

## **Career Coach Program**

Sparks, Reno Central and Reno South Rotary Clubs

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**Program Summary:** With the help of all Rotary Clubs in the Reno area, this project blossomed into an enormous annual effort on behalf of at-risk youth in the community. This project is a combined project of the Reno and Sparks Rotary Clubs in conjunction with Washoe County School District and the Education Alliance. This program helps young people explore future career opportunities, and to motivate/inspire them with potential role models.

**Focus of the program:** To help opens students' eyes to wonderful career and life possibilities. It shows sincere concern and interest in the students by Rotary community and educational leaders. Impacts – Rotarians felt great satisfaction in helping young people, exposing them (and ourselves learning from) local resources such as nursing program @ UNR, Air Guard, Police and Fire, Reno Technical Institute, etc. Working with the Washoe Co. Sheriff, the Washoe Co. School District and the Education Consortium of Washoe Co., Reno Rotarians initiated career coaching under the name "The Gang for Good". Goals of the

program include helping at risk students see that there are alternatives to gangs, crime, and hopelessness, helping these students see that education is one of the keys to a successful productive life, and showing them that there are specific career opportunities that tie to their interests.

**How is the program best implemented:** Two 'at risk' middle schools were the initial target population. This has since expanded beyond just that target population. Approximately 50 students per year participate in our Career Coaching Days. Considerations that must be part of the implementation process is getting sufficient Rotarians involved, continued leadership, and coordination with school district/school counselors.

**Results of the program:** Rotarians, who are community leaders in many fields, have coached over 700 (more now) community youth between the ages of 11-13 yrs. According to Bryce Griffith, Director of the Rotary Career Coaching Council, "For most all of these students, this is the first time that anyone outside their immediate family or teachers has ever taken an interest in them and tried to help or guide them in reference to their future."