

## SAN BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE

### **San Bernardino Communities Against Drugs, Inc. (SBCAD)**

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Jeri Simpson, Director

“SBCAD gives the program to the kids and lets us lead – they put the power in our hands. The program has meant everything to me. It gave me hope. SBCAD has been there for me when everyone else hasn’t. They celebrate the drug-free lifestyle; it opened up my mind. Now that I am on staff I can encourage youth to talk about their problems and give kids some insight on drug-free awareness.

–Ann, 17, participant and youth board member

**Mission:** SBCAD believes that the greatest gift to the future is drug-free youth. Therefore, SBCAD supports activities and organizations working to increase the percentage of drug-free youth and adults.

**Overview:** SBCAD has two major programs. In “Youth to Youth,” youth and adults work together to plan and lead activities and trainings, such as teen dances, leadership trainings and job-training workshops. The “Speakers’ Bureau” program aims to raise awareness about alcohol and drugs through peer interaction by training 70 high-school youth each year to speak at assemblies.

**Results:** Since its formation in 1985, SBCAD has developed 13 different programs touching the lives of more than 330,000 youth and adults.

#### **Key Elements to Success:**

- Youth leadership and peer guidance
- Public speaking and presentation opportunities for youth
- Life skills trainings (e.g., study and social skills, anger management, education on HIV/AIDS, date rape, and addiction)
- A focus on “positive” alternatives to drugs and alcohol
- Holistic trainings and support

**Target Population:** SBCAD works with high school youth from diverse ethnic backgrounds, 90 percent of whom are from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District in San Bernardino.