

**2010 Rocky Pomerance Award Winner
Medium Agency Size
Village of Palm Springs Police Department**

“Prevention Enforcement Treatment (PET) Project”

A Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey indicated that Palm Beach County high school students lead the state in “use of alcohol in the past 30 days”. In an effort to reduce underage drinking and the associated consequences, the Palm Springs Police Department aggressively took ownership of the problem, rounded up all the stakeholders and developed comprehensive, realistic solutions. In partnership with local prevention and treatment organizations, the State Attorney’s Office, parents, youth and adoption of the Juvenile First Offender (JFO) Program the Prevention, Enforcement, Treatment (P.E.T.) Project was developed. Underage drinkers from a three county area who frequented night clubs within Palm Springs were targeted. Once caught, they were not merely statistics; they were treated as young people who needed an education in prevention and for some, treatment. This education and/or treatment involved their parents and family in order to address any underlying issues that may exist. Along with these efforts, those identified as providers of alcohol to underage person was also targeted. This comprehensive program continues to develop and improve through the review of After Action Reports and feedback from the community. Over 2010 calendar year, there has been a 52% reduction in arrests for underage alcohol related crimes and a 25% reduction in retailers who provide alcohol to persons under the age of 21 within the village of Palm Springs.

For more information on Palm Springs P.D.’s Prevention Enforcement Treatment (PET) Project, please contact Chief Mark Hall at mhall@villageofpalm Springs.org.