

# 2018 APPENDIX

## Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Antelope Valley Crime Prevention & Community Engagement Strategies



**INTEGRITY • COURAGE • COMPASSION • PROFESSIONALISM • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPECT**



**Prepared by  
Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff's  
Community Relations**

**LASD ANTELOPE VALLEY STATIONS’  
CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES  
2018**

**APPENDIX**

Community Engagement.....	3
Station Events .....	4
Station Events – Youth/Kids Engagement.....	10
Partner Agency Events.....	15
Partner Agency Events – Youth/Kids Engagement .....	17
Partner Agency Events – Veterans/Homeless.....	25
Partner Agency Events – Social and Domestic Violence.....	27
Partner Agency Events – General Events .....	28
Community Meetings.....	37
City/Town Council Meetings .....	38
School Board Meetings .....	39
Chamber of Commerce .....	39
Station and CAC Collaborative Meetings .....	40
Other Community Meetings .....	42
Other Community Partnerships .....	43
Additional Community Partnerships and Programs .....	45
Charitable Giving.....	46
Station Volunteer Opportunities .....	46
Diversion Programs.....	48

# LASD ANTELOPE VALLEY STATIONS' CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES 2018

## Community Engagement

The term “community engagement” encompasses more than just law enforcement officers attending social events. Community engagement is an important piece of the Los Angeles Sheriff Department’s (LASD) overall community policing plan. Through community engagement activities, meetings, and events, station personnel are given the opportunity to build relationships with community and business stakeholders.

Community engagement events provide opportunities for formal and informal dialogue on critical issues facing our communities. Important topics such as homelessness, mental illness, hate crimes, domestic and social violence, public safety concerns and immigration are often discussed.

It is through these non-enforcement contacts that station personnel are able to identify community concerns and work with the entire community to find solutions. We believe true community policing can only exist when both the police and the community are doing their part. We have an on-going commitment to keep improving our community policing and engagement efforts, and the Antelope Valley (AV) communities we serve assist us by being an active co-partner in keeping our communities safe.

All of the events discussed in this appendix meet the following Settlement Agreement (SA) objectives:

- Promote and strengthen partnerships within the community (SA Section VII)
- Engage constructively with the community to ensure collaborative problem-solving and bias-free policing (SA Section VII)
- Increase community confidence in the Sheriff’s Department (SA Section VII)
- Make personnel available for community feedback (SA Paragraph 87)
- Enhance relationships with particular groups within the community, including but not limited to, youth, immigrant, LGBTQ,<sup>1</sup> and communities of color (SA Paragraph 88).

Our continued participation at each of these events helps us to promote and strengthen our partnerships within the community, engage constructively with the community to ensure collaborative problem-solving and bias-free policing, and ultimately, increase confidence in the LASD.

---

<sup>1</sup> LGBTQ is often used to refer to all of the communities of people who identify themselves as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning.

## **Station Events**

The following events were organized by Lancaster and Palmdale Sheriff stations.

### **Coffee with a Cop/Deputy/Captain**

*Strategy:* Our goal is to engage community members over a friendly cup of coffee. The conversation is truly open to everything from sports to politics. These events are held monthly in both Lancaster and Palmdale. They are open to the public and no purchase is necessary to attend. In most instances the coffee and snacks are provided free of charge. Both the Lancaster and Palmdale stations hosted 12 regular monthly events, and three special events with an average of 8 to 14 deputies attending each event.

*Benefits:* These events allow an opportunity for the public to freely engage with deputies in a non-threatening, relaxing, and neutral location. The public can freely ask questions and, in many cases, invite the deputy to sit at a table to talk. These events have been extremely successful in breaking down barriers between the public and law enforcement. The deputies get to relax and meet those we serve outside the regular calls for service.



*Successes:* The community enjoys the opportunity to speak with a deputy one-on-one about any topic they choose. This has benefitted the deputies just as much as the public. These events help to reinforce our community engagement techniques by forming partnerships with the public to address and solve community issues. Between ten to eighty community members were at attendance at each of these events.



*Obstacles:* Finding venues which are able to comfortably accommodate people without affecting other business at the establishment has been difficult.

*Recommendations:* The public has expressed their continued support of this event. We hope to continue to build outreach to our service areas which are outside the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. This program will continue in 2019.

### **Community Academy**

*Strategy:* This is an 8-week course, presented twice a year, which invites the community to learn more about the Sheriff's Department. It is held once at Lancaster Station and once at Palmdale Station. It allows the attendees to gain a better understanding about

law enforcement and be able to experience firsthand how both station's work within our local communities. This course is open to the public and free to attend.

*Benefits:* Community academies allow for community participants, class presenters, and academy facilitators to all learn from one another. As presenters instruct the classes, community members will often share a personal experience of how a past contact with law enforcement has affected them. While not formally tracked, it is this personal interaction during this and other community engagement opportunities that allow our personnel to see things through the lens of different community members while at the same time allowing community members to see a more vulnerable human side of our personnel.

*Successes:* Participants who completed this program have a much better understanding of the realities faced by law enforcement. These community members are able to share their experience within the community and the contacts they make allow them a more personal connection to our stations. Many of the attendees join our station volunteer program or later become full-time employees.

*Obstacles:* The course is time consuming for community members to attend. Since the class is free, not all who attend are committed to completing the entire course. Class attendance over the years has ranged from 25-50.

*Recommendations:* This course has been extremely well-received by those who attend. We are also working on presenting a class in Spanish which will be held the first part of 2019. Additionally, we are working on creating a youth community academy for teens, ages 15 to 18, which we hope to hold in 2020. The community academy will continue in 2019.

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Refresher Classes**

*Strategy:* CERT is a 21-hour Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course designed to empower citizens to take care of themselves, their family, and their neighborhood in the event of an emergency or disaster. In order to ensure skills are maintained, we present these quarterly refresher classes with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). These classes are held on the first Tuesday evening of the quarter and are free to attend.

*Benefits:* These classes allow our personnel to work directly alongside community members in hands-on, practical application scenarios designed to enhance skills and knowledge. This allows the public to work through the problem with first responders, building confidence and developing relationships between all parties.

*Successes:* In 2018, each class was filled to capacity with over 60 people in attendance. Comments from the public have been extremely favorable. Members of the public have reported that because of the training, they feel better prepared and confident. Several attendees have reported using the skills they learned to help others.

Finding a centralized venue to present classes was an issue in 2016. In 2017, the LACoFD was gracious in opening their local training facility at Fire Station 129 for these classes but by the end of the year we had out grown the venue. In 2018, our local Learning for Life Training Academy allowed us to use their classrooms, which granted us the opportunity to expand our meetings and activities. It is our hope to continue to build upon this program in 2019, and continue to seek a larger venue.

In October 2018, the AV CERT Team conducted a training day at Del Valle Fire Training Center in Castaic, California. Over 100 CERT trained community members attended. These scenario-based trainings enable community members to utilize the training they have received in realistic scenarios. Under the watchful eye of both the LASD and LACoFD personnel, the participants are tested in their ability to correctly employ first aid, triage, and other life saving measures.

*Obstacles:* In the coming year, we will be losing several key members of our volunteer program who have been involved in leadership roles with our AV CERT program. It will be a challenge to fill those roles.

*Recommendations:* This training and the CERT curriculum have proven effective throughout the nation. The San Andreas Fault, which stretches from the Sea of Cortez through San Francisco Bay, runs through Palmdale's service area. Should a major earthquake occur, we need our citizenry prepared to take care of themselves until resources become available. This quarterly training will be continued through 2019.

### **Law Enforcement Memorial Torch Relay**

*Strategy:* In honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day and those officers who have been killed in the line of duty, a relay event is held each year which traverses through all 23 LASD Patrol stations, including Catalina Island. Lancaster Station receives the torch from Santa Clarita Valley Station in Agua Dulce. They pass the torch to Palmdale Station at Sierra Highway and Avenue N. Palmdale Station passes the torch to Crescenta Valley Station at Monte Cristo Campground in the Angeles National Forest. The public is invited to run, bike, skateboard, or scooter alongside station personnel.

*Benefits:* This event allows the public to join us in remembering those officers who were killed in the line of duty. It brings to light the very real dangers faced by law enforcement on a daily basis. Working hand in hand with the community through events like this, we try to encourage dialogue which makes the community safer for everyone.

*Successes:* Each year more and more members of the public and their families join us for this event. There is always a group photo taken at the end of each portion of the run.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event will continue in 2019.

### **Love My Ride Car Show**

*Strategy:* Palmdale Station is always looking for innovative ideas to engage our community members. We met with several local car clubs and business owners and came up with the “Love My Ride Car Show”. This was truly a collaborative effort which also involved our local Boys and Girls Clubs, community groups, and auto dealerships.



*Benefits:* The primary goal was to bring everyone together for a day of fun. The secondary goal was to help raise funds for “999 For Kids” children’s charity. This charity raises funds for special needs children in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services.

*Successes:* Almost 4000 people attended this event with over 200 cars on display. Radio D.J. personality, Greg Mac from 94.7 “The Wave” kept the event lively and fun. It provided a great opportunity for the public and car club members to engage with deputies in a fun and inviting environment.

*Obstacles:* Planning for this event started a year in advance. The logistical coordination was extremely time consuming. There was no allocated budget for this event. The event was advertised through Facebook, Twitter, radio interviews on “The Wave”, and by word of mouth.

*Recommendations:* This event was extremely well-received and we expect to hold it again in 2019.

### **Ride-A-Longs**

*Benefits:* This program provides participants the unique opportunity to gain insight into law enforcement by riding in a patrol car alongside a deputy as they work their shift. Many of the program participants come away with a much better understanding of the challenges faced by law enforcement.

*Strategy:* The LASD provides this program to community members and LASD applicants. Participants get to interact one-on-one with a deputy sheriff for eight hours, asking questions and experiencing first-hand exactly what the job entails.

*Successes:* Over 200 community members participated in our ride-a-long programs in 2018. Participants often leave with a new understanding of the law enforcement profession. Many participants become friends with the deputies, seeking to go on additional rides. We have sometimes offered the ride-a-long opportunity to members of

the public who have complained about our procedures. This has proven to be a successful tool in providing the public with a unique first-hand perspective. Additionally, many participants become involved with our volunteer program or other outreach efforts.

*Obstacles:* The only obstacle we have encountered is not being able to schedule rides immediately due to staffing issues.

*Recommendations:* This program has proven to be a successful tool in allowing our deputies to engage with the public one-on-one, while responding to calls for service. Even our most ardent critics have come away with a new perspective and respect for the job we do. This program will continue.

### **Station Open House**

In an effort to increase both community and LASD participation at each of the Lancaster and Palmdale Station events, we decided to alternate open houses every year.

In 2018, Lancaster Station held their open house. They invited many non-profit organizations that serve throughout the Antelope Valley to come and share resource information with the community. The displays included Lancaster's new mobile command post, the BEARCAT armored rescue vehicle, and the Antelope Valley Search and Rescue Team rock climbing wall. Guided station tours were also a coveted attraction. The event was open to the public and free to attend. Attendees were provided complimentary hot dogs, chips, cotton candy, sodas, and water. Local dancers from the City Parks and Recreation Department did a great job entertaining the crowd. They were accompanied by a local DJ who volunteered his time to play old school family-friendly music.



*Strategy:* The idea is to invite the community to visit their local sheriff's station. The public will have the opportunity to see the many tools used by law enforcement. Station tours allow the public to understand how calls for service are received and dispatched, learn about the ancillary support units that make everything work, and include a tour our station jail.

*Benefits:* Open houses allow the stations to open their doors and give the community the chance to see us more than a large concrete building. The public will see an inside glimpse to how their local sheriff's station operates and the opportunity to meet the people who work there.

*Successes:* Our station personnel can interact with the public, which opens dialogue and humanizes the law enforcement profession. The public has an opportunity to view their sheriff's department and gain better insight about policing.

*Obstacles:* These events are an extremely large undertaking, requiring the closing of our jail facility and relocation of station staff in order to continue providing service to the community. Logistical coordination of department units, resources, and outside organizations require months of pre-planning and coordination.

*Recommendations:* The open house concept is a great opportunity for community engagement. Participants learn about the many aspects of their local station and the LASD.



### **Station Tours**

*Strategy:* Each station hosts tours, as requested, by schools, scouting troops, civic groups, and businesses. The tours are generally chaperoned by community relations staff and allow for direct interaction with deputy personnel.

*Benefits:* Staff from each operational area talk about their specific job function. Tours are tailored based upon the age group of the participants. The participants can see the inner-workings of a police station, including desk operations, secretariat, detectives, armory, and jail. In 2018, Lancaster Station facilitated eight tours and Palmdale Station facilitated twenty-four tours.

*Successes:* These tours allow participants one-on-one interaction with the deputy facilitators. They are able to learn about the station, procedures, tactics, and equipment, and can freely ask questions.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* Like the ride-a-long program, station tours allow the public to interact with deputies and station personnel and become familiar to some extent with station operations. They allow the public to see the deputy as just another person. This program will be continued.

## **Station Events – Youth/Kids Engagement**

### **Christmas Gift Giving Campaign**

*Strategy:* To engage with youth and the public by sharing the joy of the holiday season. Each station purchases and collects donated toys for distribution by deputies to those less fortunate.



Toys are distributed to children through various methods: 1) Deputies who have encountered a family in need, 2) Requests from LASD's Special Victims Bureau or Department of Children and Family Services, 3) Pediatric Ward at Antelope Valley Hospital or children hospitalized at Palmdale Regional Medical Center, 4) Requests from active military members who are deployed out of the country, 5) Requests from station and/or community clergy, or 6) Direct observations made while driving through neighborhoods throughout the Antelope Valley.

*Benefits:* Youth and the public get to see a softer, more human side of law enforcement. Through non-law enforcement encounters such as these, deputies are able to build positive relationships with our youth. Youth and kids see law enforcement officers not as a uniform to be afraid of, but someone to go to in the event they are in trouble, or need help. Adult family members are invited to join station website pages, Nixle,<sup>2</sup> and other multimedia resources to get the most updated safety information and information regarding the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* Our outreach and engagement efforts with this program have proven to be a successful opportunity to interact with youth and adults throughout our community. This program will continue in 2019.

### **Coffee with a Deputy Special Edition**

*Strategy:* In October 2018, Lancaster Station hosted a Coffee with a Deputy at Antelope Valley College (AVC), allowing deputies to meet and interact with college students. Numerous topics were discussed as deputies sat with the students in small groups. Search and seizure procedures and what to do if you are stopped were the main topics discussed. Students had questions regarding immigration and services available for homeless teens.

---

<sup>2</sup> Nixle is a notification system and provides an open communication forum that connect public safety, municipalities, schools, businesses and the communities they serve. The Nixle service allows verified government agencies to send messages to local residents via phone, email, and web.

Our partnership with AVC has generated several public and classroom engagements over the past year. Students have indicated they appreciate having the deputies come to the campus for dialogue.



*Benefits:* For many of the students at these events, it is their first time having the opportunity to have a conversation with a law enforcement officer. For others, it is the first time, in a non-enforcement related scenario. Today's youth and young adults are engaged and involved in the world around them. It has been enlightening to hear their thoughts about community policing.

We will continue to build upon this partnership with

AVC. Currently we have two students from AVC on the Lancaster CAC. Being able to reach out to the college for dialogue also helps us with future committee appointments.



### **Donuts with Deputies**

*Strategy:* Employ the concepts of the “Coffee with a Deputy” program into an age appropriate format aimed at encouraging dialogue with younger children and students. This event was a one-time spin off of our monthly “Coffee with a Deputy”, where our deputies were able to sit and meet with elementary school students. The students had recently lost a classmate to cancer and our deputies spoke to them about her passing and their grief.

*Benefits:* Death and loss can be a very confusing and emotionally traumatic event for young children. This event allowed our station personnel, who have also recently experienced the loss of a close friend, the opportunity to empathize in that grief and assist the children in expressing their feelings. Thus, the children saw the deputies not in the role of an enforcer, but rather a person just like them, facing the same struggles, and losses.



*Successes:* The children seemed truly engaged in the conversations with the deputies. We went to where they are most comfortable and provided them opportunities to talk

with us about things that are of concern to them. We use these opportunities to provide safety tips such as stranger danger, situational awareness, and the proper use of 9-1-1.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to hold events like this in the future.

### **Law Enforcement Explorers**

*Strategy:* Engage with our youth to provide mentorship and teach them responsibility, leadership, and ethics. Additionally, this program provides work experience in the criminal justice field, allowing participants to learn new methods and tactics through practical application scenarios.

*Benefits:* The Explorer program is an apprenticeship type program operated in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America's Learning for Life program. The program is geared towards teenagers and young adults, ages 14 to 21. The program focuses on leadership, integrity, accountability, and team work. In 2018, Lancaster and Palmdale Station Explorer Posts have traveled to Chandler, Arizona and Orange County, California to compete in Explorer competitions against other posts from across the country.



*Successes:* Both stations support the Explorer program and view it as an opportunity to guide and train the next generation of law enforcement leaders.

*Obstacles:* To be effective, the Explorer program requires the commitment of deputies as well to guide and train the Explorers as well as to chaperone them during their competitions around the state. Often, staffing and budget concerns are obstacles to this program.

*Recommendations:* It would benefit the program to receive LASD support through funding and assign a dedicated deputy for this program at each station. We will continue to support the program and attend future competitions.

### **North County Law Enforcement Explorer Competition**

*Strategy:* Engage with our youth to provide mentorship and educate them about responsibility, leadership, and ethics. Additionally, this program provides work experience in the criminal justice field and allows participants to learn through the direct application of training to real world situations.

*Benefits:* The Explorer program is an apprenticeship type program operated in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America's Learning for Life program. It is geared toward teenagers and young adults, ages 14 to 21. The program focuses on leadership, integrity, accountability, and team work. This competition connects teams throughout the western United States and tests them on law enforcement tactics.

*Successes:* 2018 was the seventh year of this competition. Thirty four Explorer Posts from 27 different police agencies brought over 450 participants to compete in this two-day event. Teams were tested in 23 scenarios and events. This event continues to grow each year and has become the premiere competition of its type in southern California.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event has made LASD a leader in promoting the Explorer program. Agencies from as far away as Nevada and Arizona participate in the competition. This event has become a model for other competitions throughout the state. Due to changes in personnel and recent restructuring of the Sheriff's Department's youth programs, this event will not occur in 2019, however, we look forward to having another event in 2020.

### **The SHARE Program**



*Strategy:* SHARE is an acronym for Stop Hate and Respect Everyone. This program is a multi-faceted, anti-hate and anti-bullying program. Our deputies engage middle and high school students in dispelling stereotypes associated with race, gender, and sexuality.

*Benefits:* This program is taken to school campuses and community events throughout Los Angeles County, including the Antelope Valley. It was created in conjunction with

the Museum of Tolerance and numerous other human rights agencies as a means of addressing hate incidents and hate crimes in schools.

*Successes:* This program uses one deputy and a mobile movie theatre to “SHARE” a powerful message about tolerance and inclusion. In 2018, this program was presented to over 40 schools and taken to over 70 events throughout Los Angeles County, including eight presentations at Antelope Valley High Schools and 22 presentations at Antelope Valley Junior High Schools. Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation also held a summer lunch program to feed children. The SHARE program was taken to five parks and 11 other community events (Station Open House, Station Car Show, Trunk or Treat and other festivals) throughout the Antelope Valley to educate the children. Through the SHARE program, over 13,000 people were contacted and over 10,000 people received details and participated in Anti-Hate presentations.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This program has made LASD a leader in promoting the message of tolerance and acceptance. This program should be expanded with one dedicated deputy assigned from each field region and our Parks Bureau. Additional movie trailers should be purchased and specially wrapped vehicles should be assigned to expand and appropriately market this program. Funding should be sought through grants and donations to support this program.



### **Trunk or Treat and Car Show**

*Strategy:* This event allows us to promote Halloween safety and engage with the community. For the third year, Palmdale Station worked with the local Boys and Girls Club to present this event, which also acted as their open house.



*Benefits:* The public was invited to decorate their cars and hand out candy, while children were invited to dress in costume and receive candy. This year a live band, food trucks, rock climbing wall, and dunk tank were present along with several Sheriff’s Department

specialty vehicles. The event was open to the public and free to attend. A nominal fee

was requested for car show participants to defray the costs of awards and candy. Awards were made by participants enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club's welding program.

*Successes:* This event was held at the Palmdale Boys and Girls Club, which is located in an ethnically diverse area. Over 3,000 people attended this event. We partnered with local car clubs, churches, businesses, community groups, non-profits, and government agencies. Live music and several opportunity drawings kept the event exciting. Participants had the opportunity to "dunk a deputy" in a dunk tank and learn about the different vehicles law enforcement uses. A great time was had by all. First 5 LA and CarMax helped to sponsor this event. All the car show participants indicated they would return for next year's event. The public comments were very favorable. They enjoyed the festivities and interaction with the deputies.

*Obstacles:* Planning for this event started one year prior. The logistical coordination was extremely time consuming. There was no allocated budget for this event. The event was promoted through Facebook, Twitter, and by word of mouth.



Candy was donated by car show entrants. We were able to secure candy donations from two local area Walmart stores.

Additionally, our deputies personally purchased and donated over \$2,500 worth of candy. This candy was used to replenish the candy supplied by the car show entrants.

*Recommendations:* This event will continue in 2019. We are working with several food truck operators and working on solutions to accommodate more car show entrants. We expect next year's event to be larger and better organized.

### **Partner Agency Events**

Both Lancaster and Palmdale stations work with non-profit organizations, sports organizations, social groups, community working groups, and coalitions. Participation with some may be monthly, with others, it is on-going contact culminating in a single annual event. The value in partnering with these organizations has been immeasurable. Through these contacts, station personnel have been afforded the opportunity to meet many different people from our community. We have been given the opportunity to ask and answer questions, provide and gain feedback on how we can provide better service to populations such as the mentally ill and the homeless. Station personnel have been given information on valuable resources to share with the community. We also had the opportunity to meet many of the people who are in need of assistance or who feel marginalized (homeless, mentally ill, domestic violence victims, sexual assault survivors, immigrants, and other minority community members).

### **The OUTreach Center- LGBTQ**

*Strategy:* Build and enhance relationships with members of the LGBTQ community.

*Benefits:* The OUTreach Center is one of a few entities in the Antelope Valley which provides services specifically for outreach to the LGBTQ community. Our partnership at events sponsored by The OUTreach Center seek to open dialogue and break down barriers between the LGBTQ community, the community at large, and local law enforcement.

*Successes:* The OUTreach Center provides community education and outreach on LGBTQ issues. Through our partnership with the OUTreach Center, LASD personnel have had the opportunity to meet with members of the LGBTQ community on issues which affect community members. Over the past few years, station personnel have attended various events such as game night, the annual holiday party, and AV Pride. The OUTreach Center has had an information booth at the Lancaster Station open house for the past several years. This has afforded the organization the opportunity to educate the public on the various programs and services the center offers.

In 2018, OUTreach board and Lancaster CAC member, Allison Blaylock, attended six Lancaster station shift briefings. The briefings were aimed at addressing concerns voiced through the OUTreach Center from the LGBTQ Community, as well as educating law enforcement personnel on the challenges faced within the LGBTQ community. Our relationship with the OUTreach Center has been instrumental in assisting us to meet the needs of our LGBTQ community.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles in partnering with this organization. The Sheriff's Department was asked to refrain from taking pictures at these events to protect the privacy of the people attending.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to partner with the OUTreach Center. In 2019, we will continue to focus on Sheriff's Department training and will begin a collaborative anti-hate community education campaign. In addition, we would like to begin working with other organizations that provide education resources and supportive services to the LGBTQ community.

### **Neighborhood Watch – Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale**

Numerous Neighborhood Watch events were hosted throughout the Antelope Valley. Both the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale coordinate with community members to establish neighborhood watch groups. In the rural areas, the resident deputies coordinate with community members to present meetings. Deputies met with block captains and neighborhood watch groups throughout the year to discuss crime trends and quality of life issues within their neighborhood.

*Strategy:* To promote and strengthen partnerships in the community and to deter crime. Deputies work with community members to solve problems and areas of concern in their neighborhood. Residents are familiar with their neighborhood better than anyone else. They know who lives there, who doesn't, who creates the nuisance issues, and sometimes who commits crimes. By working with deputies, residents can take back their neighborhoods from gangs and other criminals, thus making the community safer for everyone.

*Benefits:* Our presence at the neighborhood watch meetings allow us to address crime trends, quality of life issues, and neighborhood/community problems. When time permits, we will send the on-duty deputy assigned to patrolling the area of where the meeting is occurring. This allows the deputy to meet residents, listen to neighborhood concerns, and for the attendees to meet the actual deputy patrolling their area.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* The neighborhood watch program has been instrumental in deterring crime. The insight provided by residents to the deputies has been responsible for identifying numerous suspects, ultimately leading to arrests and a reduction of crime. We will continue to schedule field personal to attend.

### **Partner Agency Events – Youth/Kids Engagement**

#### **AYSO Soccer Tournament** (for children with special needs)

*Strategy:* Work with children who often are in high-risk categories for being abused, neglected, and who are often fearful of law enforcement. Additionally, some of these children have behavior issues or sometimes act out violently toward family members or caregivers. For our personnel, learning strategies on how to deal with them in non-crisis mode will help our deputies improve their de-escalation skills and their ability to interact with people experiencing a mental health crisis.



Deputies met with special needs athletes, mainly children with autism or Down's Syndrome. We participated in a daylong soccer festival. Deputies played soccer with children, met with families, and encouraged special needs children to recognize a uniformed deputy and to know how to ask for help.



This event is a family-friendly engagement encompassing families of special needs children. We enjoy reaching out to this segment of the population because they do face unique challenges. Our stations take a lot of pride in helping all children reach their full potential.

*Benefits:* Sports-related events teach youth the importance of staying fit, being a good teammate, sportsmanship, and accountability. Participants become familiar with deputies and our hope is if they are ever in crisis, they would feel comfortable enough from our friendly interactions, to go to a police officer for help. Deputies have reported coming into contact with youth from these events while handling calls for service. Parents have expressed how excited and happy they were to see the deputies, when prior to this contact they had been fearful.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles at this time.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to sponsor this and similar events in the future. During 2019, we planned several informal trainings with local special needs organizations to build upon the formal training (de-escalation) provided to our sworn staff in handling special needs persons in crisis situations.

### **Antelope Valley (AV) Cares Youth Leadership Summit**

*Strategy:* The AV Cares Youth Summit was created to bring local youth (13-19) together to discuss important topics with law enforcement such as bullying, self-image, self-esteem, leadership development, and legal inquiries. 2018 was the first year of this event.

*Benefits:* AV Cares is our local chapter of the National Cares Mentoring Movement. The goal is to help the children of families of color by providing mentoring and guidance.

*Successes:* The youth who attended the event walked away with tools for managing bullying situations both at school and online. They learned leadership skills and developed self-confidence. Participants had the opportunity to meet with deputies and discuss issues affecting them and their community.

*Obstacles:* Although the event was well advertised, we did not meet our goal of having 150 participants in attendance. Approximately forty participants attended.

*Recommendations:* If this event is held next year, we will advertise through local schools using student resources.

### **First Responder Class – Highland High School**

*Strategy:* Highland High School developed a new course of vocational instruction to promote the public safety, fire, and emergency medical services fields. The first responder class is broken into three-month segments in which the students rotate

through each area to learn about the different opportunities as first responders. Eight Deputies appeared in two separate classes for one period to talk to the students.

*Benefits:* Law enforcement are the first to arrive on scene to traffic accidents and medical emergencies. They must also ensure the area is safe for other first responders, like the fire department and ambulance operators. These classes allow us to partner with our local high school and explain about career opportunities in the safety and fire professions.

*Successes:* Our deputies get to work with the student's one-on-one while learning lifesaving first aid techniques. This allows them to develop a new understanding of the law enforcement profession.

*Obstacles:* Staffing due to emergent situations has forced us to reschedule our attendance and involvement.

*Recommendations:* We expect to continue this partnership and our involvement throughout 2019.

### **Law Scholars – Antelope Valley College (AVC)**

*Strategies:* Continue to build on existing relationships with AVC students. Students in the Law Scholars program hosted an event which was a forum for students to discuss issues that affect their success in college. Four Lancaster Station deputies met with students to discuss these issues and to hear from college students on their perceptions of law enforcement. We have built a relationship with AVC this past year and have been reaching out more to the college population in the area, which consists of an incredibly diverse student population.

One of the main concerns discussed was homelessness, as numerous young adults have aged out of the foster care system or were asked to move out of their homes. Our deputies were able to discuss local resources such as Penny Lane's Yellow Submarine and Grace Resources.

Our participation in this forum was a great way to connect with younger adults at the college. We were able to provide needed information to students who have concerns about their daily welfare. It benefits our personnel to become aware of the issues impacting quality of life and safety for all our residents. This event enabled us to better understand what the students are dealing with on a daily basis. The students, likewise, were able to see that the Sheriff's Department does care about them as individuals and gave them an opportunity to ask us questions. Events of this type help to establish positive relationships and build trust with this segment of our community.

### **Exploring My Career Path – Antelope Valley College (AVC)**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and build and enhance relationships with youth and young adults.

*Benefits:* This event is a career fair hosted at AVC. Middle school aged students take a field trip to the college campus and talk to deputies about job-related sworn and civilian options.

*Successes:* Many of the participants have not decided on a career path. Our involvement allows for interaction with a deputy to answer questions and provide career advice. For those interested, we provide information on our law enforcement Explorer Program.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to support this event by providing information on hiring criteria to middle school students, educating them on deterring potential disqualifying factors, and providing advice on an effective career path in the law enforcement profession.

### **Highland High School Career Day**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with youth and young adults.

*Benefits:* Each year, deputies join other law enforcement agencies and first responders to present a career day for all of the students at Highland High School.

*Successes:* Deputies interact with the students by showing them special equipment and vehicles. Additionally, deputies answer general questions about the law and a career in the law enforcement profession. For those interested, we provide information on our law enforcement Explorer Program.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to support this event by providing information on hiring criteria to middle school students, educating them on deterring potential disqualifying factors, and providing advice on an effective career path in the law enforcement profession.

### **Highland High School Law and Government Academy**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with youth and young adults.

*Benefits:* Deputies and other law enforcement agencies introduce high school students to careers in all facets of the criminal justice system.

*Successes:* Deputies, as requested, attend and speak with students about the needed educational and principled requirements of those seeking a future career in the justice system. In addition to career information, deputies also discussed the differing components of the criminal justice system, Fourth Amendment protections, and what to do when pulled over by a police officer. Generally, one to four deputies attend this event.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to partner with Highland High School's Law and Government program whenever requested.

### **Lost Angels Children's Project (LACP)**

*Strategy:* The LACP is a program that uses the goal of restoring old model show cars to allow at-risk youth to have a safe place to spend their time after school.



*Benefits:* Lancaster and Palmdale deputies worked side-by-side in building, disassembling, and restoring engines and cars, and manufacturing car parts. The program keeps kids off the street and allows them to be a part of a team. Participants have a project goal in mind as they learn a usable trade.

*Successes:* This program is a great way for our deputies to connect with at-risk youth in a setting that is all about positive reinforcement. Our deputies benefit as well because they have an opportunity to mentor young adults and help them gain the necessary life skills to succeed. This program is a tried and true approach to keeping youth out of trouble. Nothing

deters at-risk youth more from drugs and gangs, than a dedicated community of adults willing to spend time and mentor them.

*Obstacles:* Finding the community collaborations and projects which foster a mentorship relationship with successful positive community members and at-risk youth.

*Successes:* Lancaster Station deputies met with youth from LACP to design computer desks for the Lancaster Station report writing room. The desks will be added to the Station in early 2019. Our goal is to show the young men and women in this program

that we believe in them and we trust in their abilities. Deputies at the station contributed with their own money to fund the project. We are eager to see what they can do!

*Recommendations:* We will continue to partner with this organization and other organizations with a similar mission.

### **Penny Lane Centers – Youth, Foster Families, Traditional Aged Youth (TAY)**

*Strategy:* This non-profit organization provides services for abused and neglected children, youth, and families. They provide therapeutic residential services, foster family home placements, adoption services, transitional and affordable housing, family preservation, and mental health services.

*Benefits:* The agency hosts several events a year, which allow station personnel the opportunity to meet program participants and their families.

*Successes:* Programs like “The Yellow-Submarine” are geared toward Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) who have aged out of the foster care system and are now homeless. Penny Lane provides a safe space for homeless teens to stay during the day. Showers, laundry services, computers, and televisions are available at the facility. Many of the Antelope Valley’s homeless teens are part of the LGBTQ community and do not have a safe place to sleep at night. By attending events and being familiar with the services, deputies have a safe referral for homeless youth.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to partner with Penny Lane Centers.

### **Special Needs Little League Game**

*Strategy:* Encourage youth to participate in team sports and to see law enforcement in a positive light. Our deputies played a softball game with a local T-Ball team made up of special needs athletes. The children range in age from 5-8 years old. This was a very fun experience for everyone and allowed us to reach out to local children, who may often feel excluded from participation in community events.

*Benefits:* Sports-related events teach youth the importance of staying fit, being a good teammate, sportsmanship, and accountability. Participants become familiar with deputies and our hope is if they are ever in crisis, they would feel comfortable enough, from our friendly interactions, to seek a police officer for help.

*Successes:* Events such as these encourage positive recreational activities. Community members who attend these events are generally very supportive. Youth see deputies and other law enforcement officers as community partners and safe strangers. Additionally, our participation builds a foundation for future partnerships.

*Obstacles:* Often these events take place on a field which is a substantial distance from a deputy's vehicle. This can be difficult for deputies working a patrol assignment to just, "stop by."

*Recommendations:* We will continue to participate in this event and other similar events.

This softball game is just one of the many ways we support children and adults with special needs. Both stations actively support and raise money for Special Olympics and are very attuned to supporting events in our local community, that encourage physical fitness for everyone.

### **Read Across America**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with youth.

*Benefits:* This event is sponsored by the National Education Association and promotes literacy. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading perform better in school.



*Successes:* In celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and to promote literacy in schools, deputies went to numerous elementary schools and read books to classes from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. These events allow our personnel to directly interact with students by sharing the gift of reading. Our deputies are animated readers, motivating the students and allowing them to view law enforcement as people, just like their parents. A total of thirteen deputies from Lancaster and Palmdale stations visited twelve elementary schools to read to the students.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This program has proven effective in breaking down barriers between youth and law enforcement. Education is the foundation of understanding. Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement. Anything we can provide to promote education, community engagement, and to keep our youth from exploring nefarious activities, we will proudly support.

### **Red Ribbon Week**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with youth and young adults.

*Benefits:* Red Ribbon Week is an initiative for the education and prevention of drugs, tobacco and alcohol abuse. During the third week of October each year, elementary

schools, junior high schools, high schools, community groups, and organizations focus their attention on the celebration of a drug-free life.

*Successes:* Deputies went to several schools throughout the Antelope Valley encouraging children to stay away from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. Students are encouraged to take the pledge to stay healthy and drug free. Several show cars, patrol cars and specialty vehicles were brought in for the students to explore. Deputies interact with the children and answer questions.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This program has proven effective in breaking down barriers between youth and law enforcement. The best way to stay away from drugs, tobacco and alcohol, are to never start using them in the first place. Many of our calls involve drugs and alcohol. Any measures we can provide to educate our youth on their dangers, we will proudly support.



### **School Safety Presentations**

*Strategy:* School Safety presentations are another on-going, valuable interaction our deputies participate in throughout the year. School presentations are available to a wide range of children, from as young as 3 years old to 18 years old. Having children become active partners in their safety, lays the foundation for later in life when they become adults and seek to be engaged in community policing efforts.

Younger children are taught to recognize a uniformed deputy, while older children are given safety tips, such as wearing their helmets while riding their bikes and learning how to call 9-1-1. Teen presentations promote anti-bullying, anti-drug campaigns, and online safety on platforms such as SnapChat and Instagram.



Human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and bullying of members of the LGBTQ community have an open forum with new social media apps. This is why it is imperative that we in law enforcement reach out to youth to prevent such crimes from happening. We want to model good behavior, good citizenship, and instill those values in our younger generation so that we can prevent sexual violence and hate crimes from ever happening in the Antelope Valley. We also want to reach out to let victims of such

crimes know that we have resources in the Antelope Valley to assist them, since many victims may be reluctant to report a crime or ask for help.

*Benefits:* Children are our future. Anything we can provide to break down barriers between law enforcement and youth we will do to work for the betterment of our community and society.

*Successes:* At the request of elementary and middle school staff, deputies have participated in over twenty school presentations and assemblies. Deputies have gone into the classroom to create an intimate, friendly encounter with school children. Additionally, they have attended large assemblies, encompassing a majority of the school population. They have provided information on bullying, drugs, and careers in law enforcement. Patrol cars, specialty vehicles, and equipment were displayed, allowing for hands on demonstrations with the students and teachers. Many of the students ask questions and take photos with the deputies.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* Any outreach events involving our youth is given priority over our attendance at other events. We will continue to support these events.

### **Partner Agency Events – Veterans/Homeless**

#### **Veterans Annual Job Fair**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* This event sponsored by the Antelope Valley Veterans Employment Committee (AVVEC) was held at the University of the Antelope Valley and focused on the hiring of veterans. Teaming up with organizations and local businesses, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), University of the Antelope Valley, Antelope Valley College, Rite Aid, and Michael's, Lancaster Station hosted a booth at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Job Fair.

*Successes:* Deputies were on hand throughout the four-hour event to explain in detail the LASD's hiring process, application process, background investigations, as well as benefits and retirement options. Since many of our deputies have prior military service, they know and understand issues faced by our veterans.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This is the third year we have attended this event. Participants were eager to talk to our deputies and learn more about the intricacies of the law enforcement profession. We will continue to support this event.

## Homeless Outreach

In June of 2018, Lancaster station, CAC members, and Lancaster station personnel presented an update on the Settlement Agreement at the homeless shelter and made themselves available for dialogue with the residents. This event allowed us to engage with another segment of the population and gauge their perceptions and feedback of local law enforcement. Both stations intend to work with our homeless population on a regular basis to identify their needs and obtain their feedback regarding any law enforcement related concerns.

In December 2018, Lancaster CAC, Lancaster Station personnel, Agents of Change, and community members partnered to make a delicious menu of tacos, rice, beans, and desserts. Residents of the shelter were invited to participate in karaoke. It was a wonderful night.

*Strategy:* Improve relationships with the homeless community. Assist the homeless community in gaining access to necessary resources (shelter, food, medical, mental health, drug and/or alcohol treatment, and other rehabilitative or social services).

*Benefits:* When all community members are given access to these resources, the entire community benefits. Nuisance complaints are significantly reduced. The spread of diseases and illnesses through communal living in unsanitary conditions is greatly reduced within the homeless community, and community at large.



*Successes:* Over this last year, our deputies, non-sworn personnel, and community advisory committee members had the opportunity to interact with the homeless population in a variety of settings. For example, deputies, department staff, and volunteers served dinner to the

residents at the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter on several occasions; deputies participated in job resource fairs and also assisted in the homeless count. During these encounters deputies were able to interact with numerous residents to hear their stories and discover what issues/decisions/moments in life had led to their homelessness. Local resources were also shared.



Our local homeless population feel they are often overlooked by the community at-large. We have attempted to reach out to the homeless by visiting the shelters to show we support and welcome open dialogue on issues relevant to their needs. We want them to view us in a non-threatening capacity and understand that we will aid them in obtaining the resources they need



*Recommendations:* We will return to the shelter for future events and will continue to support government, non-profit, and community organizations that aid our homeless population.



### **Partner Agency Events – Social and Domestic Violence**

#### **Valley Oasis/SARS**

In April 2018, deputies conducted a sexual assault awareness presentation at Antelope Valley College. This event was focused towards college students and provided instruction on what to do if they were a victim of a sexual assault, as well as providing safety tips for assault prevention. Additionally, participants were provided with a list of victim resources available in the Antelope Valley.

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community with victim's advocate groups while promoting public safety.

*Benefits:* Personal safety and self-defense classes were taught to domestic violence/sexual assault agency advocates and community members. Classes were hosted by Valley Oasis/SARS<sup>3</sup> and held at both the agency and the Lancaster Sheriff's Station.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In order to raise awareness about the impact domestic violence has in our community, Captain Todd P. Weber, Captain Dennis M. Kneer, and some deputies wore red high-heeled shoes and walked one mile. The event was sponsored by Zonta International, an organization that empowers and protects women and girls from human trafficking.

Our participation in events like these illustrate our commitment to reaching out to victims of crimes to offer our support and direction to appropriate resources. We feel that these events can be an effective means of communication to the community that we support women and other survivors of domestic and social violence

---

<sup>3</sup> Valley Oasis is an agency that provides services to domestic violence victims. Sexual Assault Response Services (SARS) works with those who have been victims of sexual or physical violence.



*Successes:* Community events such as those hosted at the college are very important because sexual violence prevention and education aids in the reduction of future crimes by creating public awareness. Public education forums allow the opportunity for community members to ask questions as well as provide valuable feedback to the Department regarding public safety priorities.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to partner with our local area domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy organizations.

### **Partner Agency Events – General Events**

#### **BOOlvd- City of Lancaster**

Lancaster station personnel, including the Captain, set-up a booth and displayed specialty vehicles for the public. Deputies handed out candy to children, took pictures with the public, and answered any questions.

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with youth, low income and minority community members.

*Benefits:* Held the Saturday before Halloween, this carnival is a celebration where community members dress up in costume and go door-to-door “trick or treating” at businesses along Lancaster Boulevard. The event is free to attend, and is a safe alternative to traditional “trick or treating.”

*Successes:* This is a fun family event, which always draws a large crowd. It affords station personnel the opportunity to interact with the public in a fun, friendly manner. Beyond the positive public relations aspect, it provides a great opportunity for the public to provide station personnel with feedback regarding this and other station programs, and/or incidents



*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event has proven to be an effective outreach tool. We will continue to attend this event in the future.



### **Caring for the Community at University of Antelope Valley**

Lancaster Station deputies helped with the distribution of toys donated by the community. Deputies also rolled up their sleeves and served a hot lunch for those in need and helped pass out coats. Santa Claus was also present to take pictures with children and deputies.

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with low-income families and minority communities.



*Benefits:* This is an annual event in which toys, coats, accessories, and non-perishable food is collected and distributed to needy families and children.

*Successes:* Over 2000 toys were distributed to children throughout minority communities, enhancing the relationship between the community and deputies.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This is a family outreach endeavor to build trust with law enforcement. We will continue to support this event in the future.

### **Casino Night**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community. This fundraising event is fun, safe, and open to everyone. By investing in the LASD, community members have expressed ownership in the stations.

*Benefits:* Both Antelope Valley stations have booster organizations which help to provide funding for items not supplied by the County. Through events, such as these, community members have the opportunity to mingle with station personnel in a very informal social setting.

*Successes:* Station personnel are given the opportunity to engage with business owners and community members who help to support the efforts of our booster groups.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* Our boosters have been instrumental in supplying our personnel with much needed equipment such as Tasers, tactical entry vests, mass casualty trauma kits, and other supplies not funded by the County or by other means. We will continue to support their efforts in helping our stations and community.

### **Celebrate America**

*Strategy:* Celebrate America is a City of Lancaster hosted event which celebrates the rich diversity and culture within our city and country. Lancaster Station personnel who attend the event provide security, host an information table, and are available to answer questions from the community.

*Benefits:* Several deputies attended this event and were able to interact with residents. Others participated in several challenges, including a pie eating contest against local members of the LACoFD.

*Successes:* Comments from the public were extremely favorable. Many people commended the deputies for taking the time to speak with them and said it was nice to see deputies laughing and joking around with people.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event allowed the public to interact with our personnel in fun and exciting competitions. It also afforded the community the chance to see our personnel as regular people. We will continue to attend this event in the future.

## **Courageous Kids Climbing**

We were first approached by this organization in 2017, to see if our Search and Rescue team (SAR) would be interested in working with special needs children, by teaching them how to climb a rock wall. Twenty local special needs children and their families volunteered to participate. In addition to our rock-climbing wall, several specialty vehicles were on display and a small off-road course was set-up. Children and their families were given rides on our Kawasaki Mule off road vehicle.

*Strategy:* To partner with organizations which provide services to children with mental and physical challenges.

*Benefits:* Courageous Kids Climbing is a group of rock climbers based in Central Idaho. They have partnered with law enforcement and fire departments to teach children with special needs how to climb. This allows the children to develop coordination between their hands and feet. Additionally, it helps with the development of reasoning and problem-solving skills.

*Successes:* Deputies had one-on-one interaction with the children, learning how to positively interact with the intricacies associated with special needs children. The rock-climbing wall proved empowering for the participants and allowed us to learn how to



better interact with the children. This event was held again in 2018. Many of the same families participated again.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event was an outstanding outreach opportunity. The children learned not to be fearful of law enforcement and we learned how to better communicate and engage with special needs children. We have held two extremely successful events with this organization and have decided to make this an annual event.

## **Deputy Don Self Integrity Golf Tournament**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* Deputy Don Self worked at the Antelope Valley Mall where he would arrest shoplifters. He created a diversionary program for first time offenders stressing the importance of integrity. Deputy Self's life was cut short due to a medical illness, but his legacy lives on. For the past 18 years, this golf tournament has raised scholarship

monies for high school seniors entering college. Four students each year are chosen based upon their commitment to “integrity”.

*Successes:* The legacy of Deputy Self lives on through this golf tournament and scholarship program. Off-duty deputies compete with business owners and members of the public at this annual event.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event is a time-honored tradition which provides scholarships for high school students entering college. The message of Deputy Self has proven to be a guiding force in the lives of scholarship recipients. We will continue to support this event.

### **Elder Abuse and Safety Presentations**

*Strategy:* End domestic and social violence through education, prevention, and provide information to the public on emergencies and social services. In 2018, we held two senior safety presentations, two women’s safety and self-defense classes, and three active shooter presentations.

*Benefits:* Community education and awareness are the best tools for prevention. Educating the community on social and intimate partner violence helps victims to see that they are not alone and provides them, and often their children, the valuable resources they need to escape violent relationships. Community-wide education campaigns help family members, co-workers, and neighbors identify the signs of someone who may be abused. We also encourage early reporting to law enforcement or social services.

*Successes:* Domestic and social violence impact every segment of our community. As the community becomes more educated in the patterns and cycles of abuse, more and more victims are empowered to report it. Over the last 10 years, we have seen an increase in the number of men and members of the LGBTQ community reporting abuse.

*Obstacles:* Crimes against the elderly can be complex to explain and comprehend. No one ever thinks it will happen to them, and when it does, many are too embarrassed to report the incident. Victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault are also often embarrassed and fearful of reporting the incident out of a fear of retaliation by their aggressor or fear they will not be believed. Additionally, many victims have no place to go, and no one to turn to for help. By providing education, resources, and counseling, we can help to break the cycle of violence and empower survivors of abuse to take back control of their lives.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to partner with non-profit and government agencies that provide services to victims of intimate and social violence. We will expand our prevention campaigns to include more of the LGBTQ community as well as

our African American community, which has continued to show an increase in numbers in the areas of domestic violence and human trafficking.

### **High Desert Fallen Heroes Memorial Ride**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* Sponsored by the “High Desert Fallen Heroes Fund” and our local Antelope Valley Harley-Davidson dealership, this multi-agency event supports the families of first responders who lost their lives in the line of duty.



*Successes:* Both stations have supported this event since its inception. Deputies participate in the ride, work at the many rest stops, and are present at the start, finish, and after party. Deputies meet and interact with the public from start to finish. Over the years, many relationships have been formed.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This organization has been an advocate for all first responders in the Antelope Valley. Their support has been unwavering. We will continue to support events sponsored by the High Desert Fallen Heroes.

### **9-11 Memorial**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.



*Benefits:* After the coordinated attacks of 9/11, local community leaders created a memorial to recognize first responders who were killed while serving the residents of the Antelope Valley. The High Desert Fallen Heroes Memorial was built and placed at the main entrance at the Antelope Valley Mall. Each year, all first responders throughout the

Antelope Valley invite the public to join them in remembering those who perished serving our nation.

*Successes:* This event features students and members of the public. After the formal ceremony, first responders are on hand to talk and console the public in attendance.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to support this annual event.

### **Fire Service Day**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* This is Los Angeles County Fire Department's open house in the Antelope Valley. This is an opportunity to for law enforcement to interact with the public.

*Successes:* The Sheriff's Department assists with this event by providing emergency and specialty equipment and vehicles for display. Deputies interact with the public by answering questions, explaining details of the equipment, and participate in taking photos.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event has grown each year, with attendance reaching several thousand people. This is a great outreach event with community support and promotes positive interactions. We will continue to support this event in the future.

### **Justice Sunday National Continuum Event**

Justice Sunday is an annual event observed in cities across the country to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event was founded by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ), a nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals and community leaders whose mission is to promote the value of the inclusion of faith in addressing prevention, consequences, and resolutions of crime.



*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* This is an opportunity to interact with the community and offer open dialogue.

*Successes:* This event involves faith-based community leaders who focus on race relations and procedural justice. Deputy personnel attend local events and stand in unison with participants.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This event is attended by a broad spectrum of our community. It provides an opportunity for Department members to engage with the community in open conversation regarding race relations. We will continue to support this event and events similar to this in the future.



### **Law Day**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* Sponsored by the Antelope Valley Bar Association and High Desert Fallen Heroes, this annual luncheon recognizes the efforts of individuals making a positive impact in criminal justice efforts throughout the Antelope Valley.

*Successes:* Each year, one deputy from each station is recognized at this luncheon for their outstanding efforts and positive impact in crime prevention. Additionally, scholarships are awarded to our Explorers who have made a positive impact in our community.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to partner and support these organizations. We appreciate the support from our local Bar Association and consider it to be a testament to the positive impact we are making in our community.

### **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Victim Impact Panel (VIP)**

*Strategy:* The VIP is an awareness program designed by MADD for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The panels consist of a non-confrontational presentation consisting of crime victims sharing their own personal stories of how impaired drivers changed their lives.

*Benefits:* The VIP follows a restorative justice model by allowing crime victims the opportunity to talk about the crime's impact on them, their families, and the community

as a whole. Offenders are placed face-to-face with real people whose lives were changed by a substance-impaired driver.

*Successes:* Restorative justice programs help both victim and offender by providing both the opportunity for restitution and reconciliation. The program creators hope the participants will assist community members to understand the impact of impaired driving, and that it is a choice. The panels are held once a month at the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center in Palmdale.

*Obstacles:* The VIP lasts two hours. It is held in the evenings from 5PM to 7PM. Our attendance is often interrupted by emergent calls for service.

*Recommendations:* Palmdale station will continue to attend and support this program.

### **National Night Out**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* This annual event is sponsored by Target stores. This event is held on the first Tuesday in August, and is a community-building campaign which promotes police-community partnerships to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement.

*Successes:* Both stations hold large public events in each city. Additionally, smaller events are held in the unincorporated areas within the same week as National Night Out. Each station showcases their equipment and specialized vehicles. Deputies and “McGruff the Crime Dog” are on hand to interact with the public and take pictures.



*Obstacles:* City staff plan these events within city limits. Outlying areas are coordinated by station personnel. The events in the cities are very large, bringing in several thousand people. Outlying area events may bring in as many as 100 people. Each of these events required advanced logistical and staffing coordination.

*Recommendations:* National Night Out has proven to be a successful community outreach tool to promote neighborhood watch, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the community academy, and our many volunteer opportunities. We will continue to support this event in 2019.

## **Relay for Life**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* This annual charity event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. It is a 24-hour walk in which sponsors pledge donations.

*Successes:* Station personnel help at this event both on and off-duty. They show their support for this worthy cause by walking, raising money, and providing security.

*Obstacles:* This is a 24-hour event, making our presence at the entire event difficult.

*Recommendations:* Since everyone knows as least one person who is suffering from cancer, is a cancer survivor, or has died from cancer, we will provide any assistance to help support this cause.



## **Welcome Back to Campus**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships with particular groups.

*Benefits:* Community members and college students met at Antelope Valley College to discuss campus security for new and returning students.

*Successes:* This fair-like event provided our deputies the opportunity to engage with students and their families regarding safety tips and other pertinent information for college students.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

*Recommendations:* This has been a great opportunity to speak with students and their families. We will continue to attend this event in the future.

## **COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

The Antelope Valley stations have continued to actively work with the below listed local community organizations and community-based groups. Through consistent collaboration with these community groups, both stations have established the Sheriff's Department as a valuable resource and community partner. In return, these

organizations have assisted the stations in creating opportunities in developing relationships with the community members they represent.

Through increased participation in civic and community engagement, deputies from Lancaster and Palmdale stations have gained a greater understanding of community needs and are working alongside community members, non-profit organizations, community organizations, and other government agencies to positively impact the quality of life for all Antelope Valley residents.

### **City/Town Council Meetings**

*Strategy:* Continue to partner with the communities we serve to identify problems and work collaboratively to develop solutions.

*Benefits:* Attendance at city and town council meetings allows the public to speak directly to a deputy regarding their concerns. It also allows deputies to listen and understand the concerns of the community. For continuity, the same deputy is usually present at the same meeting each month, with patrol deputies stopping in to hear community concerns.

*Successes:* These meetings allow the public to meet the deputies who are currently patrolling in their area. The deputies have the opportunity to meet the public, address their concerns, and conduct follow-up visits to help resolve their specific issue.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to these meetings.

Below is a list of the monthly town and city council meetings we attend:

- Acton Town Council
- Antelope Acres Town Council
- Aqua Dulce Town Council
- Green Valley Town Council
- Juniper Hills Town Council
- Lake Los Angeles Town Council
- Lancaster City Council Meeting
- Leona Valley Town Council
- Littlerock Town Council
- Palmdale City Council Meeting
- Sun Village Town Council
- Wrightwood Municipal Advisory Council

*Recommendations:* These meetings have proven to be an effective means for the community to address concerns with our personnel. We will continue to attend these meetings. The number of personnel attending these meetings varies.

### **School Board Meetings**

*Strategy:* Allow access for the public to talk to school resource deputies about problems affecting students and the schools. Deputies attended twenty-four school board meetings and six special meetings in 2018, as requested by school board members, based on crime trends or issues affecting local schools.

*Benefits:* These meetings are a forum for participants to voice concerns regarding their communities, school programs, school safety, and their experiences and perceptions of deputy interactions with students. In 2018, our community experienced our first school shooting. Students, parents, school staff, and administrators from all schools immediately became aware of their vulnerability. Many had immediate questions regarding issues of school security and recommendations for improving school security. Since this incident, there have been several collaborative meetings involving school staff, law enforcement, emergency responders, city staff, church groups, and other community groups.

*Successes:* Our presence at these meetings allow us to address public concerns regarding issues arising in our schools. Additionally, deputies attended over twenty community collaboration meetings to debrief the school shooting and to improve communication and coordinated response efforts for future events.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

Below are the school districts serving the Antelope Valley:

- Antelope Valley Unified School District
- Antelope Valley Union High School District
- Eastside Union School District
- Keppel Union School District
- Lancaster School District
- Palmdale School District
- Westside Union School District

*Recommendations:* These meetings have proven to be an effective means for the community to address concerns with our personnel. We will continue to attend as requested by the various school districts.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

*Strategy:* To allow access of Department personnel to the business community to address concerns and collaboratively develop solutions. Deputies attended 36 Chamber of Commerce meetings throughout the Antelope Valley in 2018.

*Benefits:* Deputies learn about crime and social issues facing large and small businesses and their impact.

*Successes:* We have been working to increase business participation in crime prevention programs, develop relationships with the business community, and to work together with local businesses to develop strategies to reduce crime.

*Obstacles:* These meetings are generally held over breakfast or lunch. They usually require a contribution fee to attend, which includes the meal. This can be problematic as there is no funding source for deputies to attend. Morning chamber meetings are often held during shift change, so to enable patrol personnel to attend they are either held over from early morning shift, or have to come in early for day shift.

The stations have attended the following Chamber of Commerce meetings:

- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Lancaster Chamber of Commerce
- Palmdale Chamber of Commerce
- Quartz Hill Chamber of Commerce

*Recommendations:* These meetings have proven to be an effective outreach to the business community. In 2019, it is our intention to attend the African American Chamber of Commerce meetings as well.

### **Station and CAC Collaborative Meetings**

#### **Days of Dialogue - Antelope Valley College (AVC)**

*Strategy:* Build relationships with young adults in the community based on legitimacy and trust. Involve youth in community policing plans and initiatives.

*Benefits:* College age students offer law enforcement a fresh look at existing crime problems. They are more willing to try nontraditional crime prevention methods, and are willing to speak up against institutions or government agencies that they believe infringe upon their rights.

In March 2018, Lancaster Station conducted a Days of Dialogue program at Antelope Valley College that was well attended. About 80 college students, 15 deputies, Lancaster Station's CAC, and representatives from the AV monitoring team attended. Days of Dialogue is a national program founded by the Los Angeles Institute for Nonviolence which fosters discussion on controversial topics and challenging issues related to 21<sup>st</sup> century policing. Examples of the topics of discussion within these small groups were racial profiling/implicit bias, stops/searches/seizures, use of force, and officer safety.



*Successes:* At the end of the event, the students and LASD personnel who were surveyed indicated they benefitted from this dialogue and expressed interest in participating in future events.

*Obstacles:* We have not identified any obstacles related to this event.

Informal follow-up conversations with students were conducted in several classes in May and June of 2018, and students were very engaged with Lancaster Station personnel who attended the public and classroom dialogues. The students expressed their gratitude in having the opportunity to speak with deputies in a non-law enforcement capacity, where they were free to ask questions and raise concerns regarding local law enforcement. Classroom talks and visits continued through December 2018.

In September and October of 2018, Palmdale Station conducted similar classroom dialogues at the AVC campus in Palmdale. Classroom visits to the college will continue in 2019 on both campuses, in an effort to continue to build upon our relationship with local youth, as well as to seek their input on community policing plan strategies.

### **Days of Dialogue – Community Advisory Council (CAC) Town Hall Meetings**

*Strategy:* Promote partnerships in the community and enhance relationships and engage constructively in collaborative problem-solving.

*Benefits:* Days of Dialogue is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to be a catalyst in the community problem-solving process by creating dialogue on sensitive social issues among diverse community groups. By facilitating respectful, purposeful conversation on a broad range of public issues, policies and topics, they foster understanding, and encourage people to improve their quality of life through civic engagement.

*Successes:* Both stations have embraced this program and have incorporated it into the CAC Town Hall meetings. This format has proven to be an effective engagement and collaboration between the public and law enforcement. The CAC Town Hall and Days of Dialogue provided the venue and opportunity to provide the stations with public feedback. Within these forums, community members have the opportunity to discuss issues of community concern, vent frustrations, and share positive and/or negative experiences. When community members feel empowered and respected, tensions within the community toward law enforcement are reduced.

*Obstacles:* Both stations worked with their CACs this year to increase public attendance, which had previously been an obstacle. Both stations recognize keeping the public engaged will be an ongoing challenge.

*Recommendations:* We will continue to support these events and work with our CACs for continued public engagement in the future.

### **Other Community Meetings**

The meetings and organizations listed below engage large segments of the public within the greater Antelope Valley. Their commitment to the betterment of our community is unquestionable. The Antelope Valley stations' affiliation with these groups allows us to work collaboratively toward solving community problems. We are better able to understand the organizations outreach capabilities and how we may be able to utilize their services. These groups also understand our limitations in handling both criminal and non-criminal situations and have partnered with us to fill in the gaps in service.

Each of the below listed groups provide the LASD and community some or all of the following services: education, prevention, training, and resources.

We are working together to develop a local resource guide for our deputies with these organizations, service providers, and others as they become known to us.

Our station personnel attend each of the below meetings:

- **Antelope Valley Homeless Coalition** – meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm.
  - This coalition includes Grace Resource, Catalyst Foundation, Mental Health America, Valley Oasis, the Department of Mental Health, and other service providers. Each of these organizations provide education, emergency food, housing assistance, and other emergency resources for homeless, veterans, mentally ill and/or displaced members of the community.
- **Antelope Valley National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (AV NAACP)** – Meets on the third Monday of every month at 6:00 pm.
  - This meeting helps the Sheriff's Department repair fractured relations with minority communities, specifically the African-American community.
- **Antelope Valley Veterans Alliance and the Antelope Valley Veterans Community Action Coalition** (Veterans, Homeless Veterans, Veterans with Disabilities) – Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am.
  - Both organizations are comprised of representatives from government agencies, law enforcement, and non-profit organizations to address the needs and concerns of the Antelope Valley's Veteran population.
- **Mental Health America** (Mental Health, Homeless, Veterans) – Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am.
  - This organization has proven instrumental in helping to equip law enforcement personnel with tools and de-escalation techniques when encountering community members suffering with mental health issues.

- Antelope Valley Disaster Planning Council – Meets quarterly on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 am.
  - This meeting is made up of all public and private sector entities who can provide emergency or disaster relief within the greater Antelope Valley. Each meeting features four major presentations by entities who will require emergency services or who can provide emergency services.

### **Other Community Partnerships**

We work with each of the organizations mentioned below to promote and offer their services throughout our community. We attend meetings, as requested, by each of these groups and collaborate on numerous projects and events. Like the above organizations, each of these groups have a proven track record of success toward the betterment of our community. Each of these organizations provide services, which support and augment our policing and community engagement efforts. We consider our affiliation with these organizations to be a partnership in furthering or supplementing our cause.

- American Red Cross – This worldwide organization provides disaster and emergency relief services. Both stations meet regularly to discuss ongoing community outreach and engagement efforts regarding emergency and disaster planning. We work together to promote CPR/first aid classes and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) curriculum.
- Antelope Valley Re-Entry Coalition – The Antelope Valley Re-Entry Coalition was formed by the non-profit organization, Paving the Way. The purpose of the coalition is to identify issues and obstacles which can affect the successful integration of previously incarcerated community members back into society. Station personnel initially met with the group on a regular monthly basis; however, after careful reflection, determined it was unnecessary to meet monthly. Station personnel continue to have an ongoing relationship with the organization, and support the coalition's community outreach and job fair efforts.
- Antelope Valley Interfaith Council (Faith Based/Secular) – These meetings and events provide public forums designed to engage the community in an open setting to voice grievances, ask questions and join in fostering a greater understanding of community concerns. We attend as requested.
- Grace Resource Center – A faith-based community emergency housing shelter and food bank. Both Antelope Valley stations support food, clothing, jacket, shoe, and backpack drives to support the growing number of homeless and low-income families in the Antelope Valley.
- Jacob Hefter Foundation – Jacob was 18-years-old when his life was taken when the commuter train he was riding in collided head on with a freight train. It was later determined the conductor had been distracted by text messaging. Both

stations have partnered with this organization to warn teenagers and adults of the dangers of distracted driving. We also collaborated with this organization to present “The Last Text,” which is a program that emphasizes the dangers of distracted driving.

- *Making Appropriate Choices (MAC) Program* – Lancaster station deputies participate in this program, which encourages local youth to “Make Appropriate Choices”. The MAC program was created in response to several tragic events involving the use of illegal drugs and/or alcohol which cost local teens their lives. A committee comprised of business professionals, school administrators, law enforcement, and local youth researched various drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention programs that were being taught nationwide.

The committee selected elements from each program which they felt were the “best practices” and created the “MAC” program. The value in the program’s overlying theme is the premise that students are taught that they have a choice. Information is conveyed in a fun and informative way, and responsible behavior is rewarded through a variety of extracurricular school-sponsored activities in which deputies and California Highway Patrol officers participate.

- *Paving the Way Foundation* – This organization offers educational classes and re-entry programs. They provide life classes, parenting classes, job interview and resume assistance, domestic violence awareness groups, and re-entry focus groups. Our deputies attend classes and group sessions as requested.
- *Penny Lane Centers* – Lancaster station has partnered with this organization to provide safety training to employees, counselors, and other staff who work with troubled youth. Additionally, station personnel have been working with Penny Lane administrators to create life skills classes for foster children who are aging out of the program. Many of our homeless young adults are children who left the foster care system without a support system or the skills to take care of themselves.
- *The Salvation Army* – This worldwide faith-based organization provides numerous outreach services to a broad spectrum of citizens throughout the Antelope Valley. Both Antelope Valley stations have partnered with the Salvation Army to address homelessness, prostitution, human trafficking, emergency preparedness, disaster relief, and mentorship opportunities.
- *Special Olympics* – This worldwide organization empowers special needs athletes. Both stations provide support at events and host annual Tip-A-Cop events to help raise funds and awareness for this worthwhile cause.
- *Valley Oasis* – A community-based organization dedicated to eliminating social and domestic violence and homelessness through community awareness

intervention, prevention, safe shelter, and supportive services. Our personnel work directly with this organization to provide victim support.

- *YouthBuild USA* – Palmdale station has partnered with the Antelope Valley chapter of YouthBuild, which works with young adults between the ages of 17 to 25. This outreach provides guidance to those who are often in conflict with the justice system. Deputies meet bi-monthly with YouthBuild participants to answer questions and discuss current issues. This outreach includes events which promote tolerance and teamwork by coming together and participating in softball and kickball games with the deputies.

### **Additional Community Partnerships and Programs**

There are several partnerships which have been developed with community stakeholders which were specifically created to better serve our area residents.

- *Acton Disaster Resiliency Program* – Originally created by the Department of Health Services, this program provides relief services after an emergency or disaster to the residents of Acton. This program is coordinated with the Acton resident deputy.
- *Illegal Dumping Taskforce* – This task force uses residents to identify and report illegal dumping activities in the unincorporated county areas of the Antelope Valley. This task force is managed by the Sheriff's Department and Department of Public Works. Each of our resident deputies are assigned as the liaison between the community and the taskforce.
- *Water Board meetings* – The unincorporated areas have several small water districts. Local area resident deputies attend these meetings to stay abreast of issues affecting their area residents.
- *Business Watch Meetings* – These meetings are held with numerous community stakeholders and business leaders. Crime trend information is disseminated by the Sheriff's Department and deputies are available to address issues concerning businesses.
- *Neighborhood Watch Meetings* – The Sheriff's Department provides information and training to neighborhoods seeking to create their own group. Both stations provide crime trend information and attend meetings as requested. The cities of Lancaster and Palmdale have several hundred active groups.
- *Block Captain's Forum* – These meetings are held by the cities for Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. Deputies are on-hand to provide crime trend information, address quality of life issues, and provide community resources.

## **Charitable Giving**

Both stations provide charity work on a small scale throughout Antelope Valley. The LASD has approved additional charitable campaigns for larger scale charity work. Both Lancaster and Palmdale stations support the below listed causes:

- March of Dimes – Both stations collected in excess of \$1,000 for this charity.
- 999 For Kids – Both stations collected in excess of \$2,000 for this charity.
- Special Olympics
  - Palmdale station hosted a Tip-A-Cop fundraiser at BJ's Brewery Restaurant, Palmdale. This event raised over \$3,414 in 2018.
  - Lancaster station hosted two Tip-A-Cop fundraisers at Crazy Otto's Restaurant, Lancaster. These events raised over \$5,690 in 2018.
  - Cop on a Roof Top fundraiser at Dunkin' Donuts, Lancaster. This event raised over \$1,200 in 2018.
  - Fun in the Sun Chili Cook-off - Both stations participated in this event, which provided over \$30,000 to our regional area Special Olympics.

## **Station Volunteer Opportunities**

From the inception of the Sheriff's Department in 1850, we have always sought volunteers to help us achieve our mission. From "rounding up a posse" of citizens to help arresting a bad guy, to our modern-day cadre of reserve deputies, the Department continues to embrace volunteers to assist with community outreach and with patrol functions. It would be extremely difficult for each station to function without the help of our volunteers. Each of our volunteers is an extension of the station and the Sheriff's Department.

- Law Enforcement Explorers – This program is an interactive career program available for young adults ages 14 to 21. The Explorer program provides educational and hands-on experience for youth who may be considering entering the law enforcement, criminal justice or military profession.
- Explorer Search and Rescue – This program uses specially trained Explorers to assist on search and rescue operations in the mountain and wilderness areas of the Antelope Valley.
- Teen CERT – This program is operated in conjunction with our local school districts. It teaches emergency and disaster preparation and practical skills. Program participants are used to assist with school emergency drills.
- Station Volunteers – This cadre of volunteers helps with completing, organizing and filing paperwork within each station.

- Station Boosters – This cadre of volunteers assist with fundraising efforts to help support station operations.
- Community Advisory Committee – This volunteer panel leverages insights and expertise of the community to address policing concerns in an effort to promote a greater transparency and public understanding of the LASD.
- Clergy Council – This group is made up of pastors and associate pastors of churches throughout the Antelope Valley. They provide comments and suggestions from their constituency and act as a liaison between the stations and the community.
- Station Chaplain – This cadre of pastors provides ministry to station personnel when requested.
- Volunteers on Patrol – This cadre of volunteers act as an extra set of “eyes and ears” on the streets of our community.
- Mounted Volunteer Posse – This cadre of volunteers act as an extra set of “eyes and ears” from horseback and patrols the rural areas of Palmdale.
- A.V. Court Docent Volunteer – This cadre of volunteers help during the mornings and afternoons at the Antelope Valley courthouse. They help direct the public to the proper courtroom.
- CERT Volunteers – This cadre of volunteers have been trained in the FEMA Community Emergency Response Team program and have agreed to help our community in the event of a disaster or emergency.
- Disaster Communications Specialists – These highly trained volunteers assist the stations with amateur radio communications in the event of an emergency or disaster.
- Uniform Reserve Company – These highly trained volunteers are Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s and can perform all police functions. They support and augment patrol operations.
- Antelope Valley Search and Rescue – These highly trained volunteers are Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s and can perform all police functions. Additionally, they are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and have specialized training in mountaineering and wilderness survival and rescue skills. They augment patrol operations and search for missing, lost and/or injured hikers.
- Civilian Volunteer Specialists (SAR Team) – These highly trained volunteers are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and have specialized training in

mountaineering, wilderness survival, and rescue skills. They support the search and rescue team by searching for missing, lost and/or injured hikers.

## **Diversion Programs**

### **Vital Intervention Directional Alternatives (VIDA)**

VIDA is a 16-week long structured academy. Each week consists of a 2-hour mid-week counseling class and an 8-hour course on Saturdays. Students engage in educational tours, physical fitness, and educational classes. Parents attend parenting skill building classes.



Male or female participants must be between the ages of 11 to 17-1/2 and may be referred to the program through the court, probation, patrol deputies, station detectives, school districts, or a legal guardian.

VIDA is facilitated by deputies equipped with training in juvenile intervention. Each site is a collaborative effort between law enforcement, community-based organizations, and volunteers dedicated to the ongoing success of each family.

Palmdale VIDA is located at Oaktree School (38136 35<sup>th</sup> Street East, Palmdale). VIDA is part of the Department's Community Partnership Bureau. There is currently one Palmdale deputy assigned to the program.

- **2018** - Total Enrolled 60; Graduated 29

Lancaster VIDA is located at 1040 W. Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster. There is currently one Lancaster deputy and one Lancaster reserve deputy assigned to the program.

- **2018** - Enrolled 64; Graduated 20

The VIDA program graduates have had less than a 10% recidivism rate.

### **Youth Activity League (YAL)**

The YAL provide educational tutoring, computer training, cultural field trips, sports activities, and character-building activities for "at-risk" children ages 8 to 17. These children, some for the very first time, enjoy a positive relationship with law enforcement. This afterschool program offers a safe environment for young people during the hours of the day when most juvenile crimes are committed. Activities and programs offered are; basketball, libraries, academic tutoring, boxing, computer labs, cultural trips, arts and crafts, cooking, and foreign languages.

The program has an open-door policy. Most children are referred to the program by local schools. There are currently 56 children enrolled in the program, with approximately 24 to 26 children showing up day to day. The YAL is open Monday through Friday, 12:30 – 6:30 pm, with occasional field trips on the weekends. Children are also provided snacks and a hot meal.



Palmdale YAL is located at Jackie Robinson Park (8773 East Avenue R, Littlerock). Palmdale Station has one deputy assigned to the program. The Sheriff's Youth Foundation also provides a civilian staff member.

### **Teen Court**

“Teen Court” is a general term describing alternative early intervention courts which involve young people in various roles participating in the trial of a juvenile offender. It is a juvenile diversion and prevention program which links students, schools, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, local police, civic organizations, volunteer attorneys, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the Los Angeles Superior Court in a collaborative effort to reduce recidivism and encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions.

Teen Court is based on the philosophy that the students who volunteer to participate as jurors, clerks, and bailiffs, and the juvenile offender benefit from participation. The premise is that a juvenile offender will not continue delinquent behavior after participating in a judicial process in which a jury of their peers determines that he or she violated the law and recommends an appropriate consequence.

Each Teen Court case teaches the juvenile offender and the student volunteers:

- 1) The rules of the law that apply to the particular case;
- 2) The consequences of the offense; and
- 3) How due process is observed by court procedure.

In addition, the participants – both offender and volunteer – learn about justice, power, equality, property rights, and liberty. Justice is demonstrated when the jury exercises its power of decision to either hold the alleged offender responsible for his or her actions or to exonerate him or her of responsibility by finding him or her not guilty. The property rights of members of society are addressed in cases involving vandalism and theft. Liberty is addressed when the desire of the individual offender is weighed against the rights of others. The court provides equal justice according to established rules and procedures.

The Teen Court program offers a convicted juvenile offender the incentive of having no record of a criminal conviction if the sentence imposed is completed within a six-month period. If the juvenile offender fails to comply with the conditions of informal probation for the entire six-month period, the offender is transferred back into the traditional juvenile justice system for adjudication. This informal probation/early intervention program is authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 236 and 654.

Teen Court has two locations in the Antelope Valley:

Highland High School  
39055 25<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Palmdale, Ca. 93551

Antelope Valley High School (Currently not operating)  
44900 Division Street  
Lancaster, Ca. 93535

Juveniles in the program who attend either Highland or Antelope Valley High School will have their cases heard at the opposite location. Cases are held twice a month at each school and generally two to three cases are heard each session.

At the time of this report the Los Angeles County Probation Department did not have the number of 2018 Teen Court participants.

Teen Court participants have an approximately 10% recidivism rate.