Challenge Team
September 10th, 2009
7:00 am – 8:30am
Mountain View Police Department
1000 Villa Street, Mountain View

The Challenge Team meets the second Thursday of each month at the Mountain View Police Department at 1000 Villa Street Mountain View. The Challenge Team of Mountain View-Los Altos-Los Altos Hills is a community group that meets each month to discuss the challenges facing youth and families in our community. Leaders from the private & public sector, educational, judicial, health care and faith based groups look for creative and compassionate methods to bring positive influences into the lives of youth and to guide them away from the damaging influences of gangs and drugs.

Next Meeting Thursday, October 8th, 2009.
Preliminary agenda:

- Welcome
- Special Announcements
- Informational presentation
- Gang Task Force Report
- Community Announcements
- Contact Gay Krause, email [or Kathi Lilga?] if you would like to add a topic to the agenda

Report from the September 10th, 2009 Meeting

Gay Krause, Chair of the Challenge Team, welcomed attendees to our first meeting of the 2009-2010 school year. The Superintendents of the three school districts, Mountain View Whisman School District (K-8), Los Altos School District (K-8) and Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District (9-12) introduced new administrative members of their staff.

Gay announced that the Challenge Team has about $30,000 in its account. These are funds that are raised through community donations and the annual Champions of Youth Breakfast. The funds are to support community programs related to the Gang Task Force.

Trenton Hill reminded Challenge Team members that the website is up and available to help promote community events and programs. The website can be accessed at ChallengeTeam.org. It includes a community calendar and easy form for capturing information about upcoming events. Challenge Team meeting agendas will be posted on the website. Trenton passed around a form for participating organizations to be listed with a brief description of their services and contact information.

Nicole Gwire (MVPD/CHAC Youth Services Unit) and Mike Ecdao (MVPD), leaders of

the MVLA Gang Task Force, reported that gang activity was relatively quiet this summer.

Barry Groves, Superintendent of the MVLAUHSD, discussed concerns over the multiple teen suicides which took place last year in Palo Alto. MVLA High Schools and the CHAC organization are putting measures in place to help identify and support youth that may be at risk of suicide.

Lauren Merriman and Kristine Pardini of the Mountain View Recreation Department presented an overview of their "Positive Activities for Youth" programs. The MV Rec Division supports "Teen Open Gym" on Saturday nights for middle and high school students at the Mountain View Sports Pavilion and Whisman Sports Center. The Mountain View Teen Center will be open weekday and weekend evenings for middle school students to receive homework help, relax with video games and other special events. "3-on3" high school basketball tournaments are offered this fall. See the MV Rec Division website for more information on programs for youth. www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/city_hall/comm_services/recreation_programs_and_services/default.asp

Many community organizations made announcements of upcoming events. These organizations are encouraged to post information on their event on the Challenge Team Community Calendar at http://challengeteam.org/Lists/Team%20Events/calendar.aspx

- A Celebration of Collaboration workshop will be held November 10th 2:30-5:00pm. More information will be available by the next meeting.
- Kathryn Hanson of ALearn announced that the Zoomz.net social networking site has been launched in order to help first in their family to go to college students receive guidance and support

Upcoming Challenge Team Meetings
Oct. 8, 2009
Nov. 12, 2009
Dec. 10, 2009
Jan. 14, 2009
Feb. 11, 2009
March 11, 2009
April 8, 2009
May 13, 2009 Champion for Youth Breakfast
June 10, 2009