



Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2010

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This Year's Focus

Marijuana

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley hosted HARM (Health Advocates Rejecting Marijuana) San Diego's Anti-drug Coalition to share strategies to challenge and change harmful marijuana messages, practices and policies affecting youth and our community.



Most young people fail to understand the dangers and risks associated with Marijuana use because often it is not posed as a serious problem, but the truths about Marijuana are shocking. According to the California Healthy Kids Survey, 18% of 9th graders and 23% of 11th graders within Santa Barbara County used Marijuana at least once last year. Marijuana use in teens causes poor judgment, hygiene and decision-making ability.

This year Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley will launch several anti-marijuana campaigns to change the messages that young people are receiving about marijuana being harmless.

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley Newsletter

Fighting Back Hosts 1st Annual "Rock the Block"

On Saturday November 14th, 2009, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley recognized November as *National Methamphetamine Awareness Month* by hosting the first annual "**Rock the Block**" block party. This event focused on bringing awareness to the community about the health and environmental risks associated with Methamphetamine use. This exciting, fun filled day gave local food and merchant vendors an opportunity to promote their businesses in the community by participating in this event. Community members enjoyed free activities including live music, bounce houses, rock wall and other activities for kids.



The Parent Project

The *Parent Project* is the only course of its kind, providing activity based instruction, support groups, and curriculum addressing the most destructive of adolescent behaviors. Parents meet once weekly for ten consecutive weeks and learn in a classroom model, to manage teen behavior problems at home. Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley collaborates with the Santa Maria Police Department, Santa Barbara County Probation, and the school districts to offer the Parent Project classes at multiple locations within the Santa Maria Valley twelve times annually.



What's New? Our newly updated website is up and running!

Check it out! www.FightingBackSMV.com

Past events, upcoming events, forms, program information and more!

President's Corner

Alice Patino, Fighting Back President and City Council member announces Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley's Awesome Kid recipient Demi Urias



Executive Director's Corner

Responsible Beverage Training!
Sign up for the LEAD Training
March 16, 2010
-Teresa Menchaca

Employee Directory

Teresa Menchaca - Executive Director

Email: fightingbacksmv@aol.com

Toni Lane - Executive Assistant

Email: fbsmvtoni@aol.com

Jada Clark - Programs Director

Email: fbsmvjada@aol.com

Gina Cortez - Parent Project/Loving Solutions Supervisor

Email: fbsmvgina@aol.com

Chastity "CJ" Johnson - Prevention Specialist

Email: fbsmvcj@aol.com

Dawnette Smith - Class Action Coordinator

Email: fbsmvdawnette@aol.com

Letty Gomez - Peer Educator

Email: fbsmvletty@aol.com

Jay Allen - Resolving Conflict Creatively

Program Coordinator

Email: fbsmvjay@aol.com

Chris Alcocer - Check, Connect & Respect

Coordinator

Email: fbsmvchris@aol.com

Patty Lopez - Secretary

Email: fbsmvpatty@aol.com

Current Employment Opportunities

- Marketing Specialist

For more information or details on each position, and/or information on how to apply, please visit:

www.FightingBackSMV.com

FBSMV's Programs & Events

Visit our website: www.fightingbacksmv.com for additional information on each of our Programs & Events.

PROGRAMS

- RCCP (Resolving Conflict Creatively Program)
- Class Action
- Check, Connect, and Respect
- On Applebee Pond
- Trust & Verify
- Youth Educational Classes
- Recovery Support Groups (SMHS, PVHS, RHS, Fesler JHS)
- Life Interrupted
- Every 15 Minutes
- Parent Project/Loving Solutions

EVENTS

- Free 4 the Weekend
- Shoulder Tap
- Educational Training for Alcohol Prevention (ID & License Education)
- TV and Radio - Public Service Announcements
- Karaoke event for College-age kids
- Recovery Celebration Day
- Town Hall Meetings
- Civic Presentations
- English and Spanish Education forums

TASK FORCES

- Underage Drinking Task Force
- Education Committee
- Gang & Violence Prevention Task Force

UPCOMING EVENTS

- CADCA Leadership Conference Washington D.C. February 5-13, 2010
- Sweetheart Walk & Youth Event Santa Maria YMCA February 13, 2010
- Town Hall Meeting & Youth Rally @ AMYC April 17, 2010

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley's Chris Alcocer provides mentoring to elementary school youth in the Santa Maria Valley.

The Check Connect & Respect Program emphasizes school connectedness and school completion by developing close relationships with students in efforts to link them to extra curricular activities and school based tutoring services.

PARADE OF LIGHTS



On Saturday December 5, 2009, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley participated in the 15th Annual Parade of Lights.

This year's theme "The Joy of Giving" inspired the Youth Involvement Group's idea for the float. This was a great way to promote what Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley is doing in the community and the Youth Involvement Group.

Interested in joining the Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley Coalition???



Join Our Mailing List at:
www.fightingbacksmv.com

Or call
(805) 346-1774

Mission Statement

The mission of Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley is to make a difference by offering a variety of prevention and educational services to the Santa Maria Valley that help to address problems of risks associated with: alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; violence; teen pregnancy; abuse; crime; school dropout; and other related social issues.