

The Great American Smoke Out Celebrates Success

Libia Gonzalez

Last November 15 celebrated the Great American Smoke Out, an event organized by the Utah Latino Network, a non-profit organization which carries out an informational and educational program to help and support all individuals who want to break their tobacco habits.

Claudia Gonzalez, coordinator of the Utah Latino Network, says in order to raise awareness about illnesses youth volunteers teamed up with the Phoenix Alliance to carry out a march and show posters targeted toward the Hispanic community to help them stop smoking. The event took place over the space of two hours from 200 South to Main Street.

Claudia Gonzalez described the march as a complete success because the message these youth had written on their posters had the desired effect on the Hispanic community.

Studies have shown that across America, 50 people will die every hour due to a tobacco related cause.

Jonathan Reyes, a teen who participated in the march said: "We march Downtown to send a message to people that the Great American Smoke Out is good for their health."

At the same time, Yoselin Rosas agrees, "We want to get people's attention so they know not to smoke today."

Durango Smoke-Free

The Durango Night Club, owned by Armando Miranda, summed up the Great American Smoke Out events. In the club on November 16th it was prohibited to smoke or sell cigarettes. It was a day without cigarette smoke.

Claudia Gonzalez adds that the night club was full of people because it was prohibited to smoke, and people went to the club specifically for the smoke free environment.

It was there that a plaque was given to Armando Miranda for his cooperation and support of the Great American Smoke Out. In Utah a new law will soon come into effect which prohibits smoking in night clubs.