Choices Program

Sparks Centennial Sunrise Rotary Club

Program Summary: Sparks Centennial Rotary Club works with CHOICES Education Group to provide this program to students. CHOICES is an interactive decision-making workshop that empowers teens to achieve academic success in pursuit of their career and life aspirations.

Focus of the program: In two hour-long sessions, business and community volunteers take students through real-world exercises on academic self-discipline, time and money management, and goal setting. The focus is to keep teens "into" school.
CHOICES beliefs that are the core focus of the program:

- Every student deserves the opportunity to reach her or his highest potential.
- Students must not only be offered an education; they must actively participate in it.
- The sooner communities offer support and guidance to students, the better the students will be able to take advantage of the opportunities available to them.
- The business community has a vested interest in the quality of students graduating from our schools, and a responsibility to share in the effort to prepare students for the future.

How the program is best implemented: Rotarians volunteer to participate in providing the CHOICES program to the students. In the first year, our rotary club had 14 involved providing the class for our club. Last year 18 members were involved. This year 23 are scheduled. The program implementation is coordinated through the local schools – so partnerships with local schools and school districts are an integral part of this program.

In two 50-minute sessions, local business and community volunteers take students through real-world exercises on academic self-discipline, time and money management, and goal setting. Teens discover that they can take charge of their lives.

The CHOICES seminar is typically presented at the 8th or 9th grade level, since these students are old enough to envision the future, yet young enough to develop positive skills and habits for success in high school and beyond.

Results of the Program: This is our third year of the program. During our first two years we provided classes to 1200 hundred students at Spanish Springs High School as well as 35 students at the Regional Technical High. We were also successful in getting 400 students at Damonte Ranch though the program last year. This year we are looking at about 625 students at Spanish Springs.

Upon completion of the program we provide a survey sheet to the class teachers as well as to each of the students. Upon completion of the survey's a complete compilation of the results are entered into a excel format and submitted to the Choice organization for review. We have been averaging about 85% approval rating and 100% from all of the teachers.