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News Release

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Concho Valley CARES Announces YOUTH CARES Facilitator

The **Concho Valley CARES Coalition** is proud to announce that **Ms. Deanna L. Watkins** is the new **YOUTH CARES** facilitator. YOUTH CARES is the growing teen committee of the Concho Valley CARES coalition.

Ms. Watkins is a graduate of SAISD schools and Angelo State University. This will be her eleventh year as an educator and her ninth year at Lake View High School.

Over the years, Ms. Watkins has taught Theatre, Speech, and various English courses as well as coached cheerleading and speech teams. She currently teaches English III, Reading, and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). Deanna's current work with English Language Learners (ELLs) is one of her favorite assignments.

Ms. Watkins served as the regional chair for the Texas Speech Communication Association for two years and is the secretary for the Tom Green County Child Services Board. She volunteers her time to several school and community organizations serving teens.

When asked why she was interested in becoming the YOUTH CARES facilitator, Ms. Watkins replied, **"Working with CVCARES showed me that there were opportunities not only for adults to promote change in San Angelo, but for teens to step up and learn to become leaders of their community. When teens complain about there being nothing to do in San Angelo, I can now tell them to do something about it – we have adults willing to stand behind them and funds to support their cause. Through YOUTH CARES, our teens are learning to lead, organize, advertise, educate, communicate with adults and city leaders, and so much more. The group is a compilation of teens from CFC, Lake View, and Central brought together by one common goal: the desire for a community free of substance abuse. And you know what? They totally deserve it. We all do."**

In March 2007, Bishop Michael Pfeifer founded the Concho Valley CARES coalition. The CARES mission is to eliminate substance abuse through community effort. Now a coalition of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley, Concho Valley CARES boasts a collaboration of over 40 agencies and individuals that crosses nearly all sectors of our community. If you or your organization is interested in becoming part of CARES or YOUTH CARES, please contact E. Angelina Osornio at 325-374-7304.

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