

PARTS COALITION

Preventing Alcohol Related Trauma
and Substance use

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: JANUARY-MARCH 2025



DID YOU KNOW?

Students involved in bullying, whether as the perpetrator, the victim, or a bully-victim (who both bullies and is bullied), are more likely to use alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana compared to those not involved in bullying.



Sun Street Centers Team at new Soledad Prevention Office

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UNMASKING BULLYING: A SUPERHERO CALL TO ACTION



Photo: Prevention Coordinators, Teresa and Leo, handling one of the activity tables

(February 2025) The annual bullying prevention campaign, Pink Shirt Day, embraced a superhero theme at Northridge Mall, highlighting the importance of unity. The event attracted a wonderful crowd, with children, youth, and families engaging in various activities such as book readings, an art exhibit, performances, a march, and much more.

The Sun Street Centers' Prevention Department, including the STEPS Youth Leaders, played an active role in the celebration by assisting with various tasks throughout the event. It was heartwarming to see some of our PARTS Coalition members joining us in this celebration of kindness.

The highlight of the day was the inspiring march around the mall with participants holding banners with uplifting messages, chanting slogans that reinforced the day's mission. Shoppers paused to watch, some joining in, moved by the collective spirit of the event. Pink Shirt Day at Northridge Mall was not just a celebration; it was a call to action, inspiring everyone to carry the message of kindness beyond the event and into their daily lives.



UNDERSTANDING THE REALITY AND RISKS OF D.U.I.

(January 2025) On average, someone loses their life every 39 minutes due to a drunk-driving accident, resulting in over 13,000 fatalities each year. As the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign wraps up in early January, we are placing emphasis on Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Education. Members of the PARTS Coalition and their guests had the chance to hear from guest speakers from the DUI Education Program regarding the trends observed among those enrolled.



According to the DUI Education Program, there were 1,643 enrollments for the 2023-2024 period, which is a decrease of 11 enrollments compared to the previous year. It's important to note that this enrollment number does not correspond to the number of DUIs issued. **“Ten years ago, it was uncommon to see anyone under the age of 21 enrolling in the program. Now, we are noticing an increase in that demographic,”** states Cesar Betancourt, DUI Program Manager.

Based on Place of Last Drink survey results, 87% of clients reported that no one tried to stop them from driving under the influence. Let's keep in mind that DUIs are preventable!

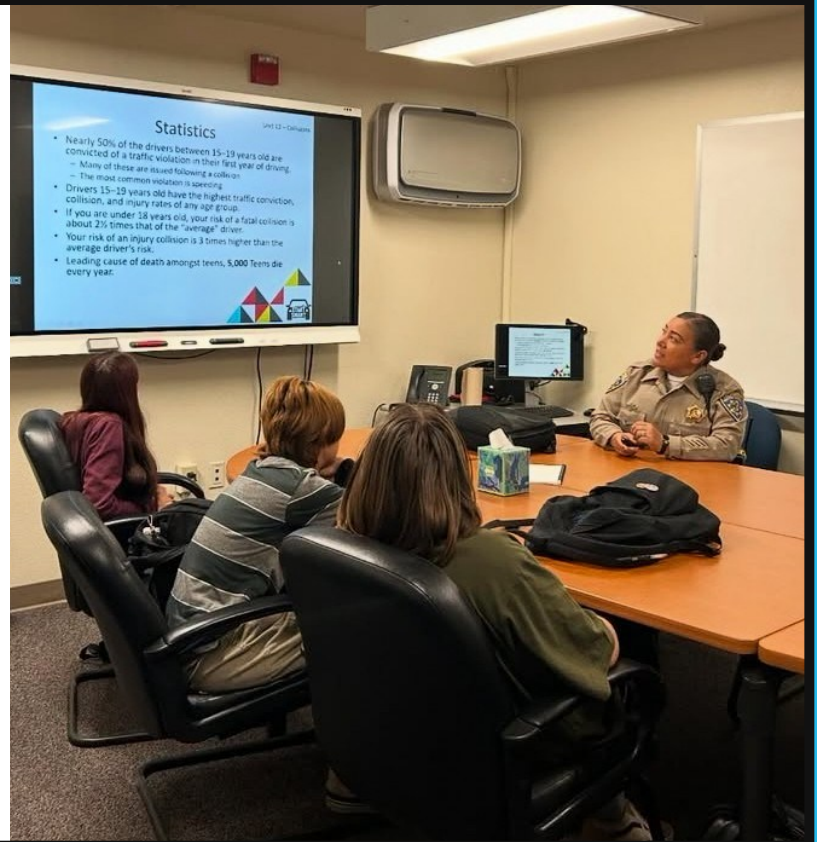
If you intend to drink, make sure to arrange for a designated driver to get you home safely. A big thank you to our PARTS members who provided valuable insights from their respective roles within their agencies.



BUILDING A CULTURE OF SAFE DRIVING WITH C.H.P.

(February, 2024) In February and March, the California Highway Patrol collaborated with Sun Street Centers to promote safe driving practices among STEPS Youth Leaders. Officer Jessica Madueño, an officer part of El Protector Community Outreach Program, attended several of our STEPS Program meetings in South Monterey County. Her goal was to educate STEPS Program participants about safe driving and foster positive traffic safety behaviors. This information is crucial for everyone, particularly for teens who are learning to drive.

A heartfelt thank you to Officer Madueño for taking the time to speak with our Youth Leaders. By reaching out to young people, they are laying the foundation for a future where roads are safer for everyone. We look forward to continuing this collaboration and expanding our initiatives to further instill safe driving habits in our community.



DEVELOPING CONNECTIONS: STEPS COUNTY-WIDE MEETING



(March 2025) The county-wide STEPS Program quarterly meeting was held in Soledad, CA. Youth Leaders from Salinas, Monterey Peninsula, and South Monterey County gathered for a day filled with enjoyable activities.

- The day began at our new Soledad Prevention office, where students engaged in an ice-breaker activity and introduced themselves to one another.
- This was followed by a meditation session, helping students learn various calming techniques.
- To wrap up the day, STEPS Youth Leaders took part in a neighborhood clean-up, focusing on picking up not only trash but also tobacco litter.

These quarterly meetings provide students with an opportunity to network and strengthen their bonds with one another. This also served as a platform for sharing ideas and developing leadership skills that benefit both the participants and their communities.

As the meeting concluded, there was a collective sense of enthusiasm and motivation among the Youth Leaders, eager to apply what they had learned and continue making positive changes. Looking ahead, the STEPS Program plans to incorporate more interactive workshops and community service projects to further enrich the experience of its participants.



VOLUNTEERING: MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE DAY AT A TIME



Martha and parent volunteers at Narcan Drive Thru event in Soledad, CA

In this quarter, we highlight Martha Zarate, a valued member of the PARTS Coalition representing the Parent Sector. Martha joined PARTS in 2015 but stepped back due to personal commitments. Three years ago, she reconnected with Maria Camacho, reigniting her passion and leading her to volunteer and support parent education services with Danelle Hernandez. Martha sees a critical need for information on substance use risk factors and available resources in South Monterey County, noting she has witnessed coalition members express genuine concern for the community, share their suggestions, and demonstrate that their efforts are driven by a commitment to help others rather than personal gain.

“Eh visto el apoyo que todas las organizaciones que trabajan juntos para este servicio – todo lo que han traído a la comunidad y todo lo que han mejorado y lo que siguen mejorando para los jóvenes, para los adultos, y para los niños.” I've seen the support from all the organizations working together for this service—everything they've brought to the community, everything they've improved, and everything they continue to improve for young people, adults, and children.

She believes that the knowledge she gains from the coalition not only benefits her but also extends to those around her, as she shares valuable information with her community. Martha encourages others to get involved and emphasizes that being informed is a powerful asset.

“Con una voz que compartas, marca la diferencia. Y tan solo que pudiste haber ayudado a esas docenas de personas que fueron a recibir Narcan es donde puedes ver la diferencia que has marcado en esas personas.” With a voice you share, you make a difference. And just by being able to help those dozens of people who came to receive Narcan, you can see the difference you've made in those people.

An initiative that Martha participated in, which made her feel she truly impacted her community, was her volunteer work at the South Monterey County Narcan Drive-Thru Distribution event. This event was organized by Sun Street Centers and other agencies in the south county. She recruited additional parent volunteers to help disseminate information during the event and promoted the flyer across her social media platforms and within her community.

“Tengo familia. Tengo mis hijos. Tengo mi esposo. Tengo mi comunidad. Me tengo a yo misma. Cuando tu ayudas a tu comunidad y tu comunidad recibe un beneficio, eso es el mayor pago que tienes cuando lo haces de el corazón. Entonces que me motiva, mi comunidad.”

I have a family. I have my children. I have my husband. I have my community. I have myself. When you help your community and your community receives something, that's the best reward you get when you do it from the heart. So what motivates me is my community.



PARTS Coalition Community Board

PARTS COALITION

Want to make a difference? Sun Street PARTS Coalition are looking for new members. New members welcome!

*More info:
Call the Prevention Department*

SUN STREET CENTERS PREVENTION SERVICES:

Life-Skills Training

(Parents and Youth)

Gateway Drug Presentation

(Parents and Youth)

Vaping Education Presentations

(6th Grade, Middle School, and High School))

*More info:
call Prevention Department*

STEPS YOUTH PROGRAM

Drug and alcohol prevention program for teens 14-18 years old
(Salinas, Seaside and South County)

*More info:
Call Prevention Department*

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

April 2025

National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

[For more information, click here](#)

SAMHSA National Prevention Week

May 2025

National Prevention Week is a public education platform showcasing the work of communities and organizations across the country that are preventing substance use and misuse — and promoting positive mental health.

[For more information, click here](#)

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

Sun Street Centers
Prevention Department

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Visit us on the web at
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MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!

PARTS Coalition Mission

Our mission is to prevent alcohol-related injuries and fatalities, prevent youth access to alcohol and drugs and the initiated use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Monterey County.