

Merry Christmas



**December 2008**

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## County Blocks Liquor License.

The unanimous vote against the transfer of a liquor license may prevent owner Adam Derizotis from selling alcohol in the building formerly known as the Zia Bar, which stands alongside what once was one of the deadliest strips of highway in San Juan County.

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## Shopping Online? Be Wary

# San Juan Safe Communities, Inc. Newsletter

## DIRECTORS CORNER

Hello friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, and since this is our December newsletter, I would like to wish everyone and their families a very merry Christmas.

I am devoting this edition of the Director's Corner to the importance of evaluation in not only determining if what we are doing is working, but also in guiding our organization into the future. To further break this down necessitates a brief discussion of logic models. A logic model is simply a picture of where we want to be and how we are going to get there.

While some of this is already in place, our goal here at Safe Communities is to ultimately create one large logic model for our organization, and smaller ones for the individual programs we create or are involved in. To help us through this process we are drawing on the experience and expertise of local professionals who are volunteering their time to guide and direct our efforts.

My many thanks go out to Ann Anthony with the State Public Health Office for really doing the heavy lifting involved with getting us organized. Ann, among her many other talents, is a professional evaluator. She recently taught an evaluation class to our staff and those who are to be involved with the programming that is going into the new SycamoreParkCommunity Center. It also appears that we will be able to draw on the experience and expertise of Angela Ochoa, who is the Project Director of the Safe Schools Healthy Student grant, administered by the Student Assistance Services of the Farmington Municipal Schools. This is yet another example of how collaboration across disciplines and agencies is the answer to success.

## of Crime.

The holiday season is a hectic time, one that crooks like to take advantage of when they think that consumers aren't being careful when they shop online.

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## Some See Big Problem in Wisconsin Drinking

EDGERTON, Wis. - When a 15-year-old comes into Wile-e's bar looking for a cold beer, the bartender, Mike Whaley, is happy to serve it up - as long as a parent is there to give permission.

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## Reversing Community Norms on Marijuana Use

For coalitions in California, one of their toughest challenges is fighting the widely-held

They have been very instrumental in helping Safe Communities create a fully-functioning evaluation team which will be used to guide and direct us at an organizational level as well as help ensure the success of our individual projects. The assembly of this group is underway.

We will be working on perfecting our logic models non-stop over the next two or three months, and will have them for use at our Spring conference, April 29th and 30th, 2009.

If you are interested in the evaluation process, or would like to help us put the Spring conference together, please give Wilann Thomas, Robert Miller or me a call. I can be reached at 320-8530, 599-1492, or email me at [dandarnell@sjsci.org](mailto:dandarnell@sjsci.org), and the office number is 599-1490.

For more information on these topics or find out more about what we are up to, go to our web site at [www.sjsci.org](http://www.sjsci.org).

Thank each of you for being a part of our lives, and for caring about our community. Merry Christmas.

Dan Darnell

## Prevention

What do we admire MOST?

"MOST Of Us " is a local initiative to prevent alcohol and drug abuse in San Juan County. It is a science-based approach that recognizes that we are most effective when we focus on what MOST of Us are already doing well.

This philosophy gives us support to celebrate the good choices that members of our community make every day. For many residents in San Juan County, the everyday routine of work and school keeps us humming along, often leaving only small amounts of time to celebrate what makes life sweet. What do we admire the most?

The results of many community surveys have revealed that citizens in our county admire and respect our diversity, our strength, and the beauty that surrounds us. All of these positive adjectives can be related to our ethnicity, our economy and landscape, and our great climate. "Most of Us" also have a strong

perception that smoking marijuana is harmless.

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### **Court Says Parents of Offender Can't Be Forced to Take Drug Tests**

The parents of a girl sentenced to probation for petty theft can't be required to submit to drug testing as a condition of their child's sentence, the Idaho Court of Appeals has ruled.

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### **Drug Violence Jumps the Mexican Border to the U.S.**

Federal authorities have documented crimes associated with drug violence in Mexico - including murder and kidnapping - in 195 cities across the United States, the Los Angeles Times reported Nov. 16.

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commitment to sports and family fun. So the challenge might be to remember what we truly admire.

What happens when we over-admire a problem? Research demonstrates that we can actually increase the problem. Research also demonstrates that quite often, the majority of us do not correctly perceive the positive behaviors of our young residents. This misperception then becomes a part of the problem because of how we see, talk to and think about our young people. It is critical that in our efforts to admire goodness, that we correct such misperceptions.

This mission of San Juan County Partnership is: "working together with people of all ages and cultures, to develop community wellness and prevention awareness." So with that mission we would like to say thank you to all the residents of the county, young and old, who take great care to make healthy choices - as "Most of Us," do every day. We admire you.

For more information on the "MOST Of Us" campaign, or to schedule a presentation call:  
Laura McClenny 505-566-5871 or Jennifer Larramendy 505-566-5877.

MOST Of Us™ is a registered trademark of Montana State University.

### **New Data Show Drinking Age Laws Saved 4,441 Lives Over 5 Years**

Minimum 21-year-old drinking age laws prevented an estimated 4,441 drunken driving deaths in the last five years alone, according to a new report released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

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### **Farmington Municipal Schools, Student Assistance Services would like to invite you to Children of Trauma, a training made available through the Safe Schools, Healthy Students Initiative.**

Presented by TLC - The National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children - Roger J. Klein, Psy.D. Licensed Psychologist

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Intervention

### **San Juan County Alternative Sentencing Division Jail Based Treatment Services**

On October 7, 2008 the eleventh group of women began jail-based treatment at the San Juan County Methamphetamine & Substance Abuse Treatment Program. That group of women graduated from the jail-based program on December 4, 2008 and subsequently began the case managed aftercare portion of the program. The methamphetamine pilot project provides 60 days of gender appropriate jail-based substance abuse treatment, preceded and followed by intensive case management. Clients participate in approximately one year of aftercare services following the initial inpatient program. Treatment services are provided by Presbyterian Medical Services and Totah Behavioral Health Authority during the Intensive Outpatient and Aftercare phases. Recovery is a life-long commitment. The treatment strategy, sensitive to the engagement level and ability of the clients, includes individual & group therapy, life skills, substance abuse & health education, 12-Step programs, etc. The next group intake for the 60 day jail based treatment program will take place on December 16, 2008.

On November 17, 2008, the San Juan County Commission held a ground-breaking ceremony for the addition to the San Juan County Methamphetamine & Substance Abuse Treatment Program. The ceremony highlighted the program's two years of working with women with addictions, resulting in involvement with the criminal justice system. The addition to the Center will allow for the program to increase services. Construction is expected to last until the summer of 2009.

**Have you read Desert View's latest newsletter, packed with tons of material on Gangs? If not, click below...**

**[READ IT HERE!!](#)**

**SAN JUAN COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE FAMILIES  
WRAP-UP FIRST RECOVERING TOGETHER PHASE  
[LEARN MORE](#)**

## Partner Spotlight

**Big Brothers Big Sisters**

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been the leader in one-to-one youth-service for over a century, with proven success in creating positive friendships that benefit children, volunteers, families, neighborhoods, and our community! The quality that has always characterized BBBS service to children and youth extends by ensuring that the volunteer's experience is positive and enriching.

Our programs serve children between 6 and 14 years who are "at potential" and need a little extra support to help them reach that potential. We generally receive referrals from parents, teachers, school counselors, CYFD and other human service organizations.

BBBS offers choices to volunteers in how they wish to become involved as a "Big." They may choose to spend one hour a week in school and may enjoy seeing a child move from one grade to another or they may want to spend time with the child outside of school enjoying hobbies or just hanging out. BBBS is very flexible and can find an option to suit just about everybody's schedule.

Through thorough screening based upon 100 years of professional experience, and through an education program for parents, children and volunteers, BBBS has established the hallmark for child safety. Most important, ongoing BBBS contact with the child, parent(s), teacher and volunteer helps us provides up to the date information about safety issues throughout the duration of the match relationship.

Here in San Juan County, BBBS measures the impact on each child with a survey given to the child's teacher at the end of the school year. The results at the end of the 2006 - 2007 school year showed that the children matched with a mentor in our program displayed:

- 64% increase in self-confidence
- 54% increase in academic performance
- 68% increase in class participation
- 68% improvement in classroom behavior
- 73% improvement in avoiding delinquency
- 64% improved relationships with peers

To get involved please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Juan at 326-1508 or log on to [www.littlesneedbigs.org](http://www.littlesneedbigs.org).

**Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico**

### **The 2008 SJRMC Auxiliary Gift of Light Tree**

The Gift of Light Christmas tree is an opportunity for you to make a difference during this holiday season. Throughout the month of December, this special tree will be near the main entrance of the hospital. For a donation of \$5 or more, you may designate a commemorative light on the tree to honor a loved one.

The San Juan Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will donate the money raised by these remembrances to SAS, to benefit survivors of sexual assault. The victims and their families who come to SAS can spend a great deal of time there. The office furniture is old and worn out, and SAS badly needs new furnishings to provide a more comfortable environment to their clients. All the money raised by the Gift of Light tree will go toward purchasing those furnishings.

Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico (SAS) does wonderful work in this heart-wrenching field. The services offered to survivors include a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Exam) and Rape Crisis Advocacy.

The Gift of Light  
The gift of remembrance  
The gift of compassion

Donations of any sort are always welcome. If you're interested in making a donation please call us at 325-2805.

### **Grant Information**

#### **Tips to Better Grant Writing**

Grant writing can be challenging. Here are some tips to help.

- Plan your project before going after funding. It will help you identify the right resources for which to apply.
- Do your research first. Find out what kinds of grants are available and if you're eligible. You want to find a grant that has the same type of project in mind as you. Funders are usually very clear about their interests and the type of projects they will support.
- Try not to become discouraged or intimidated when writing a grant; simply take your time and follow the rules and guidelines given by the funder.
- When you write the grant, jot down ideas and plans in rough draft form, then tweak the content until you are satisfied that you

have explained all the required information. Make sure that it is written in a professional manner in content as well as spelling.

- Use the same terms as the funder in describing your program, project or initiative. Doing so helps the funders to more easily read and understand the application and earns you points when being considered for grant awards.
- Make a few copies of the grant application and then work on the copies until you have perfected your content to your satisfaction. Making these extra copies to work on, before actually writing on the official grant document, can save you lots of time.
- Remember, you can apply for more than one grant at a time. However, you must stick to the regulations of each grant you apply for since each grant organization has its own guidelines for awarding funds.
- After all your hard work gathering the required information, documents and signatures, make sure that you return your grant application to the funder before the specified deadline.

Remember that help is available through San Juan Safe Communities Initiative, Inc. For information on funding opportunities or technical assistance check out the website.

## **Community Calendar**

12/11/2008 - SJSCI Board Meeting @ Sycamore Park Community Center. 8:30 am

12/11/2008 - SSHS Meeting - FMS 20th St. Conference Room - 1:15 pm

12/11/2008 - Gang Presentation - Downtown Centre - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Presented by JPPO.

12/17/2008 - Preventionist Luncheon - Region Inn - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

1/8/2009 - SJSCI Board Meeting - 8:30 am

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