

August 1st, 2022
Volume 1, Issue 1



GANG PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK (1)

This year, Choose Gang Free will host their 5th annual Gang Prevention Awareness Week (GPAW). GPAW is hosted each year, starting the 3rd week of September. Choose Gang Free kicks off the week by creating lessons/activities for the youth and community members to follow along via; select schools in Canyons & Granite School Districts, Facebook, and the Choose Gang Free website. The week ends with a community celebration held at the Redwood Recreation Center. During our celebration, there will be a 3 on 3 youth basketball tournament for girls & boys, free food, community vendors, & More!

Last year, we also hosted our very first rookie clinic the night before our big celebration. This clinic was so awesome, as it was held for boys & girls ages 4-9 years old, because it gave them the opportunity to learn basketball skills & get invited to our big celebration where they got to play in a mini-scrimmage.

Thanks to our partners, community vendors, and sponsors for helping create a positive atmosphere. With their help we were able to host 16 youth basketball teams & serve nearly 400 meals to community members. Our CGF team appreciates all of your help! We hope to see you back this year as it'll be even bigger and better than before.

DID YOU KNOW? (2)

Choose Gang Free provides community education on at-risk gang youth, current juvenile gang trends, building positive relationships with youth, as well as a program overview. If your organization is interested in receiving training from our gang prevention specialists, please contact Andrea Atencio-Valdez & put a request in via email at aatencio-valdez@updsl.org

Training is very important when it comes working with youth. Whether you are a parent, community member, school administrator/teacher, or just wanting to receive education on what Choose Gang Free can do help you, please reach out to our team!

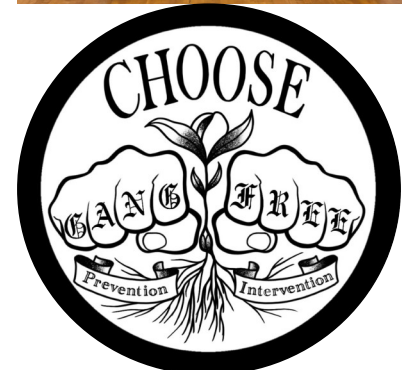
You can refer youth to the Choose Gang Free program by clicking on the refer someone tab, on our website.

WWW.CHOOSGANGFREE.COM



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SPOTLIGHT (3)

Every year, Choose Gang Free strives to collect and donate meals to over 100 families across the Salt Lake Valley for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year would not have been possible without the help of the Smith's Marketplace and food store (Store # 0000). We would like to thank them for their continued support to the community that Choose Gang Free serves. Their store and willingness to help create and execute such a big project does not go unnoticed.

We would especially like to thank Bryan Anderson, manager at the Smith's Marketplace (Store # 0000) for his unwavering help during our holiday season meal collection. In little to no time, he was able to help arrange our orders, coordinate pick up, assist us on loading and pulling orders. The commitment to the youth, families, and community that Choose Gang Free services appreciates all of his support!



“Every child deserves a champion-an adult who will never give up on them. Who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.” [Rita Pierson](#)

(4) EVENT CORNER

Choose Gang Free enjoys being out in the community. Whether we are hosting an event or tabling at another event, our staff would love to see you all come out & join the fun!

Aug 1st- Magna Night Out Against Crime- 5:00-9:00pm

Aug 2nd- Millcreek Night Out & South Salt Lake Night Out- 5:00-8:30pm

Aug 5th-6th- Kearns Hometown Days- 6:00-9:00pm

Aug 6th- Midvale Harvest Days 9:30am-5:00pm

Aug 20th- Safe Kids Fair & Healthy Teen Summit 9:00am-4:00pm

Aug 27th- Southeast Township Days 10:00am-8:00pm

DONATION STATION: If you'd like to donate, please use our non-profit partners, Utah Gang Investigators Association Via VENMO

@UGIA-17

RESOURCE CENTRAL (5)

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

The reason youth join gangs are varied and complex. Being able to recognize the warning signs of possible gang involvement is critical. Parents & other adults should look for any drastic changes in the youths' behavior, including:

- ⇒ Using a different style of language or dressing in gang affiliated clothing
- ⇒ Associating with a different group of friends
- ⇒ Desiring privacy & showing anti-social behaviors/attitude
- ⇒ Acquiring new possessions without parent's knowledge or financial means
- ⇒ Obsession with one color of clothing or logo
- ⇒ Claiming gang affiliation
- ⇒ Uses or practices hand signs, drawings, markings, tattoos that affiliate with a specific gang
- ⇒ Physical injury when youth has no explanation or lies about the cause