



Programs in Orinda Offer Teens Something To Do

By David Anderson



Orinda Teen Advisory Council Coordinator Jenny Hudson Photo Tod Fierner

If you're a teen in Orinda looking for activities to participate in, you're not alone. Orinda has never had the reputation for being a particularly teen friendly city. Recently, however, there have been attempts made within the community to change that stigma.

The Orinda Teen Advisory Council (OTAC) is currently working with teens to develop programs that will satisfy the need for teen activities in Orinda. Jenny Hudson, Coordinator for OTAC, is at the foreground of this effort, meeting with teenagers to help carry out their ideas. According to Hudson, the main goal of OTAC is to "provide something for teens to do and somewhere to go in Orinda. That's what the teens are mostly concerned about." It is not, however, just about finding activities for teens. Hudson would add, "With OTAC it's not just something to do but something healthy to do, something that's not alcohol or drug related" adding that community service and community involvement is the other main goal of both the teen participants and the council.

OTAC is essentially "a teen run program" according to Hudson. The teens involved create the ideas for the programs that are available. The ideas that the participants come up with are often times community service oriented, although these ac-

tivities are balanced with activities designed to give teens an outlet.

"In December we worked with the food bank. In January we started a program with yoga and relaxation at Miramonte High School and in February we held a blood drive here at the Community Center" explains Hudson. Activities such as tutoring Orinda youth and working with Orinda seniors are scheduled to take place in the next couple of months. Currently, OTAC is working to establish a teen movie night that will hopefully begin this summer, and a possible game day with Orinda seniors.

OTAC also offers a significant number of ski and snowboarding trips throughout the winter. These trips run to various Tahoe area resorts via bus and occur roughly on a weekly basis through April 19th. Upcoming trips are scheduled for March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 23rd, 27th and 29th.

For more information on the Orinda Teen Advisory Council call (925) 253- 4206. The Council meets the first Monday of each month at 4pm at the Orinda Community Center.