

# The Vision in Action!

Since 1991, the City's Anti-Gang Task Force (AGTF) has worked to discourage gang activity, lessen the appeal of gangs, and end gang crime in Santa Clarita through partnerships, proactive programming, and networking.

### 2010 Highlights

- Through the use of volunteers, staff has begun to implement new programs at Granada Villa in Canyon Country, including tutoring, family events, and English classes
- 17 youth were featured as a Hero of the Week in *The Signal* for overcoming obstacles
- 8 teens completed a mural in the Peers On The Way To Everlasting Rediscovery (POWER) Teen Mentoring Program
- 95 teens gained employment skills during the Youth Employment Services program
- Over 600 teens and parents received counseling services from ACTION
- 42 teens graduated from the Vital Intervention Directional Alternatives (VIDA) program
- Over 5,000 students participated in classroom presentations conducted by the Santa Clarita Valley Youth Project



AGTF and GOC meeting



VIDA

## Neighbors working together..

Since 2007, the AGTF has formed three neighborhood Committees, Valle Del Oro, East Newhall, and Granada Villa in Canyon Country. The purpose of the neighborhood committees is to provide an opportunity for neighbors to work together and with, the City, law enforcement, and other community partners to increase the overall quality of life in their neighborhood.

### Granada Villa—Cyn Ctry

- Hosted a family movie night, holiday pictures celebration, and educational workshops.
- Partnered with the Archdiocesan Catholic Charities Youth Employment Program to find employment for teens and young adults at local job sites.
- Volunteers taught Conversational English, Adult Exercise, and Homework Help classes for the community several days a week. Over 30 adults participated in each of the adult programs and over 15 children received homework help.



### East Newhall

- Decreased in graffiti, as a result of residents using the graffiti hotline.
- Three arrests made as a result of residents providing "crime tips" to law enforcement.
- 17 residents brought their properties into compliance with City Municipal codes.
- Conducted Community Pride Day with over 150 volunteers removing graffiti and removing trash from the community.



### Valle Del Oro—Newhall

- NOMAD Art program expanded to include ten art classes for youth and an adult computer class.
- NOMAD participants assisted a CalArts student with the design of a 34' long trailer that will be used for storytelling, music, dance, and showcasing art.
- Hosted four educational workshops and a Community Festival to provide resources and encourage neighbor interaction and a sense of community.



NOMAD wins the Fifth District's John Anson Ford Award for improving intergroup relations!



## JOB SKILLS

## Ready for Work...& LIFE!



The Job Skills program expanded to Streets Division! The Job Skills program is a six-month program for at-risk young adults who need a fresh start and direction in life.

The participant learned how to repair, maintain, and construct sidewalks and driveway approaches, remove and replace asphalt, and repair potholes.

The **Youth Employment Service (YES) program** provides high-risk, low-income, and special needs teens with job experience and work training. The YES program provides teens with the skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose to help achieve personal and professional success.



- **95** teens participated in 2010, with a **92% overall retention rate** (youth who completed the program)
- 5 were hired by their employers at the end of the program!
- Overall, 30 local organizations, school sites, and businesses employ YES program youth. YES partners include: TJ Maxx, Boys and Girls Club, Carpet Clearance, and CVS Pharmacy, just to name a few.



## P.O.W.E.R.

POWER is a male mentoring program that discourages gang activity, and lessens the appeal of gangs. In 2010, the POWER teens partnered with the Artree, a local arts organization, to create and paint a mural depicting the history of Old Town Newhall. The mural was presented to the Arts Commission and will be on display at various locations in Santa Clarita throughout 2011. POWER Teens also volunteered to clean-up their community of graffiti and trash and participated in summer long group activities that focused on building life skills and making positive choices.

## Heroes!

At the Hero of the Week Recognition Ceremony on April 17, local junior high and high school students were recognized by local dignitaries and business for overcoming obstacles in their lives.

Throughout the year, the AGTF "share their stories" in The Signal newspaper in an effort to encourage progress and inspire other youth to make positive choices and to persevere. Youth were presented with commendations from local dignitaries and also received gift certificates.



## GANG AND JUVENILE CRIME

### Gang Crime—compared to 2009

- 91 felony and 35 misdemeanor arrests—57% increase in felony arrests and 60% increase in misdemeanor arrests
- 40 new gang members identified—63% increase
- 45 narcotics arrests—55% increase
- 189 graffiti vandals arrested—94% increase
- 4 new tagging crews identified (BFG, BTW, TWOK, and UVA)
- 60 guns, rifles, and shotguns recovered
- 31 search warrants served
- 363 parole and probation compliance searches conducted

### Juvenile Crime—compared to 2009

- 318 Truancy citations—79% increase
- 234 Curfew citations—86% increase
- 329 Reported runaway/missing juvenile reports—95% increase

### Overall gang and juvenile crime—compared to 2009

- 519 felony arrests—75% increase
- 433 misdemeanor arrests—1% increase

**952 arrests!**  
An 87% increase compared to 2009.



There was a 12% decrease in Part 1 crimes (i.e. murder, rape, felony assault, burglary, robbery, grand theft, and arson) in 2010 compared to 2009.



# PARTNERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

## ACTION

- From July 1 2010 through December 30, 2010, **over 397 teens and 275 parents participated in ACTION** to work through drug and alcohol abuse, and family issues.
- 90 teens from Canyon and Bowman High Schools attended weekly support groups during school. This included counseling for teens who were specifically using drugs and/or alcohol.
- On December 8, over 500 students participated in the ACTION drug prevention assembly at Canyon High School. ACTION participants shared their testimonies, including a mother whose son died of a drug overdose and a young man whose sister's addiction to meth nearly ruined the family.



- Over 5,000 students participated in classroom presentations on teen issues

## Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA)

VIDA helped redirect participants who were headed down a negative path by building self-esteem, life skills, and confidence.

- 42 graduated in 2010.
- SC VIDA participants **won** first place in the VIDA Games competition which challenges teens throughout the county on their skills in drill, knowledge of VIDA history, and physical training.



The AGTF partnered with the Probation Department to help high-risk youth determine the resources and support they needed to complete probation conditions and to be successful members of the community. Teens learned about employment and educational opportunities, sealing of juvenile records, drug counseling, legal services, health services, and volunteer opportunities.

**Other AGTF partners include:** Bowman High School, Boys and Girls Club, Child and Family Center, Golden Oak Adult School, Castaic Middle School, McGrath Elementary School, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Straysheep 100



## AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2011: LOOKING AHEAD

### Areas of focus for 2011: Looking ahead:

- The AGTF will conduct a community gang assessment to determine gang issues, trends, services gaps and needs, and to create a plan for the future.
- Recruit volunteers for neighborhood committees to support gang prevention and intervention programs.
- Streamline interagency communication, and collaboration to address local youth drug and gang issues.
- Expand anti-gang outreach in Canyon Country.

