

S.A.F.E. Center Happenings

Abraxas S.A.F.E. Program at Risk of Folding

By Pat Kumpan Poway News Chieftain, Nov. 25, 2008

Abraxas High School officials are sending out a distress call for more funding to keep the Student Alliance For Education Center's programs active on campus. Principal Rudy Casciato calls the center the "heart" of the school, because programs help motivate and build confidence in Abraxas students, he said. Poway Unified gave the school \$48,000 to help pay salaries of two program employees, but those funds will run out in March, and so will most of the grant funding, according to Education Specialist Cathy Kosich, who oversees the program. "If we raise up to \$15,000 in donations, the Saxton Family Foundation will match that amount," Kosich said. "If that happens, we can make it to June." But, the school will gladly accept smaller donations from the community, she said. "We really see SAFE Center programs as something that helps not only students, but the entire community," Kosich said. The SAFE Center offers anti-drug and alcohol programs, as well as support groups for students trying to maintain a sober lifestyle, coping with depression or suicidal tendencies. The center also offers anti-violence sessions, a contributing factor to discipline reductions on campus, Kosich said. Health-oriented, as well as motivational speakers, along with the school's first-ever Women's Day, hosted by Poway Soroptimists, plus Career Day and Student Success Day were some of the activities planned by the center. Alliance Healthcare Foundation provided funding for SAFE programs for three years and recently West Ed, a company that does school evaluations, surveyed

students, according to West Ed. One of the most remarkable changes at Abraxas has been a dramatic reduction in the drop-out rate. Three years ago Abraxas had a 62% graduation rate. That number has grown as high as 86%. During the same three years, Abraxas reached a pinnacle in recognition: Rudy Casciato was selected as the region's top principal for alternative schools, while Andrew Shean was named a Poway Unified School District Teacher of the Year. The school recently received its Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation for six years and the SAFE Center was recognized as a "reason to celebrate" during the accreditation presentation by Superintendent Don Phillips. To reach Kosich, call 858-748-5900, ext. 2107



Hector Mendoza, Melody Miller, Christina Morena

Winning class for the Annual Abraxas Holiday Food Drive...Mr. Watson's class: Students L-R are Josh Borman, Rudy Evangelista, Chris Granger, Paul Prutzman, Joey Buclatin, Kollin Kimberly, Courtney Beavers, Trevor Spidell, Nan Edwards-Instructional Aide, Regina Mosley, Jacob Brengle, Vickie Burton.



Sharon Stuck and Cathy Kosich, S.A.F.E. Center Staff

Cards for the Troops

Thank you to Barbara Harris and Kristina Bagdasaryan from Pomeroado Christian Church for providing the opportunity and supplies to students to make cards for the Troops again this year.

We all had a great time with a pizza party provided by the S.A.F.E. Center and cards and supplies provided by Barbara Harris! Some of the cards were addressed to former students servicing in the Armed Forces.



L to R: Angela Palumbo, Byanka Correa, Hector Mendoza, Christina Moreno, Melody Miller, Kristina Bagdasaryan, John Cauley, Luis Morales, Anima Srivastava, Roxy Garcia

