

The Warehouse, Cause Specialists in Action

~ It's Not Just About the Hours

WRITTEN BY VENICE WAREHOUSE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINDA BANISTER

"Hey Seth, do you like cars?" With a super-sized glowing "YES!" the doors flew open. Seth and Warehouse youth were invited to help at the 33rd Annual Antique Automobile Club Classic Car Show.

In the fog-filled darkness of 5:30 a.m., our team jumped into action in an empty parking lot to help transform Centennial Park into an awesome car show. With over 250 cars and an attendance of approximately 15,000, it was indeed a Classic Day! These area teens checked in and directed car owners, shadowed judges, served water, dreamed up and down the rows and rows of cars, and even set some goals. Then packed it all back up, while still having an extravagantly cool day of learning and making memories.



Making area teens smile as often as we can. (above)

Who doesn't love free tickets to sporting events to share with family and friends? (right)



Marking the park to help Women's SERTOMA set up for Sun Fiesta



Venice Drug-Free youth (D-Fy) Rewards Program Leadership Summit

The Warehouse of Venice, Inc., stores up ideas, opportunities, partnerships, energy, and Middle/High school students who want to do more, something different, something to help, something to experience. Often unaware of all that they are learning, they meet people of all generations, talents, and skill sets. Friends are made. Community Service Hours are accumulated, for Rotary Futures, job applications, and scholarships. Personal barriers are broken. And smiles—lots more smiles—fizz up as if you had shaken a can of cola.

This locally created non-profit offers Summer Croquet, Drug-Free youth (Venice D-Fy) Rewards, Engage In Service (EIS) opportunities, Leadership Training, Life Skills 201, Connections to things that matter, free tickets, and most importantly: Hope, possibilities, positive futures, and... fun! Yep. They do like to have fun.

"This (the Warehouse & Venice D-Fy) is my community," explains 16-year-old Bryson, while speaking to incoming Venice High School Freshmen during Freshmen Orientation.

"I can tell you, if it weren't for Venice D-Fy, I probably wouldn't even be alive," Devin, a 2024 VHS Senior, tells everyone who will listen. He even hooked up with a Warehouse business partner to put a huge Venice D-Fy logo on his racecar.

"You are my daughter's friends. Thank you, for all you've done for her." This statement, like the ones above and many, many others,

brings tears to our eyes. We thrive on unpacking their energy to change things, change themselves, engage, grow up, and succeed.

Since 2001, young adults have been gathering, creating events and activities, and opening doors together. Though there is currently no actual warehouse building for them, they seek out ways to "Be A Part" of this/their community. The Warehouse has partnered with over 200 organizations and impacted tens of thousands of area youth and their families.

Do you want to help change lives forever? Contact the Warehouse to "Be A Part," partner, sponsor something, donate, or volunteer. Join the cause that ignites area young adults with the Warehouse of Venice, Inc.

For more information about this advertorial, contact 941.497.7117 or log on to VeniceWarehouse.org.

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