



# Webb County Community Coalition Drug Prevention Bulletin



December 1, 2011

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## Drug-Free Dances



Youth of El Cenizo enjoying  
a drug-free celebration

## Preventing Underage Drinking Workshop



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## Webb County Community Coalition celebrated Drug-Free Dances

Drug-Free Dances were celebrated on June 16, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Rio Bravo Community Center located at 1600 Orquidia Lane and on June 23, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the El Cenizo Community Center located at 3519 Cecilia Lane.

This celebration was hosted in an effort to provide an opportunity for children ages 8-17 to be part of a drug-free activity as well as educate them on the importance of being drug-free. Food, refreshments, music, and door prizes were given to children that attended this drug-free celebration.

Preventing Underage Drinking Workshop was hosted on July 7, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Border Region Behavioral Health Center Auditorium located at 1500 Pappas St. The workshop was presented by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to provide law enforcement personnel with strategies on reducing third party transactions of alcohol to underage youth, as well as operational steps that can be taken to prevent underage drinking parties in the community. Over 30 Laredo, El Cenizo, and Zapata law enforcement officers participated in this workshop that was specifically designed for local law enforcement agencies who respond to underage drinking violations.

## Youth Leadership Conference

Over 30 youth from Webb, Zapata and Starr County Community Coalitions who want to be leaders in their community had the opportunity to participate in the Youth Leadership Conference 2011 which was hosted on June 28, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Border Region Behavioral Health Center Auditorium located at 1500 Pappas St. Youth learned the importance of understanding and empowering their community in prevention efforts as well as the power of media to influence or discourage alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use.

## Educating our Youth to Live Drug-Free!



## Please help stop underage drinking





### Coalition Member Spotlight



First Sergeant Jorge Martinez, Jr. has been a WCCC Coalition Member for more than three years

“Failure is not an option”

Author unknown

First Sergeant (1SG) Jorge Martinez has been in the US Army for 22 years and has served courageously in three wars. For the past 14 years, he has been assigned to the Texas National Guard Counterdrug Program. He has been working in the Laredo area providing Law Enforcement Intelligence analysis or case support. For the past four years, Sgt. Martinez has been assigned as one of the 14 Texas Counterdrug Drug Demand Reduction soldiers. He is currently assigned to support Communities in Schools of Laredo to provide youth with drug awareness prevention, career day, and any other community events that are designed to keep our youth away from drugs and to guide them to become productive citizens. Over the past four years, he has been collaborating with UISD, LISD, United States Attorney Drug Education for Youth Program, Laredo Parks and Recreation, Boys and Girls Scouts and the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN to create awareness through drug prevention events. Sgt. Martinez is always eager to help the WCCC through volunteering time, fundraising, and has been part of the Red Ribbon Committee for the past two years. Sgt. Martinez will be retiring from the US Army within the next six months. He is planning to pursue his dream of continuing to serve the Army by becoming a JROTC instructor. On behalf of the WCCC, we would like to thank Sgt. Martinez for his dedication to our program.

### Positive Youth Development Workshop



Over 20 youth-serving professionals participated in the Positive Youth Development Workshop 2011 hosted on July 26, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Border Region Behavioral Health Center located at 1500 Pappas Street. This workshop, designed for counselors, social workers, and other professionals that work with children and adolescents, helped participants have a better understanding of the concept of positive youth development, and how to promote positive youth outcomes as well as the benefits of youth involvement.

### Nuestro Orgullo Awards 2011



Nuestro Orgullo Awards recipients were honored on July 5, 2011. The Nuestro Orgullo Professional award was presented to *Laura Fernandez* from ECI Project Ninos for being an individual who works in the field of prevention as an employee of an agency that has demonstrated a strong desire to go "above and beyond" in supporting the WCCC mission. The Nuestro Orgullo Volunteer Award was presented to *Julian Negrete* from SCAN for being an individual that actively participates to reduce the impact of substance abuse through his active support in the community on a non-paid, voluntary basis.

### WCCC Youth Coalition Summer Trip



Youth Coalition members from Webb, Starr and Zapata Counties were rewarded for being actively involved in drug-free community events during the year. Several youth from each Community Coalition were selected to take part in a fun filled adventure by traveling to visit the USS Lexington and the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi on August 4, 2011.



### Living Drug-Free Lives in High School



Living drug-free lives in high school is difficult, since there is a lot of peer pressure among students to be part of the popular crowd. Students claim that drugs are easily accessible to them from other teenagers. Alcohol seems to be very popular with high school students at parties and sometimes at family events. Teenagers fall into peer pressure because they want to fit in and be popular. Many of these teens choose to be followers instead of leaders. It is important to want to be a leader and choose things that will benefit you instead of ruin you. Although, it is easy to fall into peer pressure it is important to stay focused and keep your goals in mind. Being involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, school clubs, or organizations is very important to help teenagers stay off drugs and focus on positive goals. Being part of the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN has been very important for Jamie and Marla, since this has given them the opportunity to be positive role models. Taking part in events such as National Kick Butts Day, Red Ribbon Parade and Rally, and the Great American Smokeout has helped these young women to become positive role models in their community. The WCCC would like to recognize Jamie Lee Silva and Marla Valdez, students at Alexander High School, for being excellent youth coalition members and for taking the time to write about this topic.

### National Alcohol & Drug Abuse Recovery Month Event



National Alcohol & Drug Abuse Recovery Month was celebrated on September 15, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Christ Church Episcopal located at 2320 Lane St. People in recovery had the opportunity to share their emotional testimonials and socialize and provide information to others. This was a very successful event in which the community came together to celebrate the great accomplishment of living a drug-free life.



### Red Ribbon Parade and Rally



In October, the WCCC celebrated the beginning of Red Ribbon Month by coordinating the annual Red Ribbon Parade and Rally. This event took place on October 18, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Laredo Civic Center grounds. For the fourth year, the theme colors used to commemorate this event were red, white, and black. Red signifies the unwavering commitment to actively take on drug prevention, white represents peace and hope for a future in which there is no violence and drug trafficking is ended. Black serves to honor all law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty fighting for a drug free nation. The master of ceremony was Luis G. "Bird" Rodriguez, and the Guest Speakers were Mr. & Mrs. Amador Zapata (Parents of Agent Jaime Zapata, who recently lost his life in the line of duty). Over 50 organizations participated in this grand event. We would like to thank all the coalition members and participants that helped make this event a great success.

### National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

December is designated as National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month. This is an appropriate time to focus on this issue, since several holidays are celebrated during December and January. This issue should not only draw attention during the holiday season, but during the entire year in an attempt to try to save lives from tragedies occurring by drunk and drugged drivers. Stay safe and sober on the road this holiday season!

#### Tips on how to plan a safe and healthy party

- Plan ahead and make arrangements if alcohol is going to be served at the event.
- Stop serving alcohol the last hour of the party.
- If possible, collect keys from your guests to avoid drinking and driving.
- Arrange to offer non-alcoholic beverages to your guests.
- Remember that you do not need alcohol to have a good time especially during these memorable family events.

Source: <http://www.madd.org/feature-stories/december/december-is-national-drunk.html>



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Working Together for a  
Drug-Free Community!

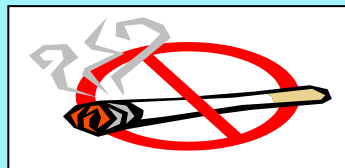
We are on the  
Web!  
[www.scan-inc.org](http://www.scan-inc.org)

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Dr. David Gibson from Gibson Chiropractic donated school supplies to the Webb County Community Coalition to be distributed to students in need. These supplies were given throughout the community including to students of El Cenizo. As always, we express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Gibson and his staff for their dedication and commitment to SCAN.

**Please report any type of  
smoking in public places to  
311**



Upcoming Events ....

- In the month of December, the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN, Inc. will be celebrating National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.
- The next Webb County Community Coalition meeting will take place on January 3, 2012 at the National Guard Armory located at 6001 E. Bob Bullock Loop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend.

Ordinance Violations

**PLEASE REPORT ANY 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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