



987 Airway Court, Ste. 16
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403
 www.free-to-be.net
 email: info@free-to-be.net
 Phone: 707.526.3819

The Free to Be Connection

A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR 2007-2008

By Sue Bisbee, Executive Director

Looking back on a school year is always a gratifying experience. First, it is over, and at least for a month or so we all feel some relief at just getting through the whirlwind of activities that tend to concentrate especially in the Spring months. I am amazed once again by the impact of the positive messages we share with teens on a daily basis. The significant difference we are making in our community is a reflection of the excellence of the Free to Be staff and Peer Educators. I am very proud of each of them for giving their best to lead our teens in making healthy choices.

Many thanks to you, our donors and supporters, for helping make this school year so outstanding!



Program Assistant Nicolette presenting with Peer Educators Hayley and Chloe.

Included in our accomplishments this year were these "firsts":

- ☒ **1st Star Peer Educator award to a male: Mark Henry**
- ☒ **1st implementation of the new 8-session Life Choice curriculum**
- ☒ **1st time Free to Be is featured on a national webcast**
- ☒ **1st training of parent educators in English and Spanish**
- ☒ **1st ever Free to Be Prom workshop, making Prom safe and fun!**
- ☒ **1st video production by Peer Educators, Why Set a Boundary?**
- ☒ **1st time presenting at over 42 sites in one school year**

46 PRESENTATION SITES 342 PRESENTATIONS 3,282 STUDENTS REACHED

Analy High School
 Austin Creek Elementary School
 Biella Elementary School
 Binkley Elementary School
 Brook Haven Middle School
 Burbank Housing Sites
 Cardinal Newman High School
 Casa Grande High School
 Catholic Charities
 D.L. Whited Elementary School
 Doyle Park Elementary School
 El Molino High School
 Elsie Allen High School
 Forestville Academy
 Girl Scouts
 Hanna Boys Center

Healdsburg High School
 Healdsburg Community Church
 Healdsburg Junior High School
 James Monroe Elementary School
 Justin-Siena High School
 Laguna Continuation High School
 Lewis Opportunity School
 Lincoln Elementary School
 Madrone Elementary School
 Maria Carrillo High School
 Mark West Neighborhood Church
 Matanzas Elementary School
 Petaluma High School
 Piner High School
 Santa Rosa Charter School
 Santa Rosa High School

Sequoia Elementary School
 Sierra Youth Center
 Sonoma Valley High School
 Montgomery High School
 Spring Creek Elementary School
 St. Eugene Cathedral School
 St. John's Church
 St. Joseph's Church
 St. Vincent De Paul High School
 Twin Hills Charter School
 Ursuline High School
 Village Elementary School
 Windsor Christian Academy
 Windsor High School

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*"The presentation made me question myself. It made me wonder if sex is worth the life-long consequences that it could entail."
 -9th grade male*

BON VOYAGE MANDY!



Mandy is beginning a new chapter in her life! She is returning to her hometown of Collegeville, Pennsylvania, where she has recently been accepted into graduate school to earn her Masters in Counseling. Her fiancé, Justin, lives on the east coast so she is looking forward to being near him as they plan their wedding.



STAR AWARDS

STAR YOUTH SUPPORTER
MARK HENRY



STAR ADULT SUPPORTER
MARK JORDAN



STAR COMMUNITY SUPPORTER
HEALDSBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



KEYNOTE SPEAKER PAUL SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUE BISBEE, AND EMCEE DANIELLE BRUNS.

"Free to Be has been such a key part of my life for the last 2 years. I have learned very much personally as well as professionally. Personally, I have grown through applying the information and tools that Free to Be teaches to my own life, for my own character development. I leave Free to Be feeling equipped and excited to continue to make an impact in younger generations."



APRIL 17, 2008 STARS RECOGNITION BANQUET



HHS PRINCIPAL JOHN CURRY AND TEACHER SYLVIA TODD, HJR.H TEACHER DONNA THOMAS, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUE BISBEE.



THE TRUE STARS OF THE EVENT WERE FREE TO BE'S PEER EDUCATORS.



Mark at Cesar Chavez Health Fair.

Dear Free to Be,
Thank you so much for speaking to my class about abstinence. I believe that you coming into my class made being abstinent realistic. I knew that it was an option, but I never considered it as an alternative for me. I liked how you made the presentation fun. It wasn't boring and it eased the terrifying consequences of having sex. I was extremely impressed about how open you were about your choices about sex. I thought all of your stories were motivating. I saw all the positive and negative sides about abstinence. I really appreciated that you said that it was hard to be abstinent and that it is worth it. It was refreshing to have the F2B Peer Educators and staff telling us the truth about sex.
-9th grade female



Analisa graduated from Casa Grande High School. This summer she is planning on working and having fun, as well as going to Costa Rica for two weeks with her family. In the fall Analisa will attend the SRJC. Her favorite F2B memory is the time she went to Hollywood with F2B for an abstinence conference.

Hayley graduated from Windsor High School. This summer she will be working full time to save enough money to move to Mexico and attend Discipleship Training School. Hayley's fondest F2B memory is finishing the 10K run (6.2 miles) at the 2008 Human Race.

Kelsey graduated from Analy High School. This summer, she plans on working full time to save money for college. In the fall she will move to Oregon, where she will attend Ecola Bible School. For the past year Kelsey has worked for F2B as a volunteer intern. Her favorite memories include long car rides with staff, and meeting new people.

Bryana graduated from Santa Rosa High School. This summer she plans on working and saving money for the fall when she will attend the SRJC. She will miss high school, but is looking forward to spending much less time in class. Bryana has been with F2B since 2005. Her favorite memory is when she went to the Stars conference in Colorado last summer.

Congratulations Class of 2008 Free to Be PEs !



Nicole graduated from Elsie Allen High School. She has a very busy summer ahead of her. She plans on camping, leading a kid's praise band, volunteering as a counselor, going to her brother's wedding, taking family vacations, and then moving to Fresno in August. Nicole's fondest memory of F2B is going to a PE beach social in 2006.

Ashley graduated from Windsor High School. She plans on working this summer. This fall she will attend The Master's College in California. She will miss her high school teachers, some of whom have been great inspirations for her. Her fondest memories of F2B are all the times she got to speak and hang out with fellow PEs and staff.

Shaun graduated from San Antonio High School. This fall he plans on working at Pac Sun as a manager, as well as attending the SRJC. Shaun's fondest F2B memory is, "sharing about myself with other people, in the hope of changing just one person." Shaun will continue to speak for F2B while attending the JC next year.

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Help Sonoma



County youth!



Make an impact.



Donate today!



"Being abstinent
 is a great thing.

I am free and it

feels great!"

- 9th grade male

2008 SUMMER EVENTS

- Jun. 18th
- Jun. 28th
- Jul. 16th
- Jul. 30th
- August
- Sep. 27th

- PE Social
- YUM Event in Fort Bragg
- F2B @ the SR Downtown Market
- F2B @ the SR Downtown Market
- PE Summer Educational Camp in Santa Cruz
 (date to be determined)
- F2B @ the Southwest Community
 Health and Wellness Fair



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