

NEWS

From the Office of

Brad Mitzelfelt

Supervisor, First District
San Bernardino County



For information, contact
David Zook (909) 387-4830
www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2009

Mitzelfelt Presents \$50,000 to Victorville Anti-Gang Program

VICTORVILLE – Victorville's innovative Uturn anti-gang program received a major boost today from San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt who presented a \$50,000 check to city leaders during a press conference at City Hall.

"I've supported several youth and gang intervention programs but Uturn is unique because it involves the entire family," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. "I'm proud to assist this component of our on-going effort to expand youth programs throughout the High Desert because Uturn helps address the gang problem at its source. Young people who are involved in healthy, enriching activities are far less likely to get involved in gangs and drugs."

The Uturn program began two years ago and is a partnership among the County, the City of Victorville, and the state and federal governments.

Mitzelfelt has also made contributions to Boys and Girls Clubs, Police Activities Leagues, the YMCA and other programs designed to keep youth on a productive path. He has directed more than \$5 million to such programs as part of his commitment to a two-pronged strategy in the war on gangs – vigorous enforcement combined with innovative prevention and intervention programs.

"In these tough economic times it becomes increasingly difficult to continue community programs for our youth," said Victorville Mayor Rudy Cabriales. "It speaks volumes of the partnership between the County and City government and our shared commitment to provide our hometown youth with the tools they'll need to be productive and ultimately stay away from gangs."

Unlike other prevention based programs, Uturn focuses on the entire family. The program aims to strengthen the family structure and create a greater sense of belonging to the community, thus making gang life less attractive. The program will accept selected families that commit to a minimum of three years to participate in the program. They will participate in individual and family counseling, classes, workshops, family trips, career field trips for youth, job training and education for adult family members, and structured community service for all members of the family.