



100 W. Broadway  
Farmington, NM 87401  
(505)599-1492  
[www.sjsci.org](http://www.sjsci.org)



### Director's Corner

When Safe Communities was created back in 2006, it was with the understanding that we were not going to arrest our way to a gang or meth-free community. We established early on that these are not just Law Enforcement problems, and if we were to have any chance of diminishing their effects in our county we had to mobilize our entire community. One more thing came became quite clear, that these problems were only symptoms of a much larger and deeper problem. We realized that if we were to impact any of the symptoms we see within our community we would have to do several things, including: drill down to a deeper level of society; pinpoint where the problems are most prevalent geographically; identify what things are at the root of the problem; and isolate the causal factors.

The next question one might ask would be "what are some of these causal factors?" Well, here is what we are looking for. We break them into three main groups, socially normal factors; cultural factors; and environmental factors.

Socially normal factors are the sources where what is thought of as normal in a neighborhood comes from. They include such things as what is being taught by parents, active peer groups from the neighborhood, a general sense of the value placed on money, prestige, power, control and the importance of education and a lack of neighborhood pride.

Cultural factors include whether we are dealing with minority neighborhoods, if the culture of poverty is active and whether the residents are clinging to the barrio or lower socio-economic mentality.

Finally, the environmental factors are what is physically happening in the surrounding community, and includes such things as poverty, poor housing opportunities, a lack of access to life skills information, bleak economic outlook, lack of jobs and the types of jobs available.

If we understand this general concept, then it would stand to reason that if we are to do something about these things, we will need to get

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**Trading Cards**

### *List of Events*

**The UMatr Teens will be spending a great deal of time in the Aztec Public Schools during November. You can find them at McCoy Elementary on 11/11 and at Park Elementary on 11/12, 11/13, 11/18, 11/20, and 11/24.**

**Grand  
Opening!!!**

**The Sycamore  
Park  
Community**

as close to the neighborhood as possible. This is where the community center concept comes into play.

The goal through this effort is really two-fold; creating a draw to get members of the neighborhood to the facility, and making significant attitude-changing programming available within the facility. The draw in the centers we would like to implement throughout the county might be recreational in nature, or making social opportunities available. The programming are the tools we are trying to use to better the community through the development of strategic community partnerships.

The first community center in the county where we are attempting this approach will be opening on Thursday, November 19th, at SycamorePark, located just three blocks south of Murray Drive, in the midst of our southern Farmington neighborhoods.

We have built some significant partnerships in this facility, which include with the City of Farmington, the Farmington Municipal School District, San Juan College, Big Brothers / Big Sisters and the Boy's and Girl's Club. Plans have been put in place to establish a parenting curriculum series, life skills training, a mentoring program, and training on various neighborhood economic development and housing issues within the center. Our goal is to create a safer community one home and one neighborhood at a time.

I would like to encourage all our members to attend this grand opening ceremony to help celebrate this tremendous milestone in the delivery of services to this portion of our county. For more information, give us a call. Hope to see everyone there.

## Prevention

### From Tami Spellbring:

As discussed at the Wellness Center Board Meeting this month, I'd like to do public showings of the HBO documentary "Addiction" in each county, starting in January or so. I want to send out individual invitations to people who you think would benefit, as well as doing the usual print ads and fliers. Please email me with mailing addresses or at least phone numbers. I also would like to know about viewing locations and when best to show it: evenings, weekends etc. This film can raise people's awareness about addiction, get communities mobilized around developing treatment options and clear up misunderstanding about the nature of addiction.

Go to: <http://www.addictionaction.org/> to learn more about this film. The main feature is about 2 hours long and then there are several more pieces that go into more depth that can be shown at other times if there is enough interest.

Thanks for your help!

**Center will be  
hosting its own  
Grand Opening  
on November  
19,  
2008 beginning  
at 3:00 pm.  
Feel free to  
stop by and  
explore this  
"first of it's  
kind" facility in  
Farmington.**

### Articles of Interest:

**Study Finds  
Methamphetamine  
Affects Brain Longer  
than Cocaine.**

[READ MORE](#)

**Early Substance Use  
Influences Future  
Behavior**

[READ MORE](#)

## Intervention

### **San Juan County Alternative Sentencing Division DWI Treatment/Detention Facility**

**&**

### **Methamphetamine Pilot Project**

On October 7, 2008 the eleventh group of women began jail-based treatment at the San Juan County Methamphetamine Pilot Project. This group will culminate with a ceremony on December 4, 2008. The methamphetamine pilot project provides 60 days of gender appropriate jail-based substance abuse treatment, preceded and followed by intensive case management. About a year of aftercare services follow 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.

On October 23, 2008 the San Juan County Commission approved the collaboration of the San Juan County DWI Facility and Farmington Municipal Court to embark on a pilot program to utilize the facility based on space availability for offenders arrested for misdemeanor alcohol related crimes. While still in the planning stages, San Juan County Alternative Sentencing Division Administrator, Rob Mitchell, and Farmington Municipal Court Judge William Liese will begin discussing the use of the 72 bed facility to house and treat offenders, provided space is available, using the model currently in place for treating offenders serving a 28 day sentence for misdemeanor DWI. Eligible offenders would be those who have been arrested for crimes such as Possession and Consumption of Alcohol, Trespassing and Shoplifting related to alcohol and subsequently referred to Farmington Municipal Court for sentencing.

## **The Choking Game...**

### **NOT A HARMLESS GAME TO PLAY**

You may have seen in recent headlines citing the death of several young Children and teens caused by "the Choking Game". Also known as the "Pass out game", "dreaming", "pass out", or "ghost", you might even remember it or something like it from your childhood, as the concept has been around for a while. The primary goal is to cause a friend to literally choke or lose breath and feel a consciousness altering experience or a "high". You may have thought it was a harmless game played at sleep-over parties or play dates but what you didn't know is how

dangerous and possibly deadly this game could get.

### **WHAT IT IS**

The Choking Game, as it has come to be called, is a game children play by compressing a friend's chest or squeezing their neck to cut off the flow of oxygen. In the first step, the person being choked will feel light-headed due to the reduced blood flow, and lack of oxygen to the brain, causing a perceived "high". Once the pressure to the chest or neck has been lifted the surge of blood back into the brain creates a perceived "rush". The recent deaths and brain damage cases in the media are the result of the "game" gone wrong.

### [READ MORE](#)

## Suppression

### **From Farmington Police Department**

Community service hours have traditionally been utilized by probation officers as a way to contribute to the community and as a punitive measure for probation clients. Well over a year ago Officer Connie Johnston contacted The Daily Bread in response to a complaint. Officer Johnston noticed two young men there, but, not doing anything. When Officer Johnston asked the management about the two young men, she was told they were there to do community service hours as a requirement of their probation. Officer Johnston then asked why they were not working and was told there was not anyone to supervise them and make them work. Officer Johnston then directed both of the young men into the parking area and supervised them as they cleaned up the area.

Officer Johnston has since coordinated with Juvenile Probation and Parole in a partnership that has been very successful. With police officer supervision JPPO can assign probation clients to community service hours. Officer Johnston has procured donated tools from Lowes for weed and trash clean-up.

JPPO clients have been utilized for clean-up of some private residences that the owners were unable to physically or financially able to hire clean-up of. JPPO clients have also been utilized to clean-up of areas frequented by public inebriants. This has a two-fold benefit in that a much needed service is provided and the JPPO clients were exposed to a lifestyle of persons living the result of poor choices, alcohol and substance abuse. Several of the JPPO clients have stated that they would never want to live on the streets, sleep in the weeds and eat out of the dumpsters. Most of the JPPO clients said they will get an education, stay out of trouble and strive to be successful.

JPPO clients have also been exposed to the positive role models of police officers that take the opportunity to engage the JPPO clients in conversations about positive choices, importance of education and

dangers of substance abuse and gang involvement.

With the assistance of City of Farmington Parks and Recreation Department and Waste Management tons of trash, weeds and other types of refuse have been removed from public and private areas in the City of Farmington.

This is just one example of a Community Policing/Problem Orienting Policing effort that has been a success, building bridges in the community.

## Grants

### Opportunities

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Request for Proposal - HELP-New Mexico, Inc. asks community and faith-based organizations to submit proposals for mini-grants and offers training and technical assistance to agencies inexperienced in funding procurement. The next such opportunity is November 17, 2008, in Farmington. The request for proposal (RFP) training is 8:30 to 10 a.m. at San Juan College room 115. A skill-building workshop will follow the RFP training from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

To be eligible for a grant, organization representatives must attend the RFP training. HELP-New Mexico provides this training and technical assistance as well as the grants through the Compassion Capital Fund. Currently, 13 awards will be made to Tier 1 and Tier 2 level agencies. Tier 1 agencies are those that may or may not have 501(c)(3) tax status; may or may not be incorporated; have provided services for less than one year; and have an operating budget of less than \$500,00. Tier 2 agencies include organization that are incorporated, have a 501(c)(3) tax status; have been in existence for less than 10 years are have an annual budget of less than \$800,000. All tier level applicants must have a proven record of serving the homeless, elderly in need, at-risk youth and other similar populations.

Dates to remember include:

- v November 17 - Training
- v December 19 - Letter of Intent to Apply due
- v January 23 - Grant Proposal due by 4 p.m.

Proposals may be mailed or delivered to:

HELP-New Mexico, Inc.  
5101 Copper NE  
Albuquerque, NM87108  
Attention: Gracie Gonzalez, Grants Manager

For more information visit the HELP-New Mexico Website at [www.helpnm.com](http://www.helpnm.com) and click on the Compassion Capital Fund Initiative.

## Youth Issues



### JUVENILE CORNER

The Juvenile Probation and Parole Office has orchestrated a Food Drive for Echo Food Bank after reading in the Farmington Daily Times that their shelves were low and they were in need of food items for the upcoming holiday season. This event will be held at Wal-Mart East on November 15, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Sheriff's Department and Farmington Police Department have agreed to help us out as well. Our juveniles are currently working on posters for the event and seem very excited to be giving back to our community. This event will be advertised by local radio stations as well as the newspaper. This is a great opportunity for our juveniles not only to give back to their community but see others doing the same. Mark this on your calendars and come out and support us. Lastly, thank you to all who are involved.

### **Juvenile Gang Section**

#### **Bullying Awareness Week** **November 16 - November 22** **The theme is "Stand Up"**

Juvenile Probation and Parole is currently working with Blanco Elementary in promoting Bullying Awareness Week. We have previously presented to the Blanco Elementary Staff, Gang Prevention and Bullying Prevention and will now work with the students to kick off Bullying Awareness Week on November 17th. There will be an assembly at the school that morning. At this time, the principal will present the "Stand Up to Bullying" Poster Contest, and introducing the "Caught you Caring Campaign". Teachers will be passing out "The Myths and Facts of Bullying" to all students, for them to take home, and review with their parents. The student that wins the Poster Contest will be presented an award, along with the honor of having their poster used as the poster on the "Bullying Box", that will be newly implemented at the school, to conquer bullying behavior. The "Bullying Box" will be close to the office, and students will be invited to "anonymously" share with the counselor if they are being bullied, or if they have witnessed bullying behavior. It will be a time where all students can "Stand up to the bullies, instead silently allowing the behavior to go on."

Research shows that Bullying behavior is linked to other delinquent, criminal and gang activities. "Group Bullying" is nothing more than Gang behavior, and it is the first line of awareness and defense against future gang activity.

Bullying is the repeated, constant, oppressive physical and/or psychological behavior towards one person who is seen as less powerful. There is ALWAYS an imbalance of power.

### The vision behind Bullying Awareness Week:

- Bullying Awareness Week is about working at preventing bullying through education and awareness
- Bullying Awareness Week is NOT about what others could or should be doing, but rather what WE can do!
- Bullying is a community issue. Schools are a critically important part of the solution, but bullying should not be defined solely as a "school problem".
- Addressing bullying is best done with a wholistic, community approach.
- Everyone can play a role in addressing bullying in their community.
- Bullying also needs to be understood as a health issue. The impact of bullying on personal health and wellness can last a lifetime. This also financial implications for our society with lessened productivity, lost man hours due to illness or personal days off work.
- Bullying is a serious issue, at it's worst, bullying can kill.

This newsletter is published monthly and tries to include the most recent happenings of the various affiliated of San Juan Safe Communities. Input is sought from the three (3) main committees (Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression), Children, Youth, and Families Division, our own in-house grant staff, and many others. Should you or your organization wish to submit material for this publication, please contact Robert Miller at [robertsjsci@hotmail.com](mailto:robertsjsci@hotmail.com).

It is the goal of this publication to showcase the great work and projects being conducted in San Juan County.

*Sincerely,*

Robert Miller  
San Juan Safe Communities Initiative

### **Be Part of the Team**

SJSCI is looking for volunteers to serve on the organization's evaluation team. This team, under the guidance of Ann Anthony, will study the goals, processes, and impacts of projects, policies and programs offered by SJSCI and its partners. Volunteers also will play key roles in the design and oversight of programs. If you are the leader of a program or project under the SJSCI umbrella, please consider participating on this committee yourself or appointing someone to represent your program/project. Training will be available for those interested in joining this team. For more information contact Ann at 505-327-4461 ext. 625.

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