

Youth In Action

Cesar Chavez Day Celebration

The Greer Middle School Future Leaders Action Club was responsible for planning the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning celebration on March 28 that was attended by more than 200 community members. Performances by the Greer Middle School Band, Color Guard, Break Dancing Club and a Folkloric Dance troupe highlighted the evening.



Youth Hope Grants

Our youth-led mini-grant program funds student-led service learning projects. One of the projects funded at Arcohe School was the creation of Classroom Emergency Preparedness Kits.



In New Hope School District, Thornton students proposed the cleanup of a small neighborhood park maintained by the San Joaquin County Housing Authority. A sixth-grade student worked with her peers to draft a proposal to remove litter, paint over graffiti and replant neglected flower beds.

More than 50 youth and adults cleaned up and beautified the park on a Saturday at the end of the school year.



Tree Swallow Nest Box Project

Greer Middle School students worked on several environmental stewardship projects at the Cosumnes River Preserve. In April students mounted tree swallow nest boxes that were monitored every two weeks during April and May by Preserve volunteers and Galt High School biology teachers and students. Data collected is used to better understand the migration, breeding and nesting habits of tree swallows throughout North America.



Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center Landscape Project

Middle school youth assisted in the construction of a retaining wall that provides added safety and a location for the expansion of the Visitor Center Butterfly Garden.

Galt High School students organized a regional celebration on Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning. Galt youth led a discussion about tolerance and diversity, and youth and adults from four school districts planted native shrubs and flowers in a new garden area.



Galt Area Youth Coalition

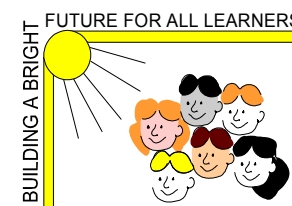
2007-2008 Annual Report

The Galt Area Youth Coalition (Galt AYC) is a growing community partnership formed to create positive opportunities for youth within the boundaries of the Galt Joint Union High School District. The coalition represents youth from the communities of Galt, Herald, Thornton and Acampo. Coalition members include youth, parents, school staff, community leaders, members of the faith community, elected officials and representatives from various community agencies and organizations. Student involvement is from five public school districts and smaller private schools.

The Galt AYC is one of nine community coalitions funded by Sierra Health Foundation through its REACH youth program, which supports healthy development of youth to ensure their successful transition to adulthood. By promoting opportunities for youth leadership, providing high-quality service learning experiences for our youth and by strengthening families, we are working to ensure all Galt youth make a healthy transition to adulthood.

The Galt AYC is made up of members from across the community. It has very active involvement of youth from the elementary, middle and high schools, and numerous school programs. Parents and grandparents participate in meetings and planning, and many parents are strong advocates for youth in the community and in the coalition. The Galt AYC works to strengthen existing partnerships between schools and the community, and welcomes new opportunities for collaboration.

The coalition meets monthly throughout the year and all meetings are open to everyone in the community. To learn more or to get involved, call John Durand at (916) 683-1703 or e-mail jdurand@galt.k12.ca.us.



Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

www.galt.k12.ca.us



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The Galt AYC is a Community Action Coalition of Sierra Health Foundation's REACH Youth Program

Promoting Youth Leadership

One focus of the Galt AYC is to help youth develop leadership skills and provide opportunities for increased youth leadership. Leadership training has been provided through workshops offered at Sierra Health Foundation, at school sites and through a one-week REACH Camp at Grizzly Creek Ranch in Plumas County. Coalition youth identify community issues, conduct research, facilitate meetings, administer a youth-led grant program and work to make improvements in their communities.

Our Youth LEAD program is active at Arcohe, Greer and New Hope elementary schools and at McCaffrey Middle School. LEAD stands for Leading, Energizing, Aspiring and Dedication, which describes the youths' commitment to creating a healthier community for themselves and for other community members. The program is designed to teach facilitation skills, presentation styles, public speaking and how to create meaningful opportunities.

"Youth LEAD has taught me that being with people different from me is fun and that keeping our community clean can do many different things. I've also learned how to be a good leader." -Youth LEAD member



Galt AYC youth are involved in community, regional and state initiatives, including:

- » Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project
- » City of Galt Youth Committee
- » Region 3 Service Learning Youth Leadership Team
- » CATALYST Service Learning Ambassador
- » GJUESD District Advisory Committee
- » Galt Equestrian Park Planning Committee
- » Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- » Galt Community of Character Coalition
- » El Dorado Hills & Galt Diversity Project

Providing Youth Development Training

The Galt AYC provides training to educate community providers about youth development and service learning, in conjunction with Galt AYC programming. Coalition staff members work to provide educators with professional development training and the necessary resources so they can implement high-quality serving learning programs during the school day and in after-school programs.

Training events this year included 23 teacher workshops offered at schools, district sites, Cosumnes River Preserve, McFarland Living History Ranch and other regional sites. In addition, 170 teachers attended service learning professional development training.

Engaging Youth in Service Learning

The Galt AYC has created opportunities for youth to participate in improving their community while building positive relationships with the adults around them. Specifically, we:

- » Increased Service Learning Opportunities at Cosumnes River Preserve
 - › 1,440 students participated in school field trips to the Preserve
- » Increased Service Learning Opportunities at McFarland Living History Ranch
 - › 870 students participated in school field trips to McFarland Ranch
- » Increased Salmon in the Classroom Service Learning Projects
 - › 1,200 students participated in the California Aquarium Education Project
- » Supported Youth Service opportunities at local events:
 - › Galt Strawberry Festival
 - › Galt Festival
 - › Antique Engine and Tractor Show
 - › Galt's First Annual Winter Bird Festival
 - › Kiwanis Bark Park
 - › Kiwanis Pumpkin Patch
 - › Summer Band Concert in the Park
 - › Galt Youth Committee's Crafting with Santa
 - › Boys and Girls Club Hoedown at McFarland Ranch
 - › Rae House Tea



- » More than 4,000 students participated in school-based Service Learning projects
- » 48 students earned the California Governor and First Lady's Volunteer Service Award by completing more than 25 hours of volunteer service

"I had been concerned for our future, but after seeing our youth in action, I am hopeful for the first time." -Galt dad

Strengthening Families

The Galt AYC has created opportunities for youth and their families to fully participate in the community and build supportive relationships by:

- » Training parents in youth development
- » Helping parents build support systems
- » Engaging youth in school and enhancing the schools' ability to serve youth
- » Connecting youth and parents to opportunities
- » Identifying community resources

This year the Strengthening Families Program helped fill a gap in services for parents and families in crisis. Throughout the program, parents were supported as they learned 25 parenting skills. The youth felt supported, developed empathy for their parents, and learned to stay clear of poor choices, such as alcohol and other drugs, violence, peer pressure and early sexual activity.