



This Just In...

Issue 6

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Message versus Perception

By Kathleen M. Dickinson, Coalition Coordinator

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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Prevention is about you. You have seen our Goshen Community Development Coalition themes building over the last few years, as we go deeper and deeper into the issues of Prevention. You have attended our SAPST (Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Trainings); Capacity Building; Positive Action; Leadership Resiliency Program; MostofUs.org; Environmental Strategies; Grant writing trainings and our community fairs. You have attended our coalition meetings, our Teen Choices meetings; our Parent Patrol planning sessions; and our Community Resource Center.

You have looked at our grant applications and you have written your own organization's 'Scope of Work'.

How have you digested or reflected upon the information you have gathered from all of these events and trainings? How are you mentoring your children, your members, your partners, your staff?

We have heard conversations lately about how some of you have realized that you have not been translating your model

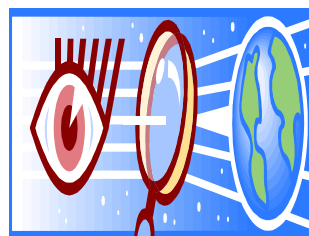
program work to your own families. If you have read any of Dr. John Gottman and Dr. Julie Schwartz Gottman's research www.gottman.com you know the importance of 6 compliments (positives) to 1 criticism (negative).

If you have looked at www.acestudy.org, you know what Pediatricians are seeing today in family dynamics and the impact of psychological aggression on children and the health of families.

What is your message versus your action?

"The Eye Sees Only What the Mind is Prepared to Comprehend"

Henri L. Bergson



Food For Thought

Some of our goals are to reduce:

- driving under the influence; and subsequent fatalities;
- Underage binge drinking; accidental deaths; suicide;
- violence exacerbated by the use of drugs and alcohol;
- date rape exacerbated by the use of drugs and alcohol;
- unplanned pregnancies caused by the use of drugs and alcohol;

And to improve:

- Parenting skills
- Healthy life skills and leadership skills

If you plan your fundraisers in bars or night clubs; or you have wine tasting events in the name of education—consider the public's perception of your goals versus your venues.

Are you sending mixed messages?

Training Attended by Goshen Staff and Community Partners Summer 2008:

Most of Us Summer Institute—July 10, 2008 to July 12, 2008

Suicide Prevention: Empowering Communities for Action—August 14, 2008 to August 16, 2008

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Conference—August 21, 2008 to August 23, 2008

National Prevention Network Conference—August 24, 2008 to August 27, 2008

Alcohol Responsibility Conference—Moving Communities Toward Responsible Consumptions—September 23-25, 2008

Upcoming Events

Las Vegas Metro is offering School Violence Awareness Training for adults on Thursday, October 2, 6-8 pm at Lied Middle School (5350 W. Tropical Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89130) and School Violence Awareness Training for adults on Tuesday, October 7, 6:30-8:30 pm at Roger Gehring Elementary School (1155 E. Richmar, Las Vegas, Nevada 89123).

The Third Annual Goshen “A Family Affair ... Connecting the Generational Dots” will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library and West Las Vegas Center for Performing Arts.

The Richard Steele Health and Wellness Center and Police Athletic League teach youth sports and provide tutoring and leadership training on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call: 702.638.1308; or 702.572.5938.

Juvenile Conference Committees are Spreading Throughout the State

“The Boulder City Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC) serves as a first step in the juvenile justice process for misdemeanor and status offenses. The committee offers a way to return control of minor juvenile misbehavior to the community where the offenses occur.” Boulder City has demonstrated the success of the Juvenile Conference Committee since 1993. Pat Spero, the Executive Assistant to the Boulder City Police Chief, coordinates the committee. Pat is currently involved with helping to train the Mesquite and Laughlin communities in the JCC process. The building of the JCCs throughout Clark County is a joint effort with the Goshen Community Development Coalition, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Nevada—Stand Tall Don’t Fall, Judge Dodd, Judge Atkins, Chief of Police Law, the Metro Police in the Laughlin Sub-Station, the League of Women Voters of Mesquite, and Robin Kelley of Laughlin.

An example of a youth infraction is: A 13 year old boy was egged on by other boys to dial 911 on a pay phone without a coin. He did not believe the call would go through without the coin so he acquiesced. A teacher observed this event and reported him to the police. The JCC asked him thought provoking questions such as “what did the other boys gain from getting you to make the call?” The sanction was to sit with a 911 dispatcher for two hours, observe the seriousness of the calls, write a report on his observations and educate his peers.

You can see the JCC is a solid community endeavor. The Juvenile Conference Committee consists of volunteers from a variety of professions, including parents and grandparents. They provide sanctions that fit the offense, the youth, and the family circumstances. The benefits of the JCC are: 1. involving all members of the community; 2. educating the perpetrator and his/her family; 3. lessening the burden on probation and parole officers; 4. keeping the youth out of the justice system; 5. reducing costs to the justice system (and thereby, the taxpayer) in both incarceration and recidivism.

We are hoping to expand the use of the Juvenile Conference Committee throughout neighborhoods in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson in the next several years.



Youth Shout It Out!

Teen Choices

Sex Education—Miami versus Las Vegas, A Student's Perspective

BY: ANUAR CAMPO

In the state of Nevada and the Clark County School District (CCSD) it is mandated to teach and communicate Sexual Education to their students. But unfortunately, schools in the CCSD are choosing NOT to teach sex education. Why? Well there are straightforward reasons, one being that schools are simply petrified of parents and legal guardians coming in to the school complaining to school administration exclaiming: "Why are you teaching this 'vulgarity' to my child(ren)?" Sex education is indeed a very sensitive topic, and it is reasonable to see why schools have such mixed feelings about dealing with this subject. When asking several schools "Why don't they teach sex education?" a very common answer is "We leave it up to the parents to inform their children about sex". Unfortunately, this is a very sensitive and awkward subject for many parents. So awkward that parents just choose NOT to explain sex. Or some parents just believe that if they educate their teens on sex, then they'll go off and HAVE sex. Which is awfully untrue. As a matter of fact, teens are least likely to engage in sexual intercourse if they are informed on general information of having sex. i.e. disadvantages, STD's, pregnancies etc. But is it like this all around the country?

The answer is a definite "NO!" I am an 8th grade student originally from Miami, Florida, and I can without a doubt, say that the sexual education process there is nothing like that of Las Vegas. Our county (Miami-Dade) makes an exceptional effort to communicate the pros, and cons of having sexual intercourse. Statistics show that between the state of Florida and the state of Nevada, Nevada has a greater Teen birth rate.

In Florida according to the 2007 March Of Dimes Foundation, the percentage of women giving birth before the age of 20 in the year 2007 is 7.09% compared to 16.03% in the state of Nevada. That is a whopping 8.94% more than the state of Florida. It cannot be shown that this increase is due to non-sexual education but I can almost guarantee that it plays a big role in teen pregnancy.

In my opinion I surely do think that there should be a change in school policies according to sexual education. Especially in such a city where sex is just advertised Up, Down, Left and Right. Its sort of a hypocrisy. So parents, teachers, and school administrators, I believe that it is time to decrease these teen pregnancy rates, and install an organized Sexual education curriculum for our students to have to their advantage!

EXERCISE OUR CHILDRENS RIGHT TO LEARN!

Anuar Campo is a 14 year old student planning to enroll in Green Valley High School in August 2008. He is a member of the Goshen Community Development Coalition Teen Choices and he is a community volunteer.

Online Resources for youth: www.teenpregnancy.org; www.thenationalcampaign.org; www.abstinence.net

- A new analysis from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy shows that teen childbearing (teens 19 and younger) in Nevada cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least \$67 million in 2004.
- Most of the costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the *children* of teen mothers. In Nevada, in 2004, annual taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included: \$7 million for public health care (Medicaid and SCHIP); \$8 million for child welfare; \$13 million for incarceration; and \$25 million in lost tax revenue, due to decreased earnings and spending.

Our Third Annual "A Family Affair ... Connecting the Generational Dots" will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library and West Las Vegas Center for Performing Arts. All are welcome. Call 702.880.4357 for exhibitor application.

The following Goshen Community Development Coalition partners were recently approved for funding through the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Agency (SAPTA) Nevada State Strategic Prevention Infrastructure or the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment—Safe and Drug Free Schools Block grants.

Organization

Aid for Aids of Nevada (AFAN)

Area Health Education Center of Southern Nevada (AHEC) Positive Action

Area Health Education Center of Southern Nevada (AHEC) Parenting Wisely

Clark County Department of Family Services Parenting Project

Committed 100 Men

Community Initiatives

First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME)

JRW Concepts

Las Vegas Indian Center

Lutheran Social Services

Quannah McCall

Nevada Community Associates (NCA)

Nevada Partners

Richard Steele

Safe Nest

University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV)

Urban Academic Alliance

Variety Early Learning Center

Virgin Valley Family Services

Every Child Matters in Nevada

UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy

Every Child Matters in Nevada, in collaboration with the UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, is an organization dedicated to raising the visibility of children's issues and to make them a priority topic of policy debate throughout the 2008 presidential and local campaigns. **This project does not rate or endorse candidates.**

We will be active in Nevada over the next several months raising the visibility of children's issues at candidate appearances, promoting these issues in the media, communicating with concerned citizens, developing campaign partnerships, and distributing get out the vote materials to child care centers, preschools, and other sites which care for children.

There are many things that you can do to help improve child welfare in Nevada such as: Volunteer at Every Child Matters events, Participate in rallies, Attend local candidate and Presidential forums, Inform our group of upcoming children's events, Encourage your candidates to complete the ECM Candidate Questionnaire (located on our website), and **VOTE!!!**

Upcoming Events

Candidate Forums and Questionnaires

A questionnaire to determine platforms specifically on children's issues was disseminated to all State Congressional, Assembly and Senate candidates. Responses from this questionnaire will be posted on our website as they are received. We are also working to host candidate forums over the next couple of months to provide an opportunity for the candidates to share their viewpoints on children's issues. If you are interested in participating please let us know.

Step Up 4 Kids Day

ECM is working to organize a non-partisan, nationwide event on September 16, 2008 on the capitol steps of all 50 states to draw public attention to issues affecting America's children such as poverty, health care, juvenile incarceration, early care and education, child abuse, and afterschool programs. On the same day, advocates, volunteers, and kids across the country will gather on the steps of state capitols to highlight the needs of children and families.

In Nevada, efforts will be made to hold events in Carson City, Reno, and here in Las Vegas. To signify this event, we have begun an initiative titled, "**Handprints for Nevada**". We are collecting **150,000** handprints of kids to represent the number of children in need in Nevada. Please help us reach this lofty goal by volunteering to make handprints and send them in or contact us for pick up.

Nevada Children's Advocacy Coalition

Every Child Matters in Nevada coordinates the Nevada Children's Advocacy Coalition which is a group dedicated to support efforts that promote child and family well-being in Nevada and develop strategies for engaging candidates and elected officials to address the needs of children and families. Our main goal is to work as one community to improve quality of life for children in families in our state.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please call (702) 895-1040 or send an email to nevada@everychildmatters.org for more information. You can also visit and download materials from the Every Child Matters website at: www.everychildmatters.org/nevada. The Every Child Matters Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization.

“PROUD TO BE ME” Overcoming Challenges

By Christy Davis, Virgin Valley Family Services, Mesquite, Nevada



Many youth, when faced with difficulties, choose to avoid the problem rather than overcome it. Some youth don't recognize that they can overcome obstacles, others lack the motivation, still others don't have the necessary life skills. The purpose of the VVFS Summer Field Trip was to afford at-risk youth the opportunity to be faced with a challenge, suffer the trials of overcoming the challenge, and then reflect on their success.

The destination was Zion National Park. The challenge: The Narrows, a river hike that winds for several miles through a canyon in Zion. Nine students of "The Proud to Be Me: Positive Youth Empowerment" group traveled to Utah for the day and were presented with their task. Excited and full of rambunctious energy, they set off to "conquer" their challenge. Anyone who has never done The Narrows will quickly find that "hiking" is not exactly an accurate term for what must occur in order to traverse the trail. The students quickly learned that the trail was the river itself, and there were rocks and boulders preventing forward progress. In addition, the downward force of the stream added difficulty. The two leaders who hiked with the group reveled in the many smiles and laughter the day provided. Several times the students had to be encouraged to continue on the hike, as the destination had not yet been reached.

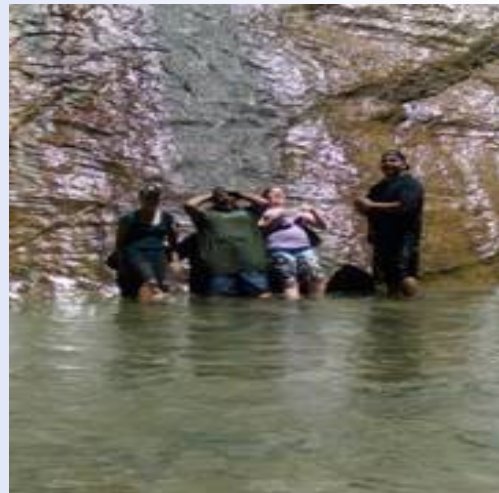
Six hours of hiking, swimming, diving, slipping, scrambling, and belly flopping later, the exhausted group sat down for a picnic dinner inside the great beauty of the park. As each hungrily wolfed down their food, a short message was reiterated.

"At some point during today, each of us wanted to give up and go back. Either we were tired, hungry, irritated, hurt, angry, frustrated, or just done. The ability to continue came with the knowledge that eventually the struggle of the day would be over. Now, when we look back, the pain has faded, the water isn't cold, the tiredness has been extinguished. We have memories now. In life, you will also be faced with challenges. For some, your challenge is to stay away from drugs and alcohol. For others, it's to stay in school and complete your education. For some of us, it's controlling our anger without resorting to violence. What would have happened if you had given up at the first difficult part of the hike? You would have missed out! The same is true of your real life challenge. If you give up and give in to your struggle, you will miss out on the benefits of overcoming your challenge. When it seems like you can't go on, take a moment to recognize that what you are facing is hard, it does make you want to give in, it does make you want to quit, but you are not a quitter. You can successfully face and overcome challenges."

Proud To Be Me activities in Zion National Park



Fun, Learning, Engagement, Overcoming Challenges and Reward = Memories





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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 Solutions

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

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The Five Social-Competencies Assets: Skills for Growing and Living

"Young people need competencies and skills that equip them to make positive choices, to build relationships, and to succeed in life. Social competencies are the skills all people need to navigate successfully through life. Without social competencies, people lack the essential skills they need to live their values, contribute in meaningful ways, get along with others, and be responsible members of society.

"How can people learn how to manage money if they don't have planning and decision-making skills? How can people become worthwhile team players on the job if they don't have interpersonal competence and resistance skills? How can we live in a world that is rich in diversity without skills of cultural competence and peaceful conflict resolution?"

"Learning social competencies is like learning how to play the piano. Rarely does the piano playing sound very good at first. Likewise, to develop basic skills needed for life we need "piano teachers" more than "music critics." We need suggestions for new methods to try, and encouragement to keep going when we make mistakes. We need to be cheered on as we learn to master skills.

"Young people especially need adults and peers who demonstrate, teach, and practice skills with them. They need adults and peers who watch how they are doing with their skills and who give them feedback along the way. They need people who not only teach them and show them the way, but also let them make and learn from mistakes." The Five Social-Competencies Assets are:

#32 Planning and decision making

#33 Interpersonal competence

#34 Cultural competence

#35 Resistance skills

#36 Peaceful conflict resolution"

From "Taking Asset Building Personally—An Action and Reflection Workbook" copyright 1999 Search Institute

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