

Communicator

Community Action Partnership of Orange County
Celebrating 45 Years of Caring

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Backpacks for Success!



As any parent knows, there's more to getting a child ready for school than paying fees and buying fall clothes. The process includes a trip to the local discount store for school supplies such as writing paper, pens, pencils, and backpacks. Many of our families had their household budgets severely impacted by a job loss, cutback in work hours or rising living expenses. What if you have to decide between purchasing a new backpack or buying food or paying a utility bill? Unfortunately, approximately 10% of Orange County residents are facing these very issues.

Backpacks for Success! now in its third year, places new backpacks filled with school supplies into the hands of low-income children who would otherwise be unable to have the proper tools for scholastic success. Backpacks are prepared for specific grade levels from Kindergarten through 12th grade, and are distributed along with nutritious snacks to the low-income families in Orange County, California.

Prior to the start of the new year, Disneyland Parks and Resorts generously donated **5,500** backpacks along with supplies to CAPOC to commemorate their 55 year anniversary. On a sweltering July day, Disney Resort VoluntEARS filled a total of 3,489 backpacks and then helped distribute them to needy families. At our Anaheim Independencia and El Modena Family Resource Centers, Disney VoluntEARS passed out over 2,000 backpacks! Many parents had tears in their eyes as they watched their children excitedly receive their Mickey or Minnie Mouse backpack. "This is so great," said one parent. "I've been out of work for six months and we just can't afford to buy any school stuff right now."



To date, over 4,753 backpacks have been donated to local families, schools and non-profit agencies and CAPOC is in the process of distributing the remaining supplies. **We wish to thank our many donors and volunteers for a successful campaign, with a special thank you to the employees of Disneyland Parks and Resorts as well as the generous support of Allergan Foundation, Westin Digital and In-N-Out Burgers.** Their commitment helped give kids a chance to feel special like everyone else on the first day of school, wearing a brand new backpack!

CANstruction® 2010



Canstruction®, a unique charity/fundraiser committed to ending hunger “one can at a time”, held its 3rd annual Orange County Canstruction® competition at the South Coast Plaza during the Festival of the Children event this September. Fourteen design teams of architects, engineers and contractors built elaborate and fantastic structures made entirely out of canned food contributed by donors and sponsors. The resulting structures became art exhibits for public viewing through out the mall. Awards were given out for various

titles, such as best use of labels, structural ingenuity, jurors’ favorite and even a People’s Choice award.

Each exhibit contained thousands of cans of food and averaged about 500-600 man hours to complete. For example, the Cheshire Cat (shown on the right) weighing 1.75 tons, was comprised of nearly 6,500 of Trader Joe’s canned food items: 3,000 cans of tuna, 1,200 cans of anchovies and sardines along with 2,300 cans of pasta, pinto beans, tomato sauce, and assorted greens!

Over 50,000 pounds of food, about 70,000 cans, were donated to the OC Food Bank. In addition, approximately \$10,000 in net proceeds from CANstruction® partners were contributed to feed the hungry.



CAPOC would like to thank the following CANstruction® participants for helping the OC Food Bank’s fight against hunger and poverty: ◇ CH2MHill ◇ Disneyland Design & Engineering ◇ Dougherty + Dougherty Architects LLP ◇ Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM) ◇ FLUOR ◇ HMC Architects ◇ HPI Architects ◇ Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. ◇ KTG Y ◇ LIONAKIS ◇ MHP Structural Engineers ◇ RFB Consulting ◇ Suffolk ◇ Ware Malcomb.

Boeing Employees & Families Help Out OC Food Bank

Boeing employees, families and friends recently volunteered at CAPOC’s Orange County Food Bank new warehouse in Garden Grove. Thirty-one volunteers, young and old, showed up September 18 to help sort, pack and load boxes of food for low-income families and senior citizens. Working together as teams, they dedicated 62 hours filling food boxes for distribution.

Boeing employees regularly volunteer their time and money to various charities and soup kitchens throughout Orange County. Thank you for helping our Orange County Food Bank feed struggling families!

To volunteer at the OC Food Bank, please contact Andre Gaithe at (714) 897-6670 Ext. 3493. To donate food, contact Kristin Kvesic at Ext. 3604.



“Thanh Doan Bac Dau” volunteer team.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION AND FITNESS

Obesity and its consequences such as diabetes are at epidemic levels among California children, especially among poor, ethnic and racial groups. Obesity that is due to unhealthy eating habits and inactivity, and influenced by factors in social and physical environments, can be prevented.

In an effort to raise awareness of rising childhood obesity rates in Orange County, CAPOC partnered with other community agencies and Senator Lou Correa for the September 22nd Childhood Obesity Prevention and

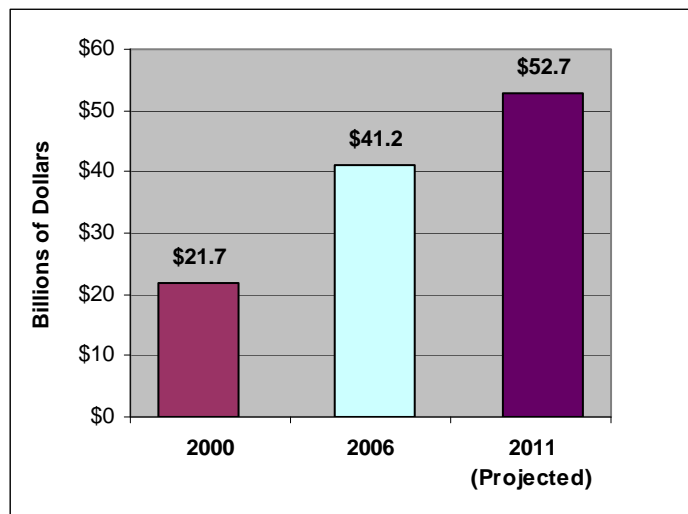


Fitness Kick-Off at Kennedy Elementary School in Santa Ana. Programs included multiple fitness and healthy eating activities for over 150 students, teachers, and community leaders. Our Community Partnerships and Services Department promoted the Network for a Healthy California-Children's Power Play! Campaign and Farm 2 Kids Program by providing fresh produce and fitness and health tips to the children and parents in attendance.

Obesity and physical inactivity are estimated to cost California billions of dollars in medical care, worker's compensation and lost job productivity. Among California Latinos, heart disease, cancer, stroke and type 2 diabetes account for nearly 60 percent of all deaths.

"Childhood obesity has become a national epidemic. As a community, we need to work together to beat this epidemic," said Senator Correa. "We need to fight like the lives of our children are at risk, because they are at risk."

To learn more about CAPOC events for Network for a Healthy California-Children's Power Play!, please contact Gabriella Hernandez at (714) 899-3684, Ext. 5316. For the Healthy California-Latino Program, contact Maria Rosas at Ext. 5311; for information on Farm 2 Kids, Lillybeth Gardea can be reached at Ext. 5317.



Costs of Overweight, Obesity and Physical Inactivity in California

Source: California Center for Public Health Advocacy



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TO MAKE DONATIONS:

CALL Mary Beth Steen (714) 897-6670 ext. 3618

OUR PROMISE

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6: CAPOC offices closed in observance of Labor Day

October 23: *Bi-National Health Fair at the El Modena Family Resource Center. Free glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol and dental screenings.

October 28: *Free Flu Clinic, El Modena FRC.

November 11 & 12: CAPOC offices closed in observance of Veteran's Day

November 20: National Family Volunteer Day at the Orange County Food Bank. Contact Andre Gaithe, 714-897-6670 Ext. 3493 for more info.

November 23: *Thanksgiving Community Dinner, El Modena Family Resource Center

November 25 & 26: CAPOC offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday

*Contact Maribel Reyes for more info at (714) 532-3595.

CTP Computer Distribution

In today's economy, many Orange County families are struggling to provide just the basics such as food and rent. They cannot afford a home computer and as a result, their children fall behind in school. CAPOC's Community Technology Partnership (CTP) department is dedicated in their mission to reduce the digital divide by increasing technological literacy among children and families. They test and upgrade donated computers and then provide them to poor and low-income OC residents.

ARRA funded CTP staff recently arranged a distribution of computers to the ACHIEVES program in Anaheim, an after-school program that provides students with one-on-one academic mentoring. CTP also gave out computers at Orange Coast College for a program that allows single parents to continue their education. A total of 137 computers were distributed, but more are still needed!

To make a donation, please contact Linda Dryden at (714) 899-3654 Ext. 5310 or ldryen@capoc.org. You can also make a donation online at our website, www.capoc.org.

