



# City of Santa Clarita Community Court

A Diversion Program

## 2008 Yearly Report

Since 2006, the Community Court Diversion Program has provided first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders an alternative to the juvenile justice system. Juvenile offenders who have committed non-violent petty crimes (i.e., shoplifting, speeding, and vandalism), are sentenced by a judge to make restitution through community service, attend diversion classes, and pay financial penalties.

### MAKING AMENDS

One hundred three teens performed 1,100 hours of graffiti removal, removing over 500 tags from Camp Plenty, Whites Canyon, and Sierra Highway washes, and performed community service with various non-profit agencies. Community Service is a major component of the Community Court Diversion Program, and ensures restitution is made in Santa Clarita. The Community Court participants remove graffiti once a month to fulfill their community service hours.



### JUDGES CORNER

Judges, who are local attorneys from the community, performed 40 hours of volunteer work in 2008. The judges worked to ensure that an appropriate sentence was given to each teen, and they used poignant examples to get messages across to teens during court sessions.



### THE VERDICT

2008 proved to be a busy and successful year for the Community Court program!



- 124 Criminal cases
- 100 Traffic cases
- 219 participants completed the program (97%)
- 1,100 community service hours given
- Average age for Criminal cases = 16
- Average age for Traffic cases = 17
- Average speed over the speeding limit = 16mph
- Average court supervision = 40 days



of juveniles issued a citation by the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station are referred to the Community Court Program, instead of Sylmar Juvenile Court.

### YOUTH GROVE IPODS

In 2008, 100 teens were cited for traffic violations, sentenced to attend the Youth Grove, and write an essay on how the Youth Grove impacted their life. The Santa Clarita Youth Grove Memorial is dedicated to youth (24 years and younger) who have died in traffic-related incidents. Teens listen to iPods that contain the stories of each of the 71 Youth Grove kids, along with their pictures, to help the teens reflect upon the unfortunate consequences of reckless driving. Through this graphic reminder, the City hopes youth will be more mindful and responsible when getting behind the wheel.



Two hundred twenty-four teens attended diversion classes, including Reckless Driving, Traffic School, and Teen Choices. Teens learned the horrific consequences of reckless driving, the value of traffic safety and safe driving practices, and how to make positive life choices for their future.