

Youth In Action

Cesar Chavez After School Service Learning Club

The Greer Elementary Service Learning Club participated in many community-based service learning projects. In cooperation with L'Chayim Women's Drop-in Center, students assembled care packages that included clothing, towels and toiletries. Students also knitted hats for cancer patients. In celebration of Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning, students collected a truckload of canned food that was donated to South County Services, which operates a food distribution program in Galt. The Galt Kiwanis Club supported the Chavez Club on several fundraising and community outreach efforts, including Cesar Chavez Bingo Night at Greer Elementary School.



Oak Planting Project

New Hope Elementary School students worked on several environmental stewardship projects at the Cosumnes River Preserve. In the fall, second-grade students planted valley oak acorns at several restoration sites. One of the goals of the preserve is to protect and restore valley oak riparian forests. The preserve includes the best remaining examples of the forests that once flourished in the Central Valley. Each year students in second through fifth grades participate in oak forest restoration field trips. Second- and third-graders gather more than 10,000 acorns. They wash, sort, count and bag the acorns for cold storage. Class lessons that relate to the tree planting cross all curricu-



lum areas, including math, language arts, science, social studies and fine arts. In recent years, students have planted more than 20 acres of valley oak trees, which provide important wildlife habitat.

Youth Media Project

Galt students produced the video, *Small City, Big Problem: What Would You Do About It?*, to document the need for increasing opportunities for youth in the community. The REACH Youth Media Project aimed to represent the power of data-driven community change by supporting youth-produced stories. The project served as a vital part of the coalition's work in that it created a venue for youth to engage in meaningful studies that were important to them and their community.



Youth Hope Grants

This youth-led mini-grant program funds student-led service learning projects that address community issues. The grants are approved for funding by a youth board, which reviews the grant proposals. The student-developed grants have addressed needs relating to school safety, gardens, ability awareness, health, physical fitness and the environment. This year, the Youth LEAD group at McCaffrey Middle School worked with teachers to offer Ability Awareness Day for all seventh- and eighth-graders to learn about physical challenges and the need for tolerance. A Galt High School student received a mini-grant to help students buy soccer shoes. Two New Hope Elementary students helped to put together a Relay for Life team at the school and raised more than \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society. The Arcohe School Youth LEAD group worked on a landscape project at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitors Center that will benefit the preserve and thousands of visitors each year.

Galt Area Youth Coalition

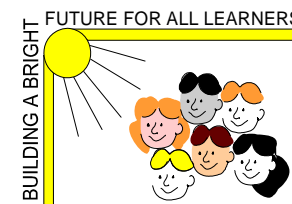
2008-2009 Annual Report

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 engaging youth at the planning and policy level, 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 reach@galt.k12.ca.us.



Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

www.galt.k12.ca.us



www.reachyouthprogram.org



SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION
An Endowment for Northern California

www.sierrahealth.org

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 skills and provide opportunities for increased youth engagement. 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.

The 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, data collection, and how to create meaningful opportunities for youth in the community.



“At REACH Camp I learned that in order to make a change you need to have support by other people in order to make it happen.”

- Jordan, 14



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

- » Galt Youth Master Plan
- » City of Galt Youth Committee
- » Galt High School 21st Century Club
- » GJUESD District Advisory Committee
- » Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- » Galt Community of Character Coalition
- » GALEP — Galt Horse Assisted Learning Enrichment Program

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 teacher workshops offered at schools, district sites, Cosumnes River Preserve, McFarland Living History Ranch and other regional sites. In addition, 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. More than 4,000 students participated in school-based Service Learning projects. Specifically, we:

- » Increased Service Learning opportunities at Cosumnes River Preserve
- » Increased Service Learning opportunities at McFarland Living History Ranch
- » Increased Salmon in the Classroom Service Learning projects
- » Supported Youth Service opportunities at local events:
 - » Galt Strawberry Festival
 - » Galt Festival
 - » Antique Engine and Tractor Show
 - » Galt's Annual Winter Bird Festival
 - » Kiwanis Bark Park
 - » Kiwanis Pumpkin Patch
 - » Summer Band Concert in the Park
 - » Galt Youth Committee's Crafting with Santa
 - » Rae House Tea



Galt Youth Master Plan

Working with city and school leadership, youth are engaged in the development of Galt's first Youth Master Plan, which will guide policy and program decisions in future years. The planning group includes Galt City Council members, school board members from both districts, members of the faith community, the chief of police, Galt Parks and Recreation, parents and youth. Students have participated at every level of planning and development, and are on all the committees. The Youth Master Plan will address outcomes for youth ages 0 to 24 years old in five developmental areas: Learning, Working, Thriving, Connecting and Leading. The Galt Youth Master Plan will be one of the Galt REACH program's Gold Medals and a key focus area in 2009-2010.



GALEP — Galt Horse Assisted Learning Enrichment Program

GALEP is a therapeutic riding program that benefits all children including those with special needs. The Galt program is designed in accordance with North American Riding for the Handicapped Association recommendations. The benefits of equine-assisted activity include increased control of ones' mobility, access to outdoor recreation and new environments, opportunities for competition, improved control and balance, and development of cognitive function.

Youth have been involved in planning meetings that have resulted in increased community support of the program. Galt High School engineering students have designed an Equestrian Center after visiting potential sites in Galt and meeting with Project RIDE staff in Elk Grove.

