

UPDATE!



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SPOTLIGHT: ASPIRE HIGHER SUMMER WORK

Story by Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services staff

Three Aspire Higher work crews began their summer projects in early June at the Cassia, Minidoka and Jerome Fairgrounds. During this summer experience fourteen youth are provided a paid work experience through the Young Offender Demonstration Project grant. The program is designed to provide a positive **work experience** and **educational enhancement**. Through teamwork and problem solving the youth gain

PROJECT PARTNERS:



IDHW



IDJC

**SOUTH
CENTRAL
IDAHO
WORKS!**



GANG PREVENTION ADVISORY BOARD WILL YOU SERVE?

A very important component of the Young Offender Demonstration Project is the formation of a gang prevention advisory board. The board will be responsible for distributing \$10,000.00 in mini-grants, in addition to sharing ideas, concerns, and solutions to the gang presence in South Central Idaho.

Here are the federal and local steering committee guidelines about the makeup of this board: All 8 counties must be represented, and the board should have a balanced ethnic presence. In addition, there should be at least one person from each of the following arenas:

- Law Enforcement
- Public school system
- Youth service provider
- Health and Welfare
- Juvenile Corrections
- Workforce Development
- Faith community
- Parent(s) of current or former gang members
- Former gang members
- Business representation
- Highway District
- Community at large

If you are interested or if you have a recommendation, please email Project Coordinator Catherine Haynes at catherine@rivda.org as soon as possible.



Aspire Higher summer work project team members work together in Cassia County.

self-esteem and pride as their projects are completed. The program is designed to provide **project based learning** in a **contextual** environment, which
(story continued on page 2)



YOUTH Aspire Higher!

While the summer work crews are busy (see above story) the ASPIRE HIGHER Career Preparation Classes continue in Jerome and Gooding. The youth are focusing on their CareerScope Inventories, role playing real life scenarios, and some are at the stage of applying for employment with area businesses. On June 17 the Gooding class viewed two videos: "Heads Up", a film dealing with workplace attitudes and customer service, and "10 Easy Ways to Lose Your Job," a video portraying actual events that led workers to being fired. The students seem to really enjoy the classes. One girl told the trainer that attending the class is the highlight of her week. Next up for the youth: finding employment and applying the lessons in real life.

**SPOTLIGHT ON
ASPIRE HIGHER
(CONTINUED FROM
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stimulates each youth's interest in education and help them understand what education has to do with work. The crews work primarily outdoors on new construction, rehabilitation, renovation, and beautification projects. Under the direction of an adult Trainer, crew members take on the



responsibilities of leadership, planning, cost analysis, task analysis, assignments, and problem solving. As youth take turns being crew leaders, they experience all aspects of completing a project. So far this summer, a bathroom has been remodeled, and a fairgrounds barn and concession stand are being renovated. Crew members learn or enhance many skills such as project lay-out, materials planning, measuring, calculating, problem solving, reading instructions, writing reports, and math computation. The youth perform activities such as cutting, drilling, hammering, plumbing, planting, painting, fence building, concrete pouring and finishing. Integrated into all of these activities is the contextual relationship between learning and working. It's hard work in the summer heat, but overall, the youth involved are excited to be working on their projects. The summer work crews are coordinated through Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services. Each crew operates for 7 weeks, and youth are paid minimum wage. For many youth under the age of 16, this program allows them the opportunity to pay their victim restitution or court fees.



**TRANSITION HOUSE
UPDATE!**

As reported in the last issue, we received the additional \$92,500.00 needed to complete the rehab on the home! The environmental assessment period is underway, and architect Russ Lively is preparing the bid specs. The community committee will be meeting soon to begin planning specific youth programs and house policies. As always, special thanks to Magic Valley Regional Medical Center for donating the home and land.



BILLS PLACE, the new transition home for youth at 396 Martin Street, Twin Falls

THE VISION



BUILD ON EXISTING COMMUNITY EFFORTS AND PROGRAMS
BUILD STRONGER RESOURCE CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN YOUTH PROVIDERS
DEVELOP TWO OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND AFTERCARE, INCLUDING CAREER PREPARATION



YODP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Joe Herring, *Region IV Development Association*
- Judge John Varin, *Magistrate Judge Juvenile Court*
- Judge Larry Duff, *Magistrate Judge Juvenile Court*
- Bill Brockman, *Twin Falls County Commissioner*
- Veronica Lierman, *Jerome County Commissioner*
- Dan Stapelman, *Minidoka County Commissioner*
- Bev Ashton, *Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, District 5*
- Candy McElfresh, *South Central Idaho Works!*
- Alejandro Castañeda, *Youth Council*
- Kathy James, *Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Bill Brockman, *Chair*
- Judge John Varin, *Magistrate Judge Juvenile Court*
- Jim Fields, *South Central Community Action Partnership*
- Sylvia Ann Bradshaw, *Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services*
- Linda Wright, *Fifth Judicial District, Trial Court Administrator*
- Bev Ashton, *Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, District 5*
- Kathy James, *Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*
- Kyla Kelly, *Magic Valley Safe Kids Coalition*
- Ray Strolberg, *Covenant Insurance*
- La Deane Brown, *U.S.D.A.*
- Judge Larry Duff, *Magistrate Judge*
- Diana Lincoln Haye, *Idaho Diagnostic Sleep Lab*
- Ken Loosle, *Magic Valley Regional Medical Center*
- Tom Mikesell, *Twin Falls County Commissioner*
- Candy McElfresh, *South Central Idaho Works!*

NOTE: Preparation of this item was funded by the United States Department of Labor under Grant Agreement No. AF-12396-02-60

CALENDAR

ADD YOUR EVENT / MEETING

Please feel free to add your upcoming youth oriented events and meetings by contacting catherine@rivda.org.

Every Thursday, 7:00 p.m. is an open 12-Step support meeting for youth, held at the Port of Hope on 2nd Avenue North, Twin Falls. These meetings are free, and confidential.

July 8 — Snake River Joint Powers meeting at Snake River Youth Center

July 10 — Regional Conference Call for YODP, 12 noon, Region IV Development office

July 13—17 — Site Facilitator Anne Adams is here!

July 20—25 — Youth Practitioner’s Development Institute in Landsdowne, Virginia

GLOSSARY

In an earlier issue of UPDATE we defined the term *RECIDIVISM* from the January 2001 edition of “State of Idaho Juvenile Justice Terms.” Since that issue was printed, a revised definition has been incorporated by the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC), based on the most widely accepted national definition. It’s extremely important to have an understanding of the term, because in many respects, the definition drives the process of statistical gathering and analysis. Here in Idaho, IDJC tracks the juvenile for 2 years after release from state commitment, and only for conviction on a new criminal offense. The actual working definition supplied by IDJC Research Analyst Monty Prow is:

RECIDIVISM: THE ACT OF BEING ADJUDICATED OR CONVICTED OF A NEW FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR THAT IS NOT A STATUS OFFENSE, OR PROBATION VIOLATION.

With this above definition, the recidivism rate for juveniles who were released from state commitment is 50.2%. NOTE: A status offense refers to misbehavior that is not criminal when committed by an adult (truancy, runaway, purchasing cigarettes, etc.)

Unfortunately, the definition of RECIDIVISM varies in several states. For example in Georgia, the recidivism rate for juveniles released from juvenile correction facilities is 62.7%. Georgia’s definition of recidivism includes a return to juvenile corrections for any rule violation or new crime, and/or sentencing to adult prison or probation — and the entire period of tracking lasts 3 years. This is critical information for anyone attempting to compare recidivism rates between Idaho and other states.

It’s also important to remember that currently, recidivism rates for youth who are court-involved only on a county level are not tracked by IDJC. Plus, some counties have different definitions and methods for tracking rates, and some counties do not track recidivism at all.

CONTACT CONNECT COMMUNICATE

YODP Project Coordinator:

Catherine Haynes
208-732-5727, ext 3004 or
800-769-5666
catherine@rivda.org

YOUTH COUNCIL:

Alejandro Castañeda
208-737-3907
alexc@rmci.net

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Kathy James
208-736-3020
jamesk@idhw.state.id.us

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO WORKS!:

Candy McElfresh
208-732-5727, ext 3007
candy@rivda.org

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS, DISTRICT 5

Bev Ashton
208-736-4776
bashton@djc.state.id.us

MAGIC VALLEY YOUTH AND ADULT SERVICES:

Sylvia Ann Bradshaw
208-734-4435
mvyas@pmt.org

JUVENILE PROBATION CONTACTS

Mini-Cassia: Lisa Kamachi
208-436-7156
Jerome: Kyle Fisher
208-324-8992
Gooding: Carol Johnson
208-934-5168
Lincoln: Cheryl Adams
208-886-7672
Twin Falls: Kevin Sandau
208-736-4215

ATTENTION: YOUTH!

You can email, write, or call Project Coordinator Catherine Haynes at the above contact information.

Personal comments, poetry, or suggestions are welcomed.

Whether you are currently involved with juvenile court system or not – this is an open forum!