

2025
**Annual
Highlights**



(575)256-0565

110 S. HALAGUENO STREET - SUITE 2
CARLSBAD, NM 88220

Working *together*
to improve the **SAFETY** & **QUALITY**
of **LIFE** in **OUR** *community*





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Meet Our **TEAM**



**Joana
Wells**

Executive Director



**Tiffany
Shirley**

Operations Manager



**Julie
Fuentes**

Program Manager



**Hannah
Ornelas**

Program Manager



**Johannah
Miller**

Youth Intern -
Program Assistant



**June
Rodriguez**

Youth Intern -
Program Assistant

1



**Natalie
Skogerboe**

Evaluator

Meet Our **BOARD**



Matt
Hutchinson
President



SS
Dara, MD
Vice President



Mary
Garwood
Treasurer



Laura
Florez
Board Member

Director's Report



The Carlsbad Community Anti-Drug/Gang Coalition, Inc. was established in 2004 by local citizens, concerned parents, and elected officials regarding the immediate need for a collaborative effort to combat the emerging drug trends and dangers that were killing our youth. Through this identified need, the Carlsbad Community Anti-Drug/Gang Coalition, Inc. was formed and has made tremendous strides in the efforts to increase awareness of the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, as well as provide resources and tools to the community to be equipped to combat identified areas of need through local data collected.

VISION:

To have a community focused on wellness and have resources available for all to access.

GOAL:

The goal this year, is for our community to identify “Sources of Strength” to improve personal wellness, through evidence-based approaches, identifying the eight protective factors that help us navigate life’s ups and downs. Through these protective factors a person will be able to discover their core strengths that support resilience, learn how to integrate these strengths into everyday routines and relationships to handle stress, maintain balance, and support a healthier mindset. In turn, a person is less likely to turn to self-harming means to cope with everyday pressures.

Now that you know our history, see our vision, and understand our current goals, let us highlight all the great work the Carlsbad Coalition and our partners have accomplished this year!

Director's Report Cont.

There were many initiatives the Coalition has worked on in partnership with the community. Here are just a few:

- Evidence-based prevention education provided in schools (Carlsbad and Loving)
- Prevention presentations at the Carlsbad and Loving schools (Elementary, Middle, and High)
- RiverBlitz-help with promotion and serving lunch
- Prom/Graduation-promotion of not serving alcohol to minors
- Brought in Presenter, Laura Stack with "Johnny's Ambassadors" to educate on the dangers of marijuana. This was offered to students, school faculty and the public.
- Occupation Day-Carlsbad High School
- Prescription Drug Take-Back (Fall and Spring)
- Carlsbad Middle Schools-Field Days, Back to School Bash, Parent Nights
- Community Impact Council: Meetings and Tailgate Party for football game. Partnered with Community Organizations to provide Care Kits to families affected by the Government Shutdown with a wonderful collaboration for distribution with United Way of Eddy County.
- Partnered with United Way for food distribution with Roadrunner Food Bank.
- Mayor's Energy Summit
- Red Ribbon Week
- Teens in Action events and challenges
- Teen Court of Eddy County-provide youth mentoring, training, and alternative sentencing
- Source of Strength training to adults and youth through the Opioid Settlement Funds.

Director's Report Cont.

The Coalition would like to thank all of our community partners and financial supporters. The Coalition operates on Federal, State, Local, City, and County grant funding. We also received funding from local organizations, companies, and private donors throughout the year.

Thank you to our 2025 Board of Directors:

Matthew Hutchinson- President
Dr. Srichand Dara-Vice President
Mary Garwood-Treasurer
Jacob Puckett/Derek Clark-Secretary
Jennifer Tupper, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Laura Florez

Thank you to our 2025 Staff:

Joana Wells, Executive Director
Natalie Skogerboe-Evaluator
Tiffany Shirley-Operations Manager
Julie Fuentes-Program Manager
Hannah Ornelas-Program Manager
Johannah Miller-Youth Intern
June Rodriguez-Youth Intern

Youth Interns



This year we added two part-time Youth Interns/Program Assistants to our team. We are incredibly grateful for the dedication, leadership, and heart shown by Johannah and June, who played an integral role in supporting our programming throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

As Youth Interns, Johannah and June assist with a wide range of initiatives, including event support, program preparation, and classroom assistance for both Too Good for Drugs and Sources of Strength. They contribute significantly to Teens in Action planning and events, helped mentor younger Teen Court Youth Attorneys, and support court proceedings with professionalism and care. Their willingness to step in wherever needed and their consistent positive attitude make a meaningful impact across our programs.

Johannah is graduating high school in May of 2026.. June will return as a senior to Carlsbad Early College High School and will graduate in May 2027.

Both interns demonstrate maturity, reliability, and a genuine commitment to serving their peers and community. We are truly blessed to have Johannah and June as part of our team for FY26. Their contributions help strengthen our programs and set a strong foundation for future youth internship opportunities.

We thank them for their hard work, leadership, and the positive example they set, and we wish them continued success in all that lies ahead.



Sources of Strength

About Sources



Sources of Strength is a strengths-based, peer-led prevention program designed to improve mental health outcomes, reduce suicide risk, and increase help-seeking behaviors among youth. The program focuses on building protective factors by strengthening connections between students and trusted adults and promoting healthy coping strategies.

Rather than emphasizing problems or deficits, Sources of Strength leverages positive peer influence to normalize conversations around mental health and encourage students to seek support. The program is centered on eight protective factors represented in the Sources of Strength Wheel: Family Support, Positive Friends, Mentors, Healthy Activities, Generosity, Physical Health, Mental Health, and Spirituality.

This program is funded through a grant from the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) in our schools and a grant from Eddy County through the Opioid Settlement Funds for our community and workforce programming.



Sources of Strength

In Our Schools

TRAINING

Sources of Strength is implemented at Carlsbad High School, Carlsbad Early College High School, P.R. Leyva Intermediate School, and Alta Vista Intermediate School. The school year began with a full day of training for middle school peer and adult leaders, followed by a separate full day of training for high school and early college peer and adult leaders. These trainings provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the Sources of Strength framework and equipped them to plan and implement prevention campaigns throughout the school year. As a result, more than 100 peer leaders are actively participating across the four campuses.



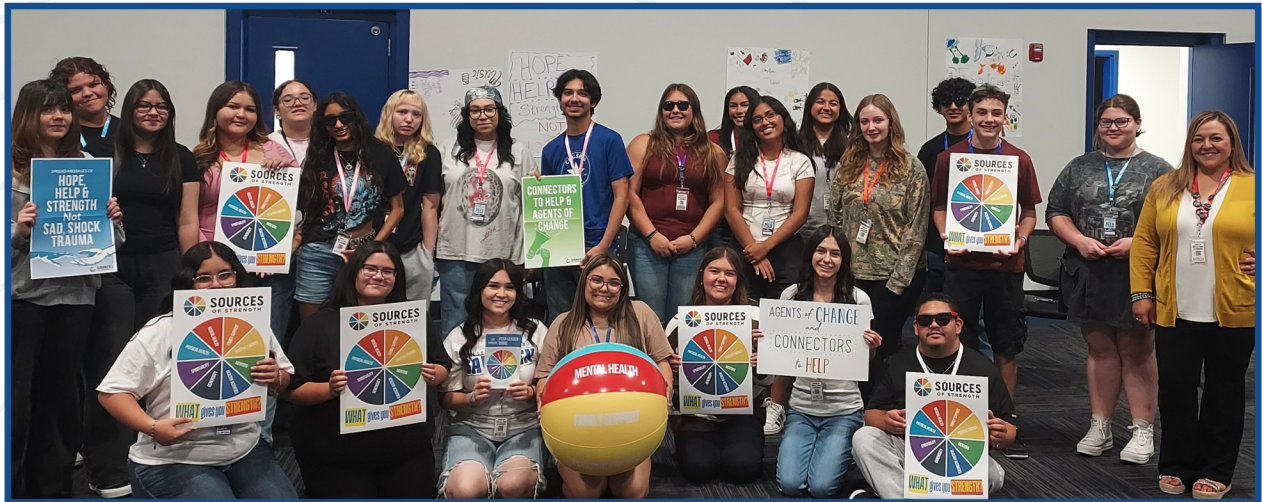
ALTA VISTA



PR LEYVA



HIGH SCHOOL



EARLY COLLEGE



Sources of Strength

In Our Schools

Alta Vista
PR Leyva

Throughout the year, peer leaders and adult advisors meet regularly to collaborate on learning and applying the eight protective factors of the Sources of Strength Wheel. During these meetings, leaders brainstorm ideas and develop school-specific campaigns designed to share positive messaging and resources with the broader student body.



Sources of Strength

In Our Schools

High School Early College

Each campaign is tailored to the unique culture and needs of the individual campus and is delivered through activities, visual messaging, and peer engagement. Through this approach, Sources of Strength helps foster supportive school environments where students feel connected, empowered, and encouraged to reach out for help when needed.



Sources of Strength

Special Thanks to all of our Sources of Strength Volunteers:

CIS ALTA VISTA

Lisa Kostedt
Misty Gonzalez

CIS PR LEYVA

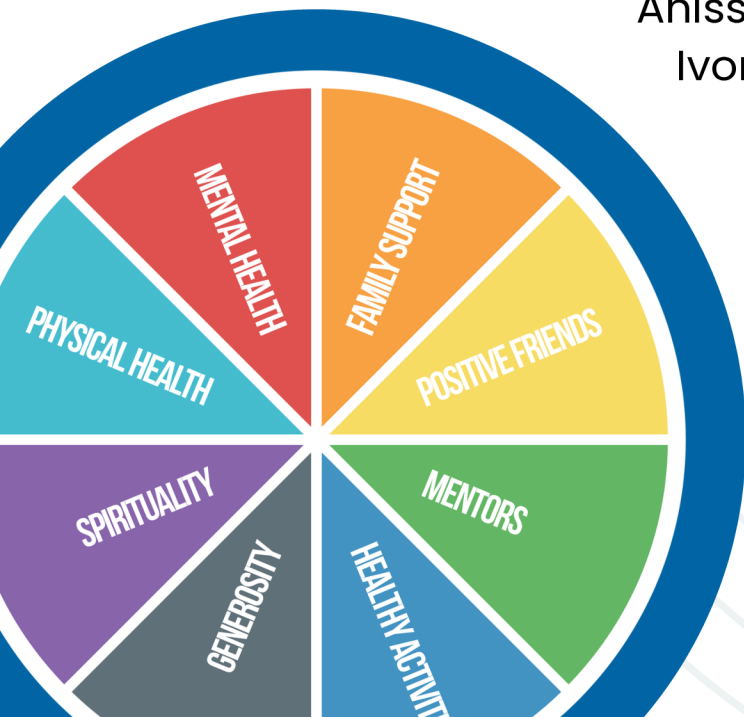
Andrew Sanchez
Jasiah Ruiz
Kelly Jones

HIGH SCHOOL

Charlin Hernandez

EARLY COLLEGE

Gypsy Smith
Anissa Vega-Ritter
Ivonne Rosales



Sources of Strength



In Our Community

Thanks to a grant from Eddy County utilizing Opioid Settlement funds, our Coalition was able to expand Sources of Strength beyond school campuses and into the broader community this year. This expansion allows us to offer workplace and community-based trainings designed to strengthen mental health, build resilience, and promote supportive environments for employees and community members alike.

Sources of Strength is a fun and interactive training that equips participants with practical tools to support their own well-being while also learning how to recognize when others may need encouragement or help. By focusing on connection, protective factors, and positive peer influence, these trainings help create healthier, more supportive workplaces and community groups.

Organizations or groups interested in hosting a Sources of Strength training are encouraged to contact our Operations Manager, Tiffany Shirley, for more information.



DEFINITION OF STRENGTHS

FAMILY SUPPORT	Whether related to us by blood, or by choice, these are the people who support, nurture, and care for us.
POSITIVE FRIENDS	Positive Friends lift us up, make us laugh, are honest with us, and are there for us when we need them.
MENTORS	A Mentor is an experienced person who shares their insight to help guide us and help us draw on our own Strengths to be the best version of ourselves.
HEALTHY ACTIVITIES	When we feel stressed, Healthy Activities - whether they are social, physical, or emotional - help us unwind, lift our mood, and gain clarity.
GENEROSITY	Generosity can look a lot of different ways, from donating money or time, to being intentionally kind to other people. These acts of kindness towards others, big or small, can make an impact on how we feel about ourselves.
SPIRITUALITY	Spirituality is practiced in many ways, but at its core we consider what gives us a sense of purpose and connection in our spirit. Thankfulness is a profound way to practice Spirituality together no matter what our cultural heritage and/or spiritual tradition.
PHYSICAL HEALTH	When we are injured, we don't have to stay in pain. We can get better with access to the medical care we need and deserve. Physical and social/emotional pain are often integrated and it's important to take care of our bodies, hearts, and minds.
MENTAL HEALTH	Mental Health is all about getting the support we need and deserve to help us when we are struggling. Our Mental Health is a very important part of living a healthy life, and oftentimes, getting together with a trusted person, counselor, or doctor can help empower us to overcome internal struggles we might be facing.

SOURCES OF STRENGTH

STAFF WELLNESS TRAINING

Build a Stronger, Healthier Workplace! Our Staff Wellness Training inspired by the Sources of Strength framework offers a high-energy, interactive experience that encourages resilience, connection, and personal well-being among your staff. This approach is rooted in a nationally recognized prevention model that focuses on strengthening protective factors for mental and emotional health.

YOUR TEAM WILL...

- Discover the core strengths that support resilience and wellness
- Learn how to integrate these strengths into everyday routines and relationships to handle stress, maintain balance and support a healthier mindset.
- Value the importance of investing in personal wellness.



This training can be customized to meet your organization's needs and schedule. We offer a 1 hour abbreviated training as well as a 3 hour extended option.



Contact Us
575-256-0565



coalition.shirley@gmail.com





Community Impact Council

Our Community Impact Council continues to serve as a powerful space for collaboration among nonprofit organizations and community-minded partners throughout Carlsbad. Comprised of leaders who share a commitment to strengthening our community, the Council meets on the first Friday of each month for brunch, relationship-building, and organizational updates. Each meeting is hosted by a different member organization, providing an opportunity to learn more about their mission through an in-depth presentation while fostering connection and mutual support.

Following the monthly host presentation, members share brief updates, discuss current initiatives, and raise concerns or challenges where collective insight or collaboration may be helpful. These conversations have led to meaningful partnerships, shared resources, and increased coordination across agencies working toward common goals. The Council has also collaborated on community-wide efforts, including hosting a Cavemen tailgate party in October and collaborating to provide hygiene supplies for families in need during the government shutdown at the end of the year.

We are continually encouraged by the strong relationships formed through the Community Impact Council and the shared passion for making Carlsbad an even better place for future generations. Those interested in learning more or getting involved are encouraged to contact Tiffany Shirley, the Coalition's Executive Operations Manager and Chair of the Community Impact Council.





OSAH

**Office of School
and Adolescent Health**

About OSAH

The Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH) grant supports school-linked health and mental health initiatives that improve the wellbeing of students and adolescents by expanding access to prevention, early intervention, and behavioral health services in schools. Through this funding, the Coalition partners to provide evidence-based training, technical assistance, and programming that promote positive youth development, strengthen mental health supports, and increase awareness of risk factors such as suicide and substance use. OSAH's work emphasizes building capacity in school communities to identify, respond to, and support students experiencing mental health challenges, ultimately enhancing resilience and academic success.

Mental Health First Aid

In collaboration with Carlsbad Municipal Schools, Coalition members participated in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) and Teen Mental Health First Aid (TMHFA) instructor training. Youth Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based, evidence-informed training designed to equip parents, caregivers, educators, school staff, peers, and community members with the knowledge and tools needed to identify, understand, and respond to adolescents ages 12–18 who may be experiencing mental health or substance use challenges. Youth Mental Health First Aid training was offered to all Carlsbad High School staff, strengthening the school's capacity to recognize warning signs and provide appropriate support and referrals for students in need.

Teen Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based program that teaches students in grades 9–12, or ages 14–18, how to identify signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their peers and how to respond safely and effectively. The Coalition looks forward to implementing Teen Mental Health First Aid at Carlsbad High School during the upcoming spring semester.



OSAH

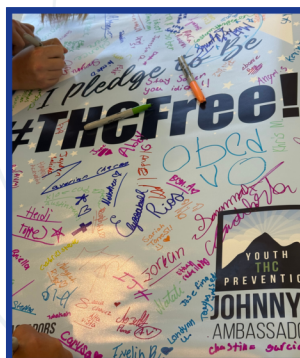
Office of School
and Adolescent Health

Johnny's Ambassadors

In September, the Coalition hosted Johnny's Ambassadors, a national nonprofit dedicated to educating students, families, and community members about the real risks associated with today's high-potency THC products, including marijuana, vapes, edibles, and concentrates. The organization was founded by Laura Stack following the tragic loss of her son Johnny to suicide after experiencing THC-induced psychosis, and it now reaches hundreds of thousands of young people annually through school assemblies, community events, and educational resources.

Johnny's Ambassadors uses evidence-based, data-driven information to teach teens how THC can affect adolescent brain development and increase the risk of addiction, psychosis, mental health challenges, and suicide. Their presentations are grounded in scientific research and supported by compelling real-life examples, helping students understand why there is no safe level of THC use for developing minds and how misconceptions about marijuana safety can have serious consequences.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Principal Jason Hightower for making all arrangements and allowing us to utilize the beautiful new Performing Arts Center at Carlsbad High School for these grade-level assemblies for all 7th through 12th graders in our district.



Johnny's Ambassadors Cont.

In addition, parents and staff were invited to a lunch session that explored the same critical topics in depth. This luncheon presentation was generously sponsored by Chevron, helping ensure our community had the opportunity to learn, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue about youth substance use prevention.

The assemblies and parent/staff session offered age-appropriate education in a non-judgmental format, empowering our community with facts and strategies to support healthy choices among teens. Feedback from students and adults was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting increased awareness of the potential harms of THC and appreciation for clear, practical guidance. We are grateful to Johnny's Ambassadors for partnering with us to bring this important prevention message to Carlsbad.

Thank you to Carlsbad Schools for inviting us to provide this valuable and potentially life-saving learning opportunity for our community.





OSAP

Office of Substance Abuse Prevention

About OSAP

The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) supports the development and enforcement of alcohol and underage drinking laws through initiatives such as the Parents Who Host Lose the Most campaign. OSAP also focuses on education and community awareness related to prescription painkiller misuse, safe cannabis storage, and school-based prevention programming. As part of these efforts, the Coalition has distributed dozens of cabinet locks to cannabis retailers for use by customers and community members.

Since 2023, the Coalition has partnered with local dispensaries to promote safe storage by providing cabinet locks, posters, and receipt stickers encouraging the secure storage of marijuana, alcohol, and prescription medications. As a result of this initiative, an increasing number of dispensaries are now independently offering cabinet locks without Coalition distribution. This represents a meaningful step forward in strengthening community safety and prevention efforts.

Sources of Strength, implemented in partnership with Carlsbad middle and high schools (see pages 6–11), is also supported through this Office of Substance Abuse Prevention grant.

KNOW THE FACTS

DRIVING HIGH IS ILLEGAL & CONSIDERED A DUI

MARIJUANA IS ONLY LEGAL 21+ IF YOU'RE (OR HAVE A PRESCRIPTION)

MARIJUANA HINDERS BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN ADOLESCENTS

LOCK IT UP

FOR FREE CABINET LOCK INFO:

CARLSBAD COALITION

WWW.CARLSBADCOALITION.COM

(575)256-0565



OSAP

Office of Substance Abuse Prevention

OSAP Community Campaigns

Here's a few samples of the community campaigns we created over the past year. These messages, and many more, are distributed through a variety of media sources, such as radio, newspaper, billboards, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, movie theater advertisements, flyers, events and more.

Parents — who Host
Lose the Most

DON'T BE A PARTY TO TEENAGE DRINKING!
It's a 4th Degree Felony!

COALITION
www.carlsbadcoalition.com

Merry Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

LOCK UP PRESCRIPTIONS
Safe & Sound

COALITION

COALITION
www.carlsbadcoalition.com

TALK IT UP **LOCK IT UP**

Talking about substance abuse at home is shown to decrease use in adolescents.

Locking up any substances in your home (legal or not) keeps them out of unwanted hands.

WE GIVE **FREE** Cabinet Locks

MARIJUANA HINDERS BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN ADOLESCENCE

DRIVING HIGH IS ALWAYS ILLEGAL & CONSIDERED A DUI

MARIJUANA IS ONLY LEGAL IF YOU'RE 21+

LOCK IT UP

COALITION

LOCK IT UP.
KEEP THEM SAFE

COALITION

DON'T BE A PARTY TO UNDERAGE DRINKING

SAFE. SOBER. FUN.

Celebrations

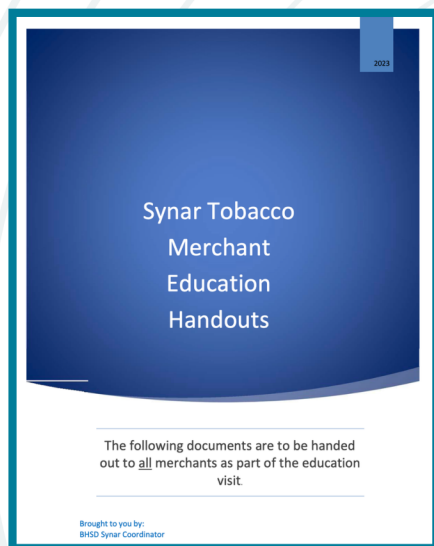
Parents — who Host
Lose the Most

COALITION



What is Synar?

Synar is a program through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) that educates and enforces underage access laws for merchants to reduce the illegal sale of tobacco products to individuals under 21. Julie began Synar trips in Eddy County, Lea County and Chavez County in October 2025. That included any merchants that sold tobacco over the counter in Artesia, Carlsbad, Loving, Lovington, Hobbs, Tatum, Jal, Eunice, Hagerman, Dexter and Roswell. The educational visits included conversations with the store manager, providing them with a folder that included the official tobacco law act, updates for the state policies in 2025, and a laminated store-front sign to inform customers that they scan ID's when purchasing tobacco products. Our team completed 207 visits with tobacco retailers in Eddy, Lea and Chavez counties in 2025.



STOP

Sober Truth
on Preventing
Underage Drinking



About the STOP Program

The Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) program's goal is to expand evidence-based prevention initiatives to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth ages 12-20. The Coalition provided facilitation of Too Good for Drugs, an evidence-based curriculum, at Carlsbad Intermediate Schools, worked with Teens in Action to create positive youth events, collaborated with principles to promote positive messaging, and created and distributed media messaging highlighting the risk of underage drinking.

Too Good for Drugs

Coalition staff and 8th grade health teachers participated in the Too Good for Drugs facilitator training and subsequently facilitated the curriculum with all 8th grade students at Carlsbad Intermediate Schools. The program consists of 10 interactive lessons that promote drug-free living while strengthening skills such as goal setting, financial decision-making, healthy communication, and awareness of the risks associated with substance use. The Too Good for Drugs curriculum proved to be highly engaging and impactful for middle school students, providing a strong foundation for informed and healthy decision-making.

Upon completion of the program, participating students took part in a celebration and received a gift card to SIPS Sodas & Snacks. In addition to classroom instruction, the Coalition promoted positive prevention messaging through the creation and distribution of media materials highlighting the risks of underage drinking.

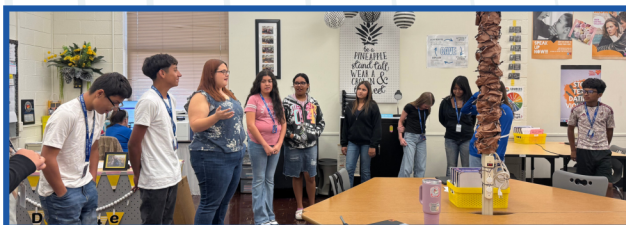
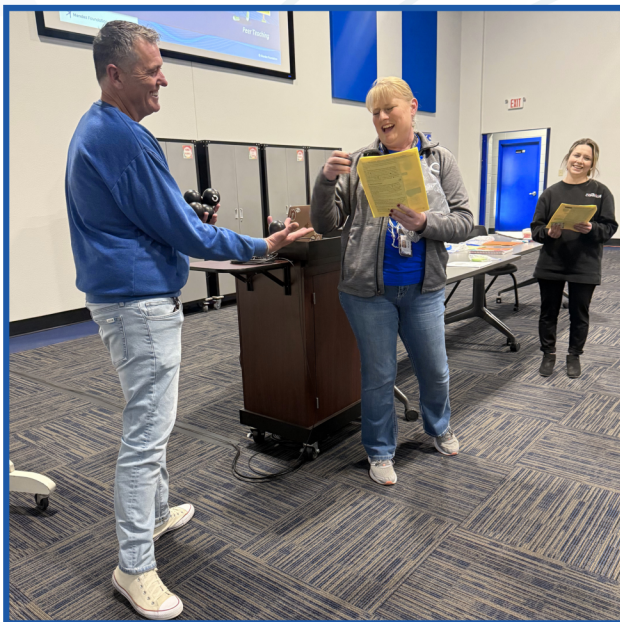
During the Spring 2025 semester, the Coalition facilitated Too Good for Drugs for 8th grade students, with 23 youth successfully completing the program. The Coalition extends its appreciation to Mrs. Diana Duran for her support and partnership in facilitating the program within health classes.

STOP

Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking

In the Fall 2025 semester, the Coalition expanded implementation of the Too Good for Drugs curriculum to Alta Vista and P.R. Leyva Intermediate Schools. A total of 141 students completed the program at Alta Vista, while 123 students completed the program at P.R. Leyva. Students responded positively to the curriculum, particularly enjoying the interactive games and group activities, and provided favorable feedback regarding the knowledge and skills gained.

We extend a special thank you to Mrs. Kayme Duarte and Mr. Jarrod Pitman for their continued support of the Too Good for Drugs program in their classrooms.



STOP

Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking

Other Initiatives

Additionally, during the Spring 2025 semester, Alta Vista and P.R. Leyva hosted Field Day events, during which the Coalition supported prevention efforts by providing positive messaging aimed at reducing substance use. At Alta Vista, students received popsicles and heard an announcement encouraging a SAFE. SOBER. FUN. summer. At P.R. Leyva, Coalition staff facilitated a disc golf activity and distributed candy to students who participated.

In collaboration with Carlsbad Intermediate Schools, the Coalition also provided three gift baskets to each school for use in the True Blue Awards program. This initiative recognizes students who demonstrate a commitment to the True Blue values: Trustworthy, Respectful, Useful, Excellent, Be Yourself, Loyal, United, and Empowered. Award recipients are acknowledged for making positive choices and encouraging their peers to do the same. All recipients are entered into quarterly drawings held throughout the semester.



Teen Court of Eddy County



Teen Court of Eddy County is an innovative first offenders program that offers alternative sentencing for juveniles charged with misdemeanor offenses. Juveniles who complete the Teen Court process often have their citations dismissed, keeping their records clean. To complete the Teen Court program, juveniles attend a court hearing where Youth Attorney Volunteers defend their case against Youth Attorney/Prosecutors. Court is held before a jury of their peers, who are also Teen Court participants. After hearing the case, the jury assigns service learning hours, educational programming and a set number of jury nights to be served, all according the guidelines set forth in the sentencing grid.

This year, our Teen Court program experienced significant growth, particularly in the number of youth attorneys participating. What began with a small group of dedicated youth leaders expanded to an average of 8-12 youth attorneys per court night. Through trainings and courtroom experience, these new participants gained valuable skills in professionalism, public speaking, organization, critical thinking, punctuality, appropriate dress, and courtroom composure. Since February, we have observed remarkable growth in their confidence, and it has been encouraging to witness their development.



Teen Court of Eddy County



In addition to the growth of our youth attorneys, the program accepted 48 new defendants this year through referrals from Carlsbad Municipal Court, Magistrate Court, the Juvenile Probation Office, and Loving Municipal Schools. Each defendant was required to complete service-learning hours by volunteering with local nonprofit organizations, the City of Carlsbad, and Eddy County. Feedback collected through Letters of Lessons Learned reflected positive outcomes, with participants noting meaningful insights gained through service and community involvement.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the partners who make this program possible. This includes our local law enforcement officers, who provide instruction for the Drug Prevention and Defensive Driving course and volunteer their time as bailiffs; our volunteer judges, who faithfully commit their Monday evenings to court proceedings and offer professional guidance to our youth attorneys; our referral partners, including the Juvenile Probation Office, Magistrate Court, Municipal Court, and Loving Municipal Schools; and the Carlsbad Municipal Annex for providing the facility used for jury nights. Teen Court is funded through the generous support of the City of Carlsbad and Eddy County grants. We'd also like to thank Brandy Mendoza from the Eddy County DWI Program for assisting with Teen Court this year.

We are grateful for the continued support of our partners and look forward to an even stronger and more impactful Teen Court program in 2026.

Thank you to our 2025 volunteers:

Bailiffs: Officers Ash, Florez, Shott & Sosa

Judges: Megan Fish & Karima Mourhat

Drug Prevention Instructor: Officer Orlando Moreno

Defensive Driving Instructor: Andrew Carver

Youth Attorneys: Madison Aguilar, Savannah Aguilar, Carley Blair, Noelle Cho, Mia Estrada, Brentley Fine, Jettie Francis, Carli Griffith, Ruby Gunn, Johannah Miller, Ariana Patel, Lismari Rosario, Taylen Rookstool, Zoie Salaz, Mason Shott, Manuel Sigala, Matteo Trevino, Brylee Vanpattan & Lynneigh Wilbanks



TOP

Teen Outreach Program

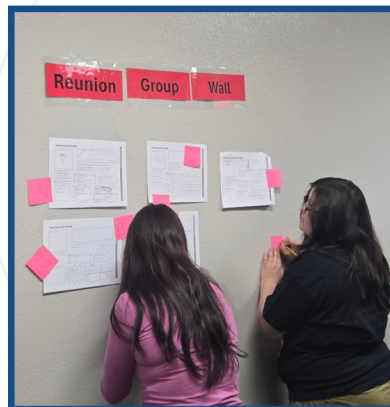


What is TOP?

Teen Outreach Program (TOP) is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program empowering teens with the tools and opportunities to build social emotional skills, strengthen relationships, and avoid risky behaviors. Using interactive lessons facilitated by trained, caring adults, TOP youth become prepared to navigate life's challenges through their teenage years- and beyond- and to make a difference in their communities. TOP is a 9-month program designed for young people in the 6th-12th grade.

About Our TOP Club

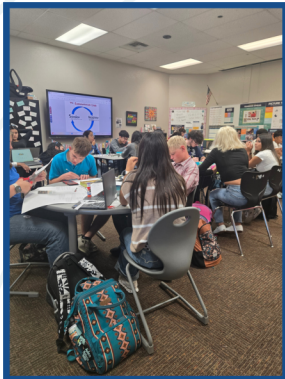
This marks the fourth year TOP Club has been offered at Loving High School. Participants include a cohort of 9th through 12th grade students. TOP Club meets twice weekly in Mrs. Victoria Patton's classroom. One meeting each week is dedicated to instruction using the Wyman TOP Curriculum, while the second meeting focuses on planning and implementing Community Service-Learning (CSL) projects. Each participating student receives a stipend in the form of a \$100 Walmart gift card per semester.



TOP

Teen Outreach Program

During the Spring 2025 semester, 21 students successfully completed the program. Participants engaged in 16 TOP curriculum lessons and collectively completed 11 hours of CSL activities. Community Service-Learning projects included creating encouragement cards for Loving High School athletic teams, Valentine's cards for elementary students, filling 200 eggs for the local community egg hunt, making dog toys for donation to the local animal shelter, and creating teacher appreciation cards and flower pens for Loving High School staff.



In the Fall 2025 semester, TOP Club expanded to 29 participating students. Youth attended 30 TOP Club meetings and completed 13 TOP curriculum lessons. Participants also planned and completed CSL projects, including encouragement cards for the football and volleyball teams, distribution of school spirit stickers during Homecoming Week, and Red Ribbon Week awareness efforts through bracelet distribution and poster creation. One of the largest projects took place in October, when TOP Club members collaborated to create donation items for the Volleyball Team's Dig Pink raffle. Students divided into four teams and assembled themed gift baskets for the event.

At the conclusion of the semester, TOP Club members received a \$100 Walmart gift card and participated in a celebratory event recognizing their accomplishments.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Victoria Patton for her continued support and partnership in hosting and sustaining TOP Club at Loving High School.

Teens in Action



In 2025, our Youth Council committed to embracing new opportunities and expanding the scope of their impact. In previous years, the focus was primarily on youth-centered community events, which consistently drew strong participation, often exceeding 100 students per event. This year, the Council expressed a desire to add greater purpose and service to their efforts by intentionally reaching beyond events and into meaningful community engagement.

As a result, the Youth Council developed new initiatives focused on collaboration with local nonprofit organizations, community outreach efforts, and positive messaging campaigns. The year began with a free community bowling night at the Carlsbad Bowling Alley, open to all students in grades 6–12. This was followed by a wide range of events and outreach activities, including Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag, Farmer’s Market nights on Main Street, a community night at the Water Park, a football game tailgate, Valentine’s cards and Easter baskets for CARC, Fall Favors for LifeHouse and the Boys & Girls Club of Carlsbad, a RiverBlitz trash cleanup, participation in Carlsbad High School Career Day, pickleball events, Friendsgiving, and the creation of a Christmas-themed interactive wall at the Carlsbad Public Library.



Teens in Action

Throughout the year, these activities were designed to foster connection, encourage positive peer influence, and strengthen community relationships through engaging environments and supportive friendships. Youth Council members were consistently encouraged to lead with confidence, creativity, and purpose as they sought to connect with and positively influence their peers.



Teens in Action

We are excited to carry this momentum into 2026 as we continue to develop new ideas and opportunities to fulfill our mission of positively impacting youth. We extend our sincere gratitude to all volunteers and community partners who supported and contributed to the success of our events this year. Your involvement and commitment are truly appreciated.






***Connect
With
Us!***

Our Contact

 (575)256-0565

 carlsbadcoalition.com

 110 S Halagueno St. Ste. 2 Carlsbad, NM