

## **Program Description**

### **Neighbors for Neighbors**

Neighbors for Neighbors is a housing rehabilitation program as well as a community-wide volunteer project. Because of the Neighbors for Neighbors program, the City is able to count 10 or more homes per year toward our housing rehabilitation goals which ties into our HUD required Annual Plan and our 5-year Consolidated Plan. This is important since one of the main objectives contained within the Consolidated Plan is to preserve neighborhoods and foster and maintain affordable housing. We also use this program to leverage our HOME and RDA grants and loans. Low income homeowners can save money by getting their houses painted, trash hauled away and yards landscaped for free so that we can use the HOME and RDA grant and loan money for the more serious code violations.

### **Sister City Program**

The funding by the City for the Sister City Program with the City of Wyndam, Australia is specifically designated for exchange student travel. Students from Costa Mesa High School and Estancia High School are selected for the honor of representing the City of Costa Mesa in Wyndam at a variety of educational and civic events and activities. While students engage in multiple fundraising events to generate income to cover various aspects of the trip, the cost of airfare is substantial. The City's contribution of \$10,000 per year to write-down the cost of travel for students makes the difference in participation for many students.

### **Grad Night Contributions**

Annually, the City has contributed \$1,000 each to Estancia High School, Costa Mesa High School and Newport Harbor High School for their graduation night programs. The City began funding the grad night celebrations as a healthy alternative designed to keep students safe as they celebrate graduation from high school. The existing grad night efforts are wholly volunteer and require substantial financial assistance to survive. Financial assistance by the City has also allowed event organizers to keep the event more affordable for students and their families of more limited financial means.

## **Mobile Recreation Program**

Mobile Recreation visits four sites, one day per week, for 3 hours per day. The van sets up in the middle of the street, using barricades to close off access (staff are also positioned near each barricade to provide additional security and fetch any recreational items that “leave the site”). The four sites are Shalimar Street, Joann Street, Valencia Street and Rutgers Street. Each site averages 50-65 kids over the 3-hour period, with Shalimar and Joann Street having the most attendees and Rutgers the lowest average. Site activities include homework help during the school year, an arts & crafts project, board games and puzzles, foosball and caroms, basketball/football/soccer play and tetherball. Each activity has a staff person leading or watching. Three staff are assigned each day. A reading partnership program was scheduled to launch this summer with staff reading stories to kids and kids being able to check out books. Readers from the HB animal shelter were also going to visit sites to read animal stories to the kids and they were going to bring dogs with them.

## **Teen Programs-TeWinkle School/Downtown Recreation Center**

The teen program involves two sites: the Downtown Recreation Center (DRC) and TeWinkle afterschool teen center. The DRC program is held afterschool during the school year from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. with 1 staff person being assigned. Average attendance is 15 kids per day. Activities include organized basketball contests, dodgeball, and indoor soccer and Friday movies. The TeWinkle school program is held in a portable classroom that was specifically outfitted by the school for the kids. This set aside space has two areas – a weight room and an activity center. The activity center has a homework help area with 3 computers, a music and game area, a “pop-a-shot”/ping pong/foosball area, and a small kitchen. Attendance averages 50-75 kids each afternoon. The center is open Monday through Thursday from dismissal (3:45 p.m.) until 5:45 p.m. (late bus) during the school year and 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. during the summer.

## **Youth Sports programs**

There are two youth sports programs offered by the City: flag football and basketball. Flag football is a nine week program held in the Fall. Basketball is a nine week program held in the Winter. Teams are organized through the schools and practice at school sites. There are 240 children that played flag football last Fall and 430 children registered and played basketball this past Winter. All teams are coached by staff and/or staff and a volunteer. Games are officiated by Recreation Division staff. Flag football games are held at The Farm. Basketball games are held at DRC and TeWinkle Middle School gyms. These programs have been offered for free since 1999, prior to that a \$30 fee was charged. I am not certain if there were provisions made for kids who could not afford to pay.

## **Concerts in the Park**

This is a six week program, held on Tuesday nights in July and August at Fairview Park. Attendance averages 1,500-2,000 persons each week. Two local non-profits sell food (pizza and sausages). City staff provides parking and traffic assistance, assist with set-up of show wagon, sound system, dance floor and trash boxes. Mobile Recreation van provides face painting and crafts during the concert for kids. Each concert lasts 1.5 hours (6:15-7:45 p.m.). Staff cleans up the area and re-stocks and close restrooms. Show Wagon is closed up and returned to the yard.