

## REDDING

### Youth Violence Prevention Council (YVPC) of Shasta County

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“We are a community large enough to have good resources, but small enough to know each other by first name and to make things happen.”

– Charles Menoher, Executive Director, YVPC of Shasta County

**Mission:** To prevent youth violence and promote a safe and healthy community by mobilizing the mayor, police department, county education and district attorney’s offices and the business community in an aggressive campaign to rid the area of youth gangs and gang-related felonies.

**Overview:** YVPC of Shasta County sponsors several programs, including:

- Graffiti Eradication Campaign, a unique, collaborative effort of the North Valley School, a non-profit institution for students with severe emotional problems, and the Anderson and Redding police and sheriffs’ departments. Youth work crews managed by the probation department are deployed to remove graffiti. Restitution by offenders is required.
- Youth Pastor Alliance, a program that links youth pastors with disenfranchised youth for one-on-one interaction and ongoing youth activities.
- Juvenile Youth Peer Court, a program teaching youth courtroom procedure by enacting prosecution and defense roles, with adult attorney coaches. Offenders are mandated to participate in various community service, anger management and victim awareness programs.
- Safe School Audit Teams
- PlusONE Mentors
- Violence Prevention Skills Training

#### **Results:**

- Rapid decline in gang-related felonies in Redding since 1994
- Recidivism reduced by Youth Peer Court from 15% to less than 5%

#### **Key Elements of Success:**

- Creating positive expectations for youth
- Giving youth a sense of belonging
- Giving youth a chance to participate
- Involvement by community, parents, others
- Relentless and ongoing efforts to succeed
- Unique collaborations involving youth, people who serve youth and local businesspeople

**Target Population:** All youth between the ages of 12 and 17

**Evaluations:** OJJCDP Accountability Incentive Block Grants, Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Evaluation

“Whether it is the absence of unsightly graffiti or the significant success in reducing gang and youth violence, I am particularly pleased that I can report to the business leaders seeking to locate in Shasta county the relative safety we are able to offer them.”

*-- Frank Strazzarina, President, CEO, Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce*