



Webb County Community Coalition

Drug Prevention Bulletin



March 1, 2011

Veronica Jimenez, Program Director &
Melissa Cavazos, Program Coordinator

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Coalition Update

December 2010- February 2011



The Webb County Community Youth Coalition of SCAN, Inc. held its 1st Annual Christmas Toy Drive. This event began on Wednesday, December 1st and ended Friday, December 17. The toys collected in the drive were for children ages 4-18. All gifts were distributed to children in need from various SCAN programs and other youth in the Laredo, Rio Bravo and El Cenizo areas. Dr. David L. Gibson from Gibson Chiropractic also helped the Coalition collect gifts at his place of business. As always, we express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Gibson and his staff for their dedication and commitment to SCAN.

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Webb County Community Youth Coalition of SCAN Inc. Christmas Wreath Raffle

We would like to thank everyone who cooperated in the Christmas Wreath Raffle that helped raise money to sponsor youth to take part in a trip to Washington D.C. The trip took place on February 7-10 and was hosted by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. All proceeds were used to sponsor these dedicated Webb County Community Youth Coalition Members. Thank you all for your generosity and support.

The Substance Abuse Services for Youth Provider Directories have already been distributed and can be found on the SCAN website at www.scan-inc.org If you are in need of 1 or more bound copies please contact Veronica Jimenez, WCCC Program Director at (956) 724-3177 or email at veronica.jimenez@scan-inc.org



Dr. David Gibson

1st Annual Webb County Community Youth Coalition Toy Drive

In January, the WCCC staff began to administer its annual ATOD Youth Survey for students from selected schools in LISD and UISD from grades 6 through 12. The survey helps determine the need for drug prevention programs and services in Webb County. We are aiming to collect more than 1,000 questionnaires from youth by the end of May in Webb County.





Coalition Member Spotlight



Laura Fernandez has been a dedicated WCCC member for more than 4 years.

People often ask me why I'm always in a good mood and I reply "I decided a long time ago that being in a good mood is the only way to truly live life to its fullest...we have the power to make real positive change by our next action."

Laura Fernandez

The Webb County Community Coalition is a proud member of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.



From left to right: Veronica Jimenez, WCCC Program Director; Alvaro Guel, Youth Coalition Member; Congressman Henry Cuellar; Joel Garza, Youth Coalition Member; Melissa Cavazos, WCCC Program Coordinator

Laura Fernandez graduated from Texas A&M International University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. She has worked as a Child Protective Services Specialist, Family Service Worker, and is currently employed as an Early Intervention Specialist and Child Find Coordinator for the Early Childhood Intervention Program - Project Niños. Laura is a proud board member of the Laredo Crime Stoppers, Domestic Violence Coalition and Vice-Chairperson of the WCCC. She enjoys teaching families about early intervention and speaking with parents about the joys and challenges of being a parent. Laura is married and has four children, one stepson, and four grandchildren. Laura is always eager to help the WCCC through volunteering time, fundraising, and assisting us in anything we ask of her. On behalf of the WCCC, we would like to thank Laura for her dedication to our program.

El Cenizo Bus Shelter Restoration



The WCCC of SCAN, Inc. in conjunction with Commissioner Reynaldo Vasquez from the City of El Cenizo coordinated to restore bus shelters in the community. Youth and Colonia Initiative members gathered on Friday, February 18, 2011 to paint the vandalized bus shelters. This event was done to help eliminate alcohol and marijuana use in these areas due to illegal activities taking place around these vandalized bus shelters. This is an ongoing process. We will continue to paint them until every bus shelter is restored. If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Veronica Jimenez.



In February, WCCC Directors along with 2 youth selected from the Webb County Community Youth Coalition attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Leadership Forum from February 7-11. The youth selected were Alvaro Guel and Joel Garza both juniors at United South High School. These young men were selected from several other youth coalition members based on an essay and volunteer hours required to be able to become eligible to attend this great event. Coalition members from across the U.S. came together to learn different ways of preventing drug abuse, bullying, and to learn ways to become leaders within their communities.



Salvia Divinorum



Salvia is an herb in the mint family available in different flavors and potency that has been used as a hallucinogenic drug. Salvia is most commonly smoked out of a bong, pipe or joint. The fresh leaves can be chewed and either swallowed or held against the cheek. The effects can last from 20 minutes to 1 hour depending on how it is consumed. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), side effects can include changes in visual perception and mood swings, feeling detached, and a decreased awareness of one's surroundings. This drug is available online and in many smoke shops across the United States including Texas. Salvia's legality varies from state to state. Fifteen states including Florida have banned its sale. There are a handful of states that have various restrictions on its sale, possession and consumption yet the majority of states have no laws prohibiting it. Salvia is not regulated under the Controlled Substance Act. It has been growing in popularity; however, the DEA is monitoring it for possible future regulations.

National Children of Alcoholics Week

National Children of Alcoholics Week was held February 13 to 19, 2011. This annual event is held to raise awareness of the many children with an alcohol-dependent parent and to celebrate the recovery of the many children that have received the help they need to deal with the pain endured in their childhood due to alcoholic parents.

It is estimated that 25 percent of all children in the United States are in some way affected by alcohol problems in their family. Children of parents who abuse alcohol are at a greater risk for trauma including verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect. Compared with children whose caregivers are not alcoholics, children of alcoholics (COAs) exhibit more symptoms of depression and anxiety, have lower self-esteem, and have more health problems including injuries, mental disorders, and substance abuse. In addition, COAs often have difficulty in school: they score lower on tests, have trouble concentrating, and are more likely to drop out.

The following are some ways to help make a difference in the life of a child with alcoholic parents.

- Speak out as an organization and as an individual
- Let COAs know that they are not alone, that responsible adults are available to help them
- Encourage COAs to ask for help.
- Participate annually in Children of Alcoholics Week

Source: http://www.nacoa.org/coaweek_tools.html

Upcoming Events

- SCAN, Inc. will be having a Carwash on Saturday, March 19, 2011 to help raise money for its annual Play Day, which will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at the Laredo Civic Center.
- SCAN, Inc. will continue fundraising for Play Day in the month of March. There will be a raffle consisting of electronic items. 1st prize Desktop PC with 18.5" monitor, 2nd prize 15.6" Laptop PC, 3rd prize 10.1" Netbook PC. The price for each ticket is \$5 and the drawing will be held on March 25, 2011 at SCAN, Inc. Please help us by either purchasing or selling tickets. For more information please contact Melissa Cavazos at (956) 724-3177.
- SCAN Inc. will be having its annual Kick Butts Day event on Wednesday, March 23, 2011. This annual event is done to create awareness about the dangers of tobacco and to prevent tobacco use by minors. Youth Coalition members in Webb, Zapata, and Starr Counties will be participating in helping educate elementary school students about the dangers of tobacco use.



Upcoming Events Continued...

**SCAN, Inc.
Webb County Community
Coalition**

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Working Together for a
Drug-Free Community!

We're on the Web!
www.scan-inc.org

Webb County
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- The WCCC wants to encourage everyone in Webb County to become a tobacco advocate in helping fight for a Smoke-Free Texas. Please help us make Texas smoke-free in all workplaces and public places by supporting HB 670 and SB 355. You can write, phone, or e-mail Senator Zaffirini and Representatives Raymond and Guillen to let them know if you support a Smoke-Free Texas. For more information, please contact Veronica or Melissa.
- SCAN, Inc. will be hosting its Annual Children's Play Day on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at the Laredo Civic Center from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. If you would like more information, please contact Melissa Cavazos.
- The next Webb County Community Coalition meeting will take place on April 5, 2011 at the Border Region MHMR Community Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend.

Ordinance Violations



**PLEASE REPORT SMOKING
ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS!
REMEMBER NO SMOKING IS
ALLOWED IN PUBLIC PLACES.
Call the City of Laredo Health
Department
956-795-4935 (phone)
956-344-1571 (pager)
*Keep all Public Places in
Laredo Smoke-Free!***



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