

## Mini-grant Program

To maximize our outreach and impact more youth, we established a process to fund youth-serving organizations to improve and expand their programs. We organized a selection committee of youth and adults, and provided proposal review training and processing guidelines for competitive applications.

We developed selection criteria to fit our intent to provide more and better supports and opportunities for youth; to provide more safe places for teens; and to prevent and reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among youth. We awarded more than \$90,000 in mini-grants to 20 local youth service providers. Following are some of the grantees.

### WEB Program (Where Everyone Belongs)

Incoming 6th-grade students at Marina Village Middle School received peer mentoring services from trained 8th-grade youth leaders.



### Link Crew Program



Trained peer mentors provided effective strategies and services to incoming 9th-graders as they began their transition to high school.

### Project TEACH (Teens Educating About Classmate Harassment)

The TEACH Program is a student-led peer program dedicated to preventing and reducing bullying and harassment at elementary and middle schools.

### Wyld Life

Wyld Life mentors engaged students from local middle schools to develop meaningful relationships and provide safe, drug-free youth development activities after school. Teens met weekly for activities and events, and participated in a summer camp.



### Royer Studios Live Action Video Training and Youth Media Program

Media partner Royer Studios provided training, equipment and production assistance for youth to create live-action video segments.



### Big Brothers Big Sisters

This program provided youth and adult mentors for disengaged teens. The program emphasized building relationships with teens through one-to-one friendship and shared activities.

### Youth News Team

This program provided adult mentors and professionals to assist youth in writing articles and press releases for local newspapers.

### Solomon's Porch

This faith-based group provided tutoring, mentoring, sports and youth leadership to El Dorado Hills teens.

### El Dorado Musical Theatre

Youth received scholarships to participate in live theatre arts performances.

### El Dorado Hills Community Services District Teen Center and Skate Park



The CSD collaborated with the Vision Coalition to plan activities and events that research shows prevent and reduce substance abuse.

### Hands On El Dorado Community Service Projects

This group is part of a national volunteer matching service. This year they partnered with local service organizations to create a community garden.

### Oak Ridge High School Key Club Rebuilding Together Renovation Project

Club members participated in a weekend community construction and beautification project to improve safety and comfort of substandard homes for the elderly and underprivileged.

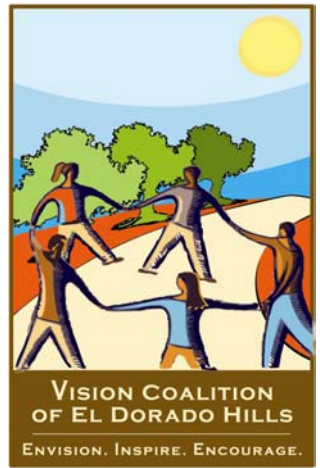
## Annual Report 2007–2008

# Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills

*A project of El Dorado Hills Community Vision, Inc.*

*Funded by a Sierra Health Foundation*

*REACH Community Action Grant*



The Vision Coalition was established to mobilize the community of El Dorado Hills to adopt youth-friendly programs and policies, and to help prevent and reduce youth substance abuse and other teen health issues. The coalition receives grants from Sierra Health Foundation through its REACH youth program, SAMHSA and others to promote the principles of Youth Development, which build supports and opportunities for youth. The coalition has more than **300 members**, including community leaders, agencies, organizations and individuals.

### Our Vision and Mission is for all youth in El Dorado Hills to:

- » Have a successful and healthy transition from adolescence to adulthood
- » Be fully prepared with attitude, skills, knowledge and experience
- » Have ample opportunities for participation and decision making
- » Be safe, healthy and free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco

### 2007-2008 Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills Accomplishments:



- » Increased opportunities for youth to gain leadership skills and experience
- » Increased opportunities for youth to become involved in the community
- » Increased opportunities for youth to actively participate in quality youth programs
- » Increased opportunities for youth to participate in decision making
- » Increased the number of places where youth feel physically and emotionally safe
- » Increased partnerships among agencies, organizations and individuals
- » Increased positive relationships among youth and adults in the community



SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION  
*An Endowment for Northern California*

## Teen Advisory Council (TAC)

The Teen Advisory Council is an important group in the Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills that promotes strong youth voice. Up to 20 middle and high school students participate in weekly meetings, plan events and advocate for policy change to benefit youth. Teens join selection committees to review and recommend mini-grant proposals submitted by schools and organizations, which are then funded by the Vision Coalition to increase youth development supports and opportunities and to prevent and reduce teen health issues such as alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.



## Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Council was launched at the beginning of 2008 as part of our parent engagement program. Parents meet monthly to discuss strategies and activities to increase parent involvement and improve family relations and communications. PAC coordinated, planned and promoted a 10-week, 30-hour Parent Education Workshop, which began September 2008.

## Executive Advisory Committee, Board and Staff

We established and expanded a powerful Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) that is represented by a broad spectrum of community leaders and youth service providers. The EAC meets quarterly to provide advice, consultation and assistance to members of the Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills.

Our volunteer board of directors meets monthly to support coalition activities, approve an increasing number of grants, and assist in processing a large number of contracts and invoices for our successful mini-grant program.

Board members regularly attend coalition meetings, events and activities, such as our annual Youth Awards Ceremony (photo at left).

Vision Coalition's four paid staff members are Executive Director DJ Peterson, Project Coordinator Raeann Jones, Community Liaison Della Clavere and Administrative Assistant Pam Eccles. Staff members have initiated and participated in many meetings with policy-makers, educators, law enforcement, youth, parents, youth service providers and others to advocate for and promote activities that increase supports and opportunities for youth.



*"It's been inspirational to watch the Vision Coalition take hold in our county. We have benefited greatly from the collaboration and that's why I nominated the Coalition for the \$250,000 Collaboration Prize!"*

– Barbara Smiley, Chair, Hands On El Dorado/Make A Difference Coalition

## Youth Development Training

A successful endeavor this year was our Youth Development Training. We recruited and sponsored several coalition partners to participate in the Youth Development Network's "Train-The-Trainer Institute," an intensive four-day training, so that we could bring this valuable experience and common youth development language to our partners in El Dorado Hills. Several months later, we delivered two half-day orientation sessions to more than 40 representatives of youth-serving organizations and agencies. In April, after extensive organization and promotion, we hosted our first four-day training using Youth Development Institute curriculum for 22 adult and youth leaders representing organizations and schools. It was described by participants as "inspirational" and "transformative." We plan to continue to provide this valuable training in the coming year.



## Policy Change

### Youth Transportation



Teen Taxi Rideshare Van

One of the most noteworthy accomplishments of the year was in the area of youth transportation. Persistence paid off after many meetings with the El Dorado County Transportation Commission, Transit Authority, Board of Supervisors and other agencies to advocate for transportation in El Dorado Hills. For the first time ever, El Dorado Hills has been included in the Short Range Transit Plan for El Dorado County.

Through extensive collaboration with the County Transportation Commission, the Transit Authority and the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) we leased a ride-share van to provide transportation for youth to the Teen Center after school. After nine months, we were able to have the CSD sustain the transportation services to youth. They plan to expand the service next year with a new 15-passenger van.

### Increased Access to Mental Health Services

Our **Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking** on April 3, 2008, attracted more than 150 participants (50% youth) by coordinating with teen advisors, parent advisors and law enforcement's "Every 15 Minutes" program at the local high school. We provided an expert panel of speakers, including representatives from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, law enforcement, education, the attorney general's office and others. As a result of the Town Hall Meeting, we were able to gather enough information from participants to develop another successful grant proposal to address Underage Drinking and Driving.



**Mental Health:** Staff devoted much time and effort to develop relationships with mental health service providers and county policy-makers. We participated in a dialog with the County Mental Health deputy director, the California Prop. 63 Task Force, County Office of Education and local mental health service providers to develop strategies to improve youth access to mental health services and reduce the associated stigma. As a result of these efforts, the director of County Mental Health joined our Executive Advisory Committee, and coalition staff has developed a plan to provide youth development training and consultation to mental health workers countywide.

To learn more or to get involved, call (916) 643-4393 or visit [www.edhvisioncoalition.org](http://www.edhvisioncoalition.org)