

Advocacy and Policy

✦ YUFA STAR Yolo County Anti-Tobacco Coalition

A Tobacco Retail Licensing ordinance in West Sacramento to address youth access to tobacco products was put forth by the Yolo County Anti-Tobacco Coalition. The Sactown Heroes have become a partner in this effort. Members of the Sactown Heroes and West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition have submitted letters of support to the City Council and continue to gain support from the community. We hope to see the ordinance pass in early 2010.

✦ Youth on Boards

The West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition is about to embark on an advocacy campaign to get voting rights for our youth representative on the Washington Unified School District Board. Youth will prepare a plan of action and implement it with adult supporters. This project is in the early planning phase.

✦ Youth on Commissions

The West Sacramento Youth Commission has taken an active role in providing monthly reports to the WSYRC. The Sactown Heroes are currently attending Youth Commission meetings and sharing coalition updates. Our goal is to strengthen the relationship as we move forward in making positive changes for the youth of West Sacramento.

What's up with the Teen Party Scene

This was an event to inform parents in West Sacramento about substance abuse among youth. Planning for the event started at the Yolo County Youth Substance Abuse Summit in fall 2008. From the Summit, a committee was formed that included the WSYRC, Washington Unified School District, CommuniCare Health Centers, People Reaching Out, West Sacramento Police Department and the City of West Sacramento Parks & Recreation Department. This committee worked on the planning of the event, which was held on March 17. The event's purpose was to provide parents with information and support regarding youth substance abuse, and create an environment for youth to discuss substance-abuse issues in their community.

- ✦ Approximately 180 parents and 40 youth attended this event
- ✦ Speakers at the event included:
 - Experts on the affects of drug and alcohol abuse and identifying substance use among teens
 - Parent testimonials • Youth testimonials • Mayor Christopher Cabaldon
- ✦ A youth discussion room was available and was facilitated by youth leaders from the community, including West Sacramento Youth Commissioners, Sactown Heroes and the Yolo High School Leadership Team
- ✦ Resource tables were available for information from local nonprofit and other community-serving organizations
- ✦ Interpreters were provided for Spanish- and Russian-speaking participants
- ✦ Members of the City Council and School Board, and the Mayor of West Sacramento attended and participated
- ✦ Local merchants donated raffle prizes, including an iPod, bicycle and other prizes

The West Sacramento Substance Use Partnership and the WSYRC plan to partner for future projects to continue this work in our community.



2008-2009 Annual Report

By supporting youth and providing them with leadership opportunities, the West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition is making long-term, meaningful change for West Sacramento.

www.westsacyouth.org



For more information on the West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition, contact info@westsacyouth.org or (916) 403-2970.



The WSYRC is a Community Action Coalition of Sierra Health Foundation's REACH youth program

About Us

The West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition is made up of nonprofits, the school district, government agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses and youth to support and encourage safe, positive youth development. The West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition has created healthy and safe opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills, thanks to coalition partners and volunteers.



Community Beautification Senior Center

In January 2009, the Sactown Heroes completed one of two Community Beautification projects at the West Sacramento Senior Center. This project originated in fall 2007 when the Sactown Heroes decided they wanted to do more in helping beautify blighted areas of their community. Thanks to coalition partners, the Sactown Heroes were able to turn an old, worn down lot at the Senior Center into a beautiful landscaped sitting area. This area is complete with benches, a new shed and planter boxes for the residents to adopt and maintain with plants of their choice.

It felt good to help the Senior Center and I learned more about planting. -Tre Bailey, Sactown Heroes member



Riverbank Elementary

The Sactown Heroes' second beautification project took place at Riverbank Elementary, formerly known as Golden State Middle School. During this project the Sactown Heroes partnered with the Bryte and Broderick Community Action Group and local business owner Sal Galvin, who mentored the youth in learning the art of mosaics. Volunteers helped to restore certain areas of the school's campus. In addition, new mounted benches were installed, thanks to coalition partners from the Northern California Construction and Training Program. A sunflower garden and landscaping have transformed the campus.

Benefits of this project:

- ✦ Mentoring from local business owners, showing effective community networking
- ✦ Increased involvement with the Bryte and Broderick Community Action group
- ✦ Direct support and mentoring from a UC Davis Master Gardener
- ✦ Service Learning opportunities
- ✦ Front-page article in the News Ledger
- ✦ Community recognition



Youth Taking the Lead

Sactown Heroes Youth Leadership Team

The Sactown Heroes Youth Leadership Team is the driving force behind the coalition's projects and ideas. The coalition coordinates efforts by its members to create opportunities for youth that encourage them to learn leadership and life skills that will help them become advocates in their community.

Year 2 Successes

- ✦ Increased interest in the group through our web site
- ✦ Completed two Community Beautification Projects
- ✦ Increased community recognition
- ✦ Created a web-based asset map of West Sacramento
- ✦ Successful community networking
- ✦ Older youth transitioned into career programs
- ✦ Increased advocacy for community change



Youth Voices for Change



Over a 16-week period, the Sactown Heroes worked with the UC Davis Center for Regional Change on a project called Youth Voices for Change. This project was a combination of focus groups, discussions, mapping activities, site visits and production meetings.

The purpose of these activities was to allow the youth to reflect their perceptions of their community. The feedback from the youth was broken into three categories, featuring youth likes, dislikes and recommendations for change. As a result, the Sactown Heroes produced a Youth Voices map using the information they gathered, which is now an interactive online Google map.

On June 30, 2009, the West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition and the Center for Regional Change hosted a media exhibit and idea exchange event at City Hall.

The Sactown Heroes led media presentations, navigating through their map and presenting their findings. This successful event brought together nearly 100 community partners, local TV stations, newspapers, parents, local policy-makers and a special appearance by our mayor, Christopher Cabaldon. Benefits of the event included:

- ✦ Youth gained skills using various forms of media.
- ✦ Sactown Heroes gained increased interest.
- ✦ Youth created an interactive online map.
- ✦ Increased support and recognition from the mayor.
- ✦ Ideas and recommendations for future change.

The Youth Voices for Change project was part of the Healthy Youth/Healthy Region initiative, a partnership of Sierra Health Foundation, the UC Davis Center for Regional Change and The California Endowment, to document the connections between improvements in youth well-being and regional prosperity in the nine-county Sacramento Capital Region.

I felt proud to show the community our work and share our ideas.

-Andre Bailey, Sactown Heroes member

