

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EYTC?

Our summer was quite enjoyable and provided fun opportunities for our teens. We were able to provide all our programs to include our much-anticipated field trips. Although, our numbers weren't where they were pre-COVID, it was nice to reconnect with the group of teens that joined us. We were able to welcome a few new members and since numbers were lower, we were able to provide more individual attention. Building relationships is the key to long-term connections, so it is always beneficial to both staff and teens.

Thankfully, we were able to bring back our summer field trips. Most of our trips were planned outdoors, since this has been reported to be safer. Field trip favorites were our Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad train ride, our fly fishing trip in El Vado, with Fly Fish NM and our visit to Aspen Ridge Alpacas in Jemez. Our Photography class also did some trips to the mountains to capture the beauty of summer, fall and winter.



Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Train Ride

The new school year began a little closer to "normal". All area schools began in-person, which presented an opportunity to reconnect with old members and welcome new members. Our after-school pick-ups had a slow start, but numbers quickly increased. This school year, we have been able to add a few schools to our afternoon route. With teens attending on a more regular basis, it has made planning of activities and classes easier. COVID precautions remain in place, such as temperature checks, masks worn at all times, including on the van ride after-school. Computers remain distanced and hand sanitizer is available throughout the Center, indoors and outdoors and the van.

Our classes have been well-attended. Photography class is busy taking unique photos and learning new techniques. Our Edible Art class is creating delicious treats, and also learning cake decorating. When the weather permits, our staff is taking a group of teens to the park to play football, or engaging them in a game of basketball on our court. Every afternoon we shut down all electronic devices, and provide the teens an opportunity to go outdoors and get fresh air, or finish homework, play board games and various other activities. Our woodworking class has also done a few small projects. Trying to keep the teens engaged in a different world has been a challenge, but we are taking on the challenge and using our imagination to keep their minds busy. We have also had multiple talks on how COVID has affected us, in one way or another. The feeling of being alone is a scary one and we have to insure these young people know that they are not alone. We all need each other.

We were able to have a few small holiday celebrations. Due to the pandemic and the new variants, the decision was made that we not participate in large events. We had a small Halloween Party and handed out treats to our teens. We had a quiet Thanksgiving and then hosted a small Christmas party and gift exchange.

**If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically call us at 505.747.6569, or email us at [yteencenter@live.com](mailto:yteencenter@live.com) and provide us your email address.**

## July– December 2021 Membership and Program Information

**FREE** membership is available to individuals between the ages of 12 and 19 years of age. Registration with parent and teen signatures is required.

- 200 members served, we had 18 new members, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are not able to have guests
- Recorded visits by members totaling 2,487 in 119 operating days (07/01/21-12/21/21)
- Held classes in 13 program categories

## Teen Center Major Supporters

We would like to acknowledge and extend a **HUGE** thank you to our Teen Center supporters. Without your dedication and support, our offerings of educational and recreational opportunities to the teens of the City of Española and surrounding communities would not be possible.

All Together New Mexico Fund

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**Additional support has been provided by:**

Los Alamos Community Foundation, Avanyu, LLC, Rotary Club of Los Alamos, Kelly Myers, Rio Grande SUN, Youth for Christ, Northern New Mexico College Athletics, Española Public Schools, Rio Arriba Health Council, Alicia Fine Jewelers, Andrea Suazo State Farm Insurance, Faculty and Staff at Northern New Mexico College, Zia Credit Union, First Judicial District Attorney's Office, Victory Faith Foursquare Church, and Phillip Haworth & Gayle Mills Fund.

Back to School bowling trip



Edible Art class



Fly Fishing Field Trip



### 2021 Teen Center Volunteers

**Doug Roth** Teen Center Activities, 01/2018-currently

**Angela Roth** Teen Center Activities, 01/2019-currently

**Simon Vaz** Teen Center Activities, 01/2019-currently

**Crystal Romero** Teen Center Activities, 01/2019-currently

A special **thank you** for your giving hearts, which demonstrates all our core values, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and most of all **Caring**.



## Class and Program Offerings and Attendance (July 1– December 21, 2021)

- 95 Homework Assistance/Summer Tutoring: 112 total participants
- 6 Fun With Food: 73 total participants
- 25 Movie Afternoons: 121 total participants
- 2 Woodworking classes: 10 total participants
- 17 Gym classes: 195 total participants
- 7 Edible Art classes: 82 total participants
- 5 Field Trips: 48 total participants
- 53 Health/Sports Classes: 491 total participants
- 3 Holiday/Special meals: 44 total participants
- 2 Impact of Drugs classes: 29 total participants
- 12 Photography Classes: 30 total participants
- 7 Science Classes: 30 total participants
- 1 Informative Talk: 30 total participants

## Teen Center and Community Events

- Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Train Ride
- Visit from NASA
- Fly Fishing Trip
- Back to School
- Halloween party
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas party



Hydroponics Program



Finished Hydroponics Set-up

## Upcoming Teen Center and Community Events

- Valentine's Day
- Presidents Day, Monday, February 21, 2022-EYTC CLOSED
- Spring Break for all area schools, dates vary
- St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17, 2022
- First Day of Spring, Sunday, March 20, 2022
- Easter, Sunday, April 17, 2022
- Events and activities are dependent on COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines and will be scheduled, canceled, or postponed as needed



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LOS ALAMOS, NM  
PERMIT NO. 152

## The Española YMCA Teen Center

808 Vietnam Veterans  
Memorial Park Road  
Española, NM 87532



Community Partner

## Awesome Ending to 2021



The end of 2021 brought some unexpected gifts for our teens. Thanks to a Clothes Helping Kids, Inc. grant, we were able to provide Friday Food Bags for the last 3 months of the year. We packed bags with breakfast and lunch items, as well as various snacks on Friday afternoons and handed them out as the teens left for the weekend. We were also able to purchase clothing for thirty-nine teens. Pants, shirts, hoodies, socks, jackets, shoes, and other items were chosen by our teens and staff placed orders. On behalf of our teens and staff, THANK YOU, Clothes Helping Kids, Inc.!!

Although, we were not able to do all the holiday activities and events from the past, we still wanted to have a small celebration for the teens. They brought up the idea of a gift exchange and meal. Those who signed up to participate in the gift exchange brought a gift and we played musical gifts. When the music stopped, that was your gift. After all the laughter and fun, they enjoyed a traditional New Mexican meal of enchiladas, posole, beans and sopapillas. This was a great way to end 2021 and begin winter break. Looking forward to 2022!