



# Webb County Community Coalition Drug Prevention Bulletin



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Veronica Jimenez, Program Director &  
Melissa Cavazos, Program Coordinator



## National Kick Butts Day 2011



From left to right: Analy Gallegos, Kristela Avalos both from United South High School, Jaimee Lee Silva, Marla Valdez both from Alexander High School

### Webb County Community Youth Coalition of SCAN, Inc. participate on National Kick Butts Day

National Kick Butts Day was celebrated on Wednesday, March 23, 2011. Kick Butts Day is celebrated to help students become aware of the health risks that tobacco use causes to their growing bodies. The Webb County Community Coalition gave presentations to students at Bonnie Garcia Elementary and O. Salinas Elementary - both UISD schools. Students from LISD also participated in breaking piñatas in the shape of cigarette butts and listening to presentations given by local law enforcement agencies.

## SCAN, Inc. Children's Play Day 2011



Pictured Webb County Youth Coalition Members and Children Participating in the WCCC Tic-Tac-Toe Booth at SCAN, Inc. Children's Play Day 2011

SCAN, Inc. celebrated its annual Children's Play Day on Sunday, April 10, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Laredo Civic Center Ballroom and Grounds. This event is celebrated each year to give back to the community and encourage children and their families to be drug-free. SCAN employees came together with other local agencies to help families spend quality time together and bond with one another. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this great event.

The WCCC began collecting donations for El Cenizo fire victims. We were able to collect 3 truckloads of clothing, hygiene supplies, household essentials, and school supplies for the victims affected by the recent fire that destroyed the homes of several El Cenizo residents. We would like to thank everyone who donated items and especially an anonymous local businessman who donated \$1,000 to purchase gift cards to give to these victims in need.

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### "Happy" The Turtle



"Happy" The Turtle made his debut in SCAN's Children's Play Day 2011. Happy is SCAN's new mascot and hopes to make all children in Webb County cheerful & drug-free.

### WCCC Helps El Cenizo Fire Victims



El Cenizo Commissioner Reynaldo Vasquez and Veronica Jimenez, WCCC Program Director



### Coalition Member Spotlight



Belen Gonzalez Cisneros graduated from Martin High School and has worked for the Webb County Head Start for the past 18 years. Belen has also worked part-time for the last 10 years at Christ the King Church as Coordinator of Religious Education. She is happily married to Thomas David Cisneros and is blessed with 6 beautiful children and 6 grandchildren. She enjoys being a WCCC Coalition Member since she is able to make a difference in the community by helping prevent drug use. Her hobbies are prayer time, selling beauty products, spas, and gardening. Belen is always eager to help the WCCC through volunteering time, fundraising, and has been part of the Red Ribbon Committee for the past 3 years. On behalf of the WCCC, we would like to thank Belen for her dedication to our program.

Belen Gonzalez Cisneros has been a WCCC Coalition Member for more than 5 years

“God gives the best to those who leave the choice to him”

Author unknown



### Celebrating Alcohol Awareness Month in April



### Alcohol Awareness Month Proclamation



The WCCC of SCAN, Inc. in conjunction with Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors coordinated to educate the students at local institutions of higher education. Alcohol Screenings were conducted on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Texas A&M International University, Laredo Community College, and Kaplan College of Laredo. Students had the opportunity to receive alcohol screenings to help determine if they are at risk of developing an alcohol use disorder. Educational information was distributed to help students and the community of Webb County be aware of the health risks of alcohol use. If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol or any other substance abuse, please seek help or call the SCAN, Inc. office at (956) 724-3177.

From left to right: Cesar Hernandez and Erica Castaneda, Kaplan College of Laredo; Mayor Raul Salinas; Veronica Jimenez, WCCC Program Director; Melissa Cavazos, WCCC Program Coordinator



Please help stop underage drinking





## Hookah Smoking – A Dangerous Activity



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

What is a hookah? A hookah is a single or multi-stemmed water pipe. It originated in India in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and is now gaining popularity in the United States. A hookah consists of a water jar, which is often made out of glass and is connected by a tube to the bowl at the top of the hookah. Tobacco, molasses, and other types of combustibles are placed in the bowl and covered. These combustibles are then burned and smoke is drawn through a hose that leads from the water jar. There are a great variety of flavors and blends used to attract young people to smoke these products. Although some claim that the blends are tobacco-free, the health risks of these products are unknown due to inadequate health studies. Hookah smoking can actually be worse for people than cigarettes because hookah smokers often inhale longer and take in much more smoke than a cigarette smoker.

Parents need to beware that there are several lounges offering hookah smoking in our city. Although it is illegal to smoke any combustible substances in public places in the City of Laredo, some local businesses choose to ignore the law. The Webb County Community Coalition is dedicated to preventing smoking of any kind in public places. Since many youth are attracted to hookah smoking, we urge everyone to get involved by reporting all smoking in public places to the City of Laredo Health Department, Laredo Police Department, or by calling 311.

Source: [http://www.ehow.com/about\\_4699358\\_dangers-hookah-smoking.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_4699358_dangers-hookah-smoking.html)

## Underage Drinking: A Serious Problem In Webb County

During the month of March 2011, there were two stories reported in the local news about underage drinking in Laredo. In one story, a seventeen-year-old girl was charged with fifteen (15) counts of furnishing alcohol to minors at a house party. In another story, an adult was cited for hosting a party at a local reception hall for minors where alcohol was being served to these minors. Since its founding in 1999, the Webb County Community Coalition of SCAN has worked diligently to increase awareness of underage drinking that takes place in our community. The seriousness of the problem in Webb County cannot be overstated, and stopping the occurrence of underage drinking requires a consistent and collaborative effort. To this end, local law enforcement officers need to cite all minors every time that they are caught purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcoholic beverages. Local judges need to require that all minors cited attend a state approved alcohol awareness program (minor in possession). Finally, all parents/guardians and other adults that furnish alcohol to minors or allow their property to be used for parties where alcohol is served to minors need to be cited for violating local and state laws.

In 2009, the Webb County Community Coalition (WCCC) worked with the City Council of Laredo to pass a Parental Responsibility Ordinance. According to this ordinance, a person who is responsible for a minor commits an offense if he/she recklessly fails to supervise a minor by 1) allowing the minor to possess any tobacco product; 2) allowing the minor to possess any controlled substance except as may be prescribed for the minor by a physician; 3) allowing the minor to possess stolen property; 4) allowing his/her property, or property under his/her control, to be used by a gathering of minors where alcohol is served to or consumed by any minors; 5) allowing the minor to vandalize public or private property; and 6) allowing the minor to violate the City of Laredo's curfew provisions. The ordinance permits fines of up to \$500 for parents/guardians.

The Webb County Community Coalition urges all parents to refrain from hosting parties for minors where alcohol is served. This is a dangerous and harmful practice. More importantly, it is against the law. The WCCC also encourages concerned citizens to get involved by reporting situations where minors are observed or suspected of purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol. Reports can be made to the Laredo Police Department (956) 795-2800 or the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (956) 723-3521. Working together - We Can Prevent Underage Drinking.



### SCAN, Inc. Employee Retires After 8 years of Service



From left to right: Mrs. Isela Dabdoub, CEO; Retiree, Josefina Villarreal, Zapata County Community Coalition Coordinator; Mr. Luis E. Flores, Executive Vice President of SCAN, Inc.

SCAN, Inc.  
Webb County Community Coalition

2387 E. Saunders, #1  
Laredo, TX 78041

Phone:  
(956) 724-3177

Fax:  
(956) 724-4861

E-mail:  
[veronica.jimenez@scan-inc.org](mailto:veronica.jimenez@scan-inc.org)  
[melissa@scan-inc.org](mailto:melissa@scan-inc.org)

Working Together for a  
Drug-Free Community!

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

Webb County  
Community Coalition  
2387 E. Saunders  
Laredo, TX 78041

### Ordinance Violations



**PLEASE REPORT ANY SMOKING  
ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS!  
REMEMBER NO SMOKING IS  
ALLOWED IN PUBLIC PLACES.**

**Call the City of Laredo Health  
Department**

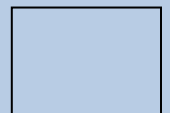
**956-795-4935 (phone)**

**956-344-1571 (pager)**

***Keep all Public Places in  
Laredo Smoke-Free!***

### Upcoming Events ....

- SCAN, Inc. will be hosting its Annual Nuestro Orgullo Awards, Positive Youth Development Training, and Substance Abuse Prevention Workshop in the month of July 2011.
- The next Webb County Community Coalition meeting will take place on June 5, 2011 at the Border Region MHMR Community Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend.



RECIPIENT NAME  
1000 MAIN ST.  
LAREDO, TX 78040