

# Galt Area Youth Coalition

A Community Action coalition of  
Sierra Health Foundation's REACH youth program



## Our Vision for Youth

The Galt Area Youth Coalition is a growing partnership formed to create positive opportunities for youth ages 10 to 15 within the boundaries of the Galt Joint Union High School District.

**Our vision** for the Galt area is one in which:

- youth will be healthy, well-nourished and physically fit
- youth will have access to a wide range of educational, cultural and recreational activities
- youth will have meaningful opportunities for involvement, membership and leadership
- our schools will prepare youth for adulthood by providing a rigorous and relevant education program with multiple opportunities for high-quality service learning
- our community will provide safe, affordable and accessible facilities for education, recreation and entertainment
- our community will provide safe and environmentally friendly options for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic
- our community will respect and value ethnic and cultural diversity

The area served by the Galt Coalition for Youth includes the communities of Herald, Acampo, Thornton and Galt.

This rapidly growing community is located on the border of Sacramento and San Joaquin counties, about 30 miles south of downtown Sacramento.

## Youth Action 2007-2008

Following is our first-year Youth Action Plan:

### Promote Youth Leadership

» Youth will participate in leadership training, identify community issues, conduct research, facilitate meetings, and work in the community to implement strategies identified in our action plan.

### Strengthen Families

- » We will help foster supportive relationships between youth and adults by:
  - training parents in youth development
  - helping family members build support systems
  - engaging the schools' ability to serve youth and families
  - connecting youth and parents to opportunities and community resources

### Engage Youth in Service Learning

Service learning is a method of teaching and learning that connects classroom lessons with meaningful service to the community.

- » We will create opportunities for meaningful participation, and help youth and adults build positive relationships by identifying community service and service learning opportunities.
- » We will provide youth development and service learning training to educators and community organizations to ensure that service learning is integrated into school and after-school programming.

## What We've Learned About Galt Area Youth

In August 2006, coalition members began conducting a community assessment, with community meetings, focus groups, youth and adult interviews and surveys.

After looking at all of the information collected, we identified these issues young people face, as well as what youth need to grow and thrive in the Galt area.

» Youth want to participate in cultural activities, performing arts, dance, community gardens, science clubs and other clubs, and want to have access to a 24-hour community center, bicycle and walking trails, nature areas, parks and libraries.

» Youth report that large blocks of time are spent in activities that involve little participation in the community.

» Youth see working to eliminate unsafe areas in the community as an opportunity for meaningful participation.

» Youth report that the barriers to more active participation and community involvement can be grouped into the following areas: the need for safe places that provide organized activities and unstructured time, the importance of additional after-school and weekend programs, and the need for transportation and activities to be low-cost and affordable to all.

» A large number of students are bused to school, many from a long distance, making time and transportation significant barriers to involvement.

» Youth and parents agree that it is important for youth to have a caring adult to talk to in addition to a parent.

» Service learning activities are reported by youth and adults as opportunities to build caring relationships.

» Youth bring tremendous language and cultural resources to bear upon efforts to enhance youth well-being.

## Galt Area Youth Coalition Member Organizations

Arcohe Union Elementary School District  
Boys and Girls Club of Galt  
Central Valley Center 4 Health  
City of Galt  
City Council  
Parks and Recreation  
Police Department  
Youth Committee  
Cosumnes River Preserve  
Galt Area Historical Society  
Galt Herald Newspaper  
Galt Joint Union Elementary School District  
Galt Joint Union High School District  
New Hope Elementary School District  
Oak View Union Elementary School District

The Galt Area Youth Coalition is a Community Action coalition of Sierra Health Foundation's REACH youth program.

**Get involved with the  
Galt Area Youth Coalition!  
Call John Durand at  
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