked with the teen staff about the goals of Teen Choices. We talked about a variety of things including:

- **“How do the writers get a pulse on what the students want to talk about?” “Who is chosen to write about the subject?”**
- **The Community resources we can provide.**



- **Advocacy.**
- **The emotional and economic costs of bullying; adults bully too.**
- **HIV/AIDS, Herpes stigma, Health and Safety.**
- **Brain Development Research – emotions + physical information needs, need to be met – how do we guide youth to valuable information that connects with their brain development level.**
- **Build goal setting and informa-**

**tion** at the same time.

- **Celebrating teens;** celebrating their creative solutions.
- **Parental support.**
- Reduce prejudice and violence.
- How we **need to use stories** to educate communities – stories have more of an impact than stats – Health Belief model – the “that can be me” concept – how story telling connects with emotions .

We encouraged the staff to call upon us at any time for resources, support and contacts.

## “How Big Can You Dream”

We were privileged to have Veronica M. Johnson, President of Excel NOW! Educational Services, LLC, Chicago, Illinois facilitate the Teen Youth Summit during the second annual “A Family Affair” on October 27, 2007 at the West Las Vegas Library. Courtney Children’s Foundation and the Victory Mission Baptist Church combined forces to bring this opportunity to West Las Vegas.

Rekaya Gibson surveyed the youth and here are some of her results. Twenty seven (64%) workshop participants - representing 12 zip code areas - completed the survey. Two were adults over the age of 20. Of the 27, 10 (37%) were male and 17 (63%) were female. The youth ages ranged from 11 to 20 years old. Over half (56%) of the youth participants were 15 or 17 years old. Most (26%) of the participants came from the 89106 zip area. Below are their responses to the survey. A breakdown of the demographics can be found at the end of this report. The youth acknowledged the following “Good Things Happening In My Community”:

Project 4 Youth  
Youth Organizations

Youth Recreation Centers (Doolittle, Walnut, etc.)

Fraternities, Sororities

New Text Books

New School/Career Tech

Volunteers

Tutors

Scholarship Opportunities

GEAR-Up

Homeless Outreach

Upward Bound

Boys and Girls club

Sports (2)

Upward Bound

T.O.T.S. Campaign so kids can eat

Girl Scouts (2)

“A Family Affair!”

When asked: “What are your plans for the future?” They replied:

Go to college and become a future Olympian.

Pursue my dreams and be well off.

Attend Stanford or Pepperdine University in order to become a psychiatrist.

Be a CGI Production.

To become a doctor.

To be a cosmologist and parole officer

Go to college and become a doctor

Make wedding cakes

To be successful and help others

Become a videographer

Go to college and be successful

My plan is to work hard to give education to my sons.

To get a doctors degree and finish college.

To become a teacher

I want to study hard and be an architect

Work for others – teach

Get a good college experience

Be successful by being an engineer or

Lawyer

Basketball & College

To be a singer

Finish college

Explore the world

To become an oncologist

Go to College, be successful and happy

“I liked talking about obstacles we should expect.” “I liked that I can think over my dreams again.”



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**Mission Statement:** To ensure the availability of the attainment of the dream for all of our community partners. It is understood that we shall all agree to actively strive to reduce and eliminate strife, malice, racism, poverty and deprivation within our communities and neighborhoods.

### Bridging The Gap

Global Concerns  Local Soluti

Building Better Communities... One Neighborhood At A Time!

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## 10 Asset Ways You Can Promote Positive Community Change

1. Volunteer in a school, congregation, or youth-serving organization. If your teenager is not comfortable having you work directly with him or her, find ways to work behind the scenes or with other youth in the organization.
2. Get to know the children and teenagers on your block or in your apartment building. Greet them when you see them, and find out what is happening in their lives.
3. Get to know the neighbors and their families by inviting them to a picnic or cookout in a park or at your home.
4. Speak out at meetings where policies affecting youth are discussed, challenging leaders to shape policies that help to develop assets.
5. Have your family become a "mentor family" to provide support and role modeling for a family that is struggling.
6. Commit "random acts of asset building" by reaching out to provide youth and their families with support and care.
7. Contribute financially to organizations in your community that are actively building assets in youth.
8. Serve on a community-wide committee or task force that's seeking to address youth issues.
9. Write letters to the editor advocating a positive view of youth and seeing youth as a resource for the community.
10. Advocate for appropriate boundaries, values, and norms for youth in the community,

Adapted from *Parenting with a Purpose: A Positive Approach for Raising Confident, Caring Youth* by Dean Feldmeyer and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, and *Tapping the Potential: Discovering Congregations' Role in Building Assets in Youth* by Glenn Seefeldt and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain.