

March 1, 2010

Press Advisory

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Orosi student wins Step Up Youth Summit T-shirt art contest

Artwork created by Orosi High School junior J. Guadalupe Salazar has been selected out of approximately 300 entries in the 2010 Step Up Youth Summit t-shirt art contest. As the contest winner, Guadalupe will be honored at the Youth Summit with a gift card to the Visalia Mall and have his design featured on the t-shirt worn by 800 attendees at the March 11 event.

“I’m delighted that for the second year an Orosi High School student’s logo design was selected,” said Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chairman Steve Worthley, who represents Orosi. “Guadalupe's entry delivers a powerful message that all students should be able to benefit from.”

Guadalupe’s drawing depicts a young man climbing a ladder. From above, a hand extends down to offer assistance. Below the drawing is the phrase, “Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Sometimes it’s just one step away.” Again this year, David Cargill, graphic artist with the College of the Sequoias, helped translate the winning artist’s original drawing into digital artwork ready for printing on the t-shirts.

“Guadalupe's message perfectly captures the intent of the Step Up Youth Summit,” says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “At the event, students will be given the tools to help them

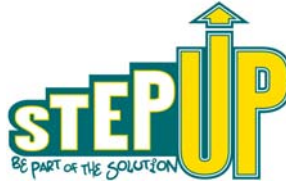


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make positive personal decisions, plus they can connect with dozens of programs that will help them on the path to higher education and toward careers of their own.”

The purpose of the Youth Summit is to connect, educate, equip and inspire Tulare County’s youth to live violence- and drug-free lifestyles, pursue educational achievement and connect to their community in a positive manner. The event is a collaborative project developed by the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force - a coalition made up of the general public, media, local businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, local government and law enforcement agencies.

This year, the Step Up Youth Summit will offer a variety of powerful featured guest presenters, breakout sessions and a resource fair.

Gabe Salazar will serve as the master of ceremonies and keynote speaker. He is a nationally-known youth speaker. His message challenges teenagers and encourages them to make positive choices in their lives. Through the use of powerful skits, dynamic insights and real-life illustrations, Gabe’s message inspires and motivates his audience to action.

Dr. Bill Michaelis and Ezra Holland, co-owners of www.Children-Together.com, will provide one of the breakout sessions attended by all students. Bill is a Professor Emeritus at San Francisco State University. Ezra is a faculty member at San Francisco State University. Together they have presented more than 2,000 fun-filled, thought-provoking workshops, events, and keynotes around the world and

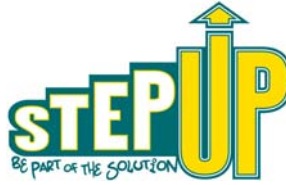
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are experts on play and its applications to creativity, learning, development, self-esteem, leadership and healthy living for all age groups.

Performers from Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles will provide a second breakout session attended by all students. Homeboy Industries is a non-profit organization that assists at-risk and formerly gang-involved youth to become positive and contributing members of society through job placement, training and education. Former rivals work side-by-side, finding true community and friendship in place of the limited community of gang life. Homeboy Industries is now the nation's largest gang intervention program, serving 12,000 clients per year and 8,000 gang members from 700 different gangs.

Students will also attend the Step Up Youth Summit Resource Fair, which is designed to provide them with a diverse mix of career, vocational, and higher education opportunities and resources. Booth displays from all over the Central Valley will be on hand with information on finding a job, career exploration, vocational training services, and local community colleges and four-year institutions. From the health field to agriculture to automotive and hospitality industries, students attending the Step Up Youth Summit will walk away with a variety of options to help build their future.

The 2010 Step Up Youth Summit will be held March 11 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the McDermont Field House in Lindsay. For more information, contact Jed Chernabaeff at (559) 636-5000.

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