



## Coalition Connection

April, 2009 vol. 2



### Tobacco: Are you affected?

By Elin Honea, Youth Advocate

Have you ever linked smoking to the number one cause of death in America? To emphasize the importance of this preventable factor, the Y.O.U.T.H. Coalition (Youth Opposing the Use of Tobacco for Health) members attended the Penn Valley Park and Recreation Board Meetings on January 21<sup>st</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Buttermakers Cottage to support a policy to ban smoking in Western Gateway Park. Each Y.O.U.T.H. member prepared a brief presentation on an important topic relating to smoking. Examples included positive role modeling for children (how children view smoking when adults model this behavior), the amount of litter created from cigarettes, and how parks all across California are realizing that the effects of smoking are a reality and are passing policies to protect the health and safety of individuals. The Penn Valley Park and Recreation Board did not believe that creating a smoke-free park was “considered a priority” despite evidence presented by the Y.O.U.T.H. coalition and high levels of community support. It is true that eighty percent of 200 residents surveyed in Western Nevada County support a ban on smoking in this park, and that the Y.O.U.T.H. Coalition backed each statement with factual information. Thus, the coalition maintains a positive attitude educating others about tobacco, and the impact it has on people’s lives.

#### Smoke-Free Parks Success UPDATE:

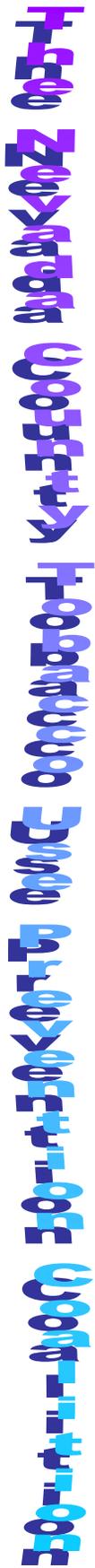
In the last month there has been incredible movement with the groups work around smoke-free parks. Truckee has been leading the way with a **unanimous vote** by the Truckee Donner Park and Recreation District (TDPRD) in February--- to make Truckee Regional Park, River Sports Park and Meadow Park, curb to curb smoke-free. In the previous month’s meeting it was also decided that the new Donner Recreational facility and grounds would be **smoke-free**. With the passing of this policy, Truckee now has an accumulative of over 265 acres of park that are designated smoke-free. Kudos, to all our coalition members that participated in this project, for the past year and half. Our Coalition would also like to especially thank the TDPRD Board for being on the **cutting edge** of social norms movement in changing our environments. Creating communities that are healthier places to live for everyone.

#### Western Gate Way Park Success UPDATE:

The Penn Valley Park and Recreation Board has agreed to post No Smoking Signage, in compliance with the Tot-Lot Law. The Nevada County Tobacco Prevention will partner with Western Gateway Park to purchase the signs for the park to post.

#### Tot-Lot Law (AB 188)

The Tot-Lot Law, established in January 2002, prohibits smoking and disposing of cigarettes in and around children’s playgrounds within a 25 foot radius.



Aikido'Ka has joined our Youth  
Serving Organization Partners (YSO)



The Nevada County Tobacco Use Prevention Program is enhancing prevention efforts for our youth by partnering with local youth-serving organizations. Our partner organizations are adopting and implementing a tobacco prevention curriculum Toward No Tobacco (TNT), that provides instruction and activities on the negative physiological and social consequences of tobacco use. The curriculum emphasizes social influences on tobacco use, peer norms regarding tobacco use, and refusal skills for youth 5 to 17 years of age. We would like to thank Aikido'Ka for becoming our 7<sup>th</sup> YSO partner.

[www.nctobaccofree.com](http://www.nctobaccofree.com)

**Events In May:**

**Y.O.U.T.H Coalition will have booths at the following:**

- **Earth Day at Loma Rica, Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 10-4p.m.**
- **Earth Day at Sierra College Campus, Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 11-5p.m.**



**YOUTH ADVOCATE GOES TO D.C.**

**By Lynn Skrukrud, Youth Advocate**

In February I was able to attend the Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America Conference in Washington DC along with four other members from the Drug Free Coalition. We spent a week learning about the latest research and information in the field of prevention and we are very excited to bring back everything that we have learned to our community!

At the conference we joined 2000 other prevention advocates and professionals and we were able to hear from some of the leading prevention advocates in congress, including Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack, California Representative. We even had a Capitol Hill Day, during which we were able to meet with Senator Dianne Feinstein's counsel and Congressman Tom McClintock to inform them about all of our local prevention efforts.

We had a great time and we are excited to be back and implement all of our ideas!

