



IDAHO METH PROJECT®

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Cyn Reneau, District 4 - Boise



Cyn Reneau joined the Idaho Meth Project volunteer team in early 2008, and has been a powerful force in spreading the "Not Even Once" message in the Treasure Valley. Under her leadership, the District 4 volunteer core has grown by the hundreds. In April and May alone, Cyn coordinated nearly 50 school presentations and reached over 1,000 teens, in addition to running the Idaho's Largest Garage Sale booth in May.

Cyn's knowledge and leadership have been a huge asset to our organization, and we are so thankful for her efforts toward preventing Meth use among teens and young adults. Although Cyn has recently stepped down from her position as District Volunteer Chair, we want to recognize her for her consistent hard work, especially in the past two months. Thank you, Cyn! **Please read Cyn's "Letter to Volunteers" on page 3.**

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Volunteer of the Month
- New District 4 Chair
- Fact or Fiction?
- Volunteers in Action
- Truck Show Benefit
- IMP Intern
- Letter to Volunteers

NEW DISTRICT 4 CHAIR

Sarah Piehl

Please welcome our new District 4 Volunteer Chair, Sarah Piehl! Sarah is 26 years old, recently married and the mother of a three-month-old daughter, Madaelyn. She is originally from Bismarck, ND and received a Bachelor's in nursing in 2005 from the University of North Dakota. During this time, she was also an active addict. After moving to Boise for her first nursing job, Sarah's addiction to drugs and alcohol interfered and eventually she entered into recovery. Throughout her recovery experience, she decided to pursue areas of community health and education in order to be able to give back to the community and help reform healthcare. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Nursing and Health Administration through the University of Phoenix. Sarah began volunteering for The Idaho Meth Project in March of 2009 and instantly fell in love with the project. She is looking forward to getting more involved!



FACT OR FICTION?



The Idaho Meth Project's television and billboard ads feature actors, not real meth addicts.

FACT!

Although they feature actors, the Idaho Meth Project's TV and billboard ads are designed to depict the real physical effects and life-altering consequences of meth use. They are not meant to be scare tactics, but rather a glimpse into the life one will eventually have if they choose to try Meth even once.

In contrast, the radio ads feature actual Idaho teens, although their names and locations have been changed to protect their anonymity. These ads are based on interviews conducted with recovering Meth addicts across the state of Idaho.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



District 4



District 1



District 6

TRUCK SHOW BENEFIT

On June 12th and 13th, United Hauling held it's 5th Annual Truck Show & Shine in Caldwell to benefit the Idaho Meth Project. The event featured a truck convoy, live music, family-friendly events, a "Crush out Meth" car crusher, and lots of trucks! Idaho Meth Project volunteers were integral to the success of this event, helping with the IMP booth, taking tickets and accepting donations. Thank you to United Hauling for supporting the Idaho Meth Project and to IMP volunteers: Colleen Casey, Anthony Bell, Rebecca Elkin, Amanda Brunmeier, Shirley Hagen and Martina Downing.



IMP INTERN



Hello! My name is Samira Ben Messaoud. I am 22 years old and was born and raised in Holland. The reason I came all the way to Boise, Idaho is because I was required to do an international internship for my bachelors in International Communication and Media with a minor in American Studies, which I am pursuing my masters in too. I started working for Senator Lodge at the Idaho State Senate, where I had a great time. After the legislative session was over, I started an internship at the Idaho Meth Project, which has been very rewarding. I have learned so much already and I will make sure I will pass on the "Not Even Once" message in Holland when I go back.

Sam has been a great asset to the Idaho Meth Project office in Boise and has helped the IMP staff with a variety of projects. She will be missed when she leaves for Holland later this summer!

LETTER TO VOLUNTEERS

From Cyn Reneau

To My Fellow IMP Volunteers,

As most of you know, I have stepped down as the District 4 Volunteer Chair. I was asked to write something about my experiences, and I thought a letter format was best.

First and foremost, please know that I am still very dedicated to IMP and its “Not Even Once” message. Most civic groups annually change leadership, and I felt it was time for new, fresh ideas. Please join me in supporting my replacement as we continue the battle against Meth in Idaho.

We have come so far over the past year! I recall my first booth in 2008. I borrowed a folding table and a poster from the IMP main office and had a volunteer sign-up sheet and brochures. I manned the booth myself. So many people had no idea what IMP was, and knew even less about its mission. At a booth two weeks ago, the table was covered with our black logo'd tablecloth, banners, brochures, temporary tattoos, window decals, wristbands for sale, and sixteen volunteers in matching T-shirts! More importantly – countless people stopped to say “thank you” and “what you guys are doing is wonderful” and “my son/daughter heard your presentation”. Public awareness has increased SO MUCH!

There were thirty-seven volunteers on my first roster. District 4 now has over 300 volunteers! I have truly been blessed to have worked with them. Their dedication, support, and passion for IMP has been inspirational. I have made so many friendships, and I value the talents of them all.

During the 2008-2009 school year we were able to do the Wave I and the Wave II presentations to students in most of the local high schools, and even in a few junior high/middle schools. Admittedly, this has been my most memorable part of volunteering. Educating teens face-to-face is an experience that cannot be put adequately into words. I've seen tears, denial, relief...it is often a very moving experience. It is also one I learned cannot be accomplished without a team effort. Each school required 3-19 presentations. Hooray for each of my speakers who were willing to take our message into the classrooms. They did 47 presentations for 1700+ teens in April and May alone!

There have been so many quiet heroes that have made my job easier, doing the administrative tasks that must be done like delivering posters, attending meetings and making countless phone calls. My sincere appreciation to each of my 'silent secretaries' for everything done behind the scenes. Stand proud as an IMP volunteer – you are the lifeblood of this mission. Thank you for the honor of chairing the District 4 volunteer core. It has been a privilege.

We have come so far, but our work is far from over. I hope to see the continued volunteer support and dedication that has been so incredible thus far. They say it takes a village to raise a child. I believe it will take a statewide effort to protect Idaho's youth from Meth addiction. Let's keep moving forward as we educate each of them!

NOT EVEN ONCE,

Cyn

We value your input! Please send your newsletter ideas, announcements, photos and event information to Gina Heideman at gheideman@idahomethproject.org.