



# MAGELLAN NEWS

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## MY Fest '09 Draws Record Crowds, Exhibitors and Sponsors

What do live music, dance contests, art, inspirational youth speakers and free food have in common? They were all part of last weekend's **MY Fest event in Tempe, Arizona, hosted by Magellan of Arizona's youth leadership team, Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment (MY LIFE).**



My Fest '09 drew approximately 2,500 people this year, more than twice the attendance in 2008.

Magellan of Arizona. "It was a truly amazing experience to witness the MY LIFE members' growth as they created this event for other youth and the community."

"Through MY Fest, MY LIFE accomplished its goal of inspiring youth to make positive changes in their lives, while exposing them to resources that can help them do it," added Alex Zavala, director of community reinvestment. "But **MY Fest merely scratches the surface of the tremendous impact MY LIFE has had in its first year of existence.**"

To demonstrate its commitment to inspiring youth to achieve their goals, MY LIFE also partnered with Jewish Family and Children's Service to collect \$1,500 in donations, half of which will be used to purchase caps and gowns for graduating seniors under the care of Child Protective Services (CPS). The remaining portion will help fund future MY LIFE projects and initiatives.

MY LIFE is made up of 44 youth between the ages of 13 and 24 who have personal experience living with mental health, substance abuse and/or foster care issues and a desire to make a positive impact on Maricopa County's behavioral health system.

For additional information about MY LIFE or MY Fest, please visit [www.MagellanofAZ.com/MYLIFE](http://www.MagellanofAZ.com/MYLIFE).

MY Fest is a music, art and entertainment festival established last year by MY LIFE to **raise awareness about mental health, substance abuse and foster care issues among youth.** Approximately 2,500 members of the Maricopa County, Arizona community attended this year, more than doubling last year's attendance of 1,200. The event pulled in 12 sponsors and also featured more than 88 exhibitors. **MY Fest is now considered the largest-ever youth event drawing attention to behavioral health issues.** The practice of youth involvement in the field is fairly new, and there have been very few examples of similar youth-led events elsewhere around the country.

"MY Fest '09 is **an incredible example of what can be accomplished by a motivated and empowered group of youth,**" said Greg Dicharry, development manager for