

Communicator

Community Action Partnership of Orange County
Celebrating 45 Years of Caring

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Thousands of Families Helped by Hope for the Holidays!



Pictured from left to right: Alan Woo, Ryan Hawkins with Wells Fargo Advisors, and Andre Gaithe, Volunteer Coordinator

The **Hope for the Holidays** Campaign raised \$333,242 and collected 136,926 pounds of food and \$3,170 in gift cards which went to needy low-income families who are struggling to make ends meet and to afford basic needs. Despite the economic challenges faced by local businesses, local corporate partners took a leadership role in helping families impacted by the economic downturn. Our partners conducted food drives, donated money and their employees pitched in with contributions to ensure that needy families with children would not be forgotten.

Over 3,000 corporations and individuals participated in **Hope for the Holidays**. Funds provided holiday food boxes, turkeys, clothes and gift certificates to low-income families and children. We sincerely thank our corporate partners and to those who participated in the **Hope for the Holidays** Campaign: KHS Contractors, Ginder Family Foundation, PIMCO, Feed the Children, Henry's Market-Fullerton, Fullerton's Community Bank, Office of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Interfaith Council, City of Santa Ana, Sunny Delight, Henry's Market-Yorba Linda, Farm to Family, The Great Park, Wells Fargo Advisors, Henry's Market-Costa Mesa, Target, Henry's Market Mission Viejo, University of California, Irvine Parking, Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Seacoast Grace, Santa Ana Zoo, Albertsons, Disneyland, El Modena High School Mecha, Orange North Rotary Club, Walmart Foundation, Bandai Foundation, Goldstar Events, Inc., Olympus America, Inc., California Association of Food Banks, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Institute of Food Technologists-Southern California Section, Shimmick Construction Co., Inc, Stephen Habernig, Matzinger Keegan Inc., RJ Electric, Daniel Even, Vanguard Charitable Endowment, Edison International, Honda Financial Services, Kohls, Glaukos Corporation, KPMG LLP, William Thompson, United Food Commercial Workers Union Local No. 324, PF Chang's Bistro and the Leblow Family.

Goldstar held an online donation drive to feed the hungry. PIMCO also conducted a tremendous food and donation drive. Olympus Contributions Committee and employees selected CAPOC to contribute their annual Christmas charity donation. Club Ember in Anaheim held a holiday food drive to benefit the El Modena Family Resource Center (EMFRC) in December. A total of 122 pounds of canned goods and 16 turkeys were collected to benefit families in need. The Vietnamese-American Community held a *Gift from the Heart* event to collect donations from the community. Thank you again to everyone who participated in the 2009 **Hope for Holidays** Campaign. See you next year!



Pictured from left to right: Ramon Chua, Tony Renteria, Eric Arabit, Nancy Ishizawa, Marleen Morrill, and Jack Collier.

Go Green Club at AIFRC



Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center (AIFRC) hosted a Go Green club to teach the kids how to live a healthier lifestyle and learn about "going green". The Go Green Club featured a new lesson plan each week to teach about the environment, health, plants, pollution and recycling.

The children learned about plants and gardening. Doreen Donoghue, a volunteer from Cal State Fullerton, led the workshops. She was assisted by four 8th grade students from Dale Junior High School, Samantha Sepulveda, Diana Viera, Jhoselin Noiasco and Rodrigo Guerra who are in the A.V.I.D (Advancement via Individual Determination) program. Doreen and the volunteers taught the children to grow their own plants by placing a seed in a small plastic bag with cotton balls and water so that they could germinate and monitor the growth of their plants.

After doing some indoor activities, Catherine Adkins from *Power Play!* took the kids outside to show them the importance of physical activity. The children actively ran around in the play yard screaming and laughing as they engaged in nutritional games and physical activity. Workshops such as, "Go Green" are teaching children at a young age to be environmentally conscious, about healthy lifestyles and fitness.

Furthermore, the "Go Green" workshop keeps teens off the streets and allows them to volunteer at the center. Diana Viera, 13, who is a volunteer from Dale Junior High School said, "It feels good to help the kids. I like the fact that I am being productive after school and not just sitting at home being bored."



PhotoVoice Project



Photo taken By: Rob Veal,
The Orange County Register

The Central California Regional Obesity Prevention program (CCROPP) partnered with Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC) on the PhotoVoice Project, which encourages the youth to use the project as a means of initiating conversation with the community stakeholders and creating policy change. CCROPP worked with our youth and taught them how to use a camera and take pictures, photo selection, write stories and make presentations. The project involved teens using disposable cameras and a survey sheet to identify major issues in their community.

Fernando Gamez, 15, was one of 9 teens who participated and completed the posters and free write. His poster showed a person jumping over a fence that closed off green areas at a local school with the message that teens are hindered from physical activity in Garnet neighborhood because play areas are closed off for security reasons. "We need to make public spaces more accessible," said Fernando. "We teens need to be more responsible about uses of public space so they won't be closed." "I have seen these teens blossom. As they saw the community listening and offering ideas and suggestions, they gained confidence," said Sandra Ortega, program coordinator who works with CAPOC. "This project has opened up the teens eyes to see that their community really is important and they can create change. They believe that they can make a positive impact in their community and create sustainable change." said Ortega. Since the PhotoVoice project, the gates have opened at Topaz Elementary School for the children to be physically active. These changes have shown the teens that with communication and advocacy comes change.

John Force Food Drive



John Force, 14 time National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Funny Car Champion and Team owner, realizing the critical needs of the Orange County Food Bank, offered to conduct food drives at his famous last Saturday of the month "Cruise Night and Car Shows". Visitors to his John Force Race Station on Old Canal Road in Yorba Linda were asked to bring a can of food as entry to look over the customized cars and tour his museum. The response was electric!

The Food Bank received 6,361 pounds of food. Bud and Lynne Rasmus, members of the Forever Classics Car Club, donated 1,031 cans of donated food. Bud and Lynne are no strangers to helping others. When K-EARTH's Real Don Steele and Robert W. Morgan passed away from cancer, Bud and Lynne did fund raisers to fight cancer and raised over \$14,000.00. They also support the Susan G. Komen Foundation by making blankets and quilts that are auctioned off at Komen events and participate in Toy Runs at Christmas.

Bud and Lynne retired early, giving them more time to devote to their family (that they raised around cars), their beautiful Chevy and contact stores for either food donations, or to get the best price for the most food. They have built a strong relationship with the Stater Bros. Market in West Covina, where Managers Sean Macias and Jason Taylor go out of their way to help with the donations. For over 13 years they have worked for the benefit of those in need and their passion for giving back to the community is legendary.

Super Tax Saturday



The **Orange County Financial Stability Alliance** launched the **2010 Super Tax Saturday** on January 30, 2010. Free Tax Preparation was provided for people earning less than \$50,000 at the Santa Ana Public Library and other various sites in Santa Ana. Cathleen Cox from the Governor's Office opened the event with the introduction of the Mayor of Santa Ana, Miguel Pulido.

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez also spoke at the event. Other dignitaries who attended the event included Council members Michelle Martinez and David Benavidez, and School Board Member Roman

Reyna. Clients were also invited to attend Financial Education Workshops. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can provide a refund of up to \$5,657 and is one of the largest federal credits available to low and moderate income workers. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides a temporary increase in the EITC for taxpayers with three or more qualifying children this year. In addition, it also increases the beginning point for the credit for all married couples filing a joint return, regardless of the number of children. To take advantage of free tax preparation assistance, please call (888) 434-8248 (English) or (866) 921-3890 (Spanish) to schedule an appointment for free tax preparation assistance. The I-CAN!™ E-File computer module at www.icanefile.org can also help you do your taxes for free in English, Spanish, or Vietnamese and is available to residents from any computer with internet access. To make an appointment at CAPOC, please contact 714-897-6670.



If your family earned less than \$48,279 during 2009 you may be eligible to receive a refundable tax credit up to \$5,657!

Community Action Partnership of Orange County
12640 Knott Street
Garden Grove, CA 92841

TO MAKE DONATIONS:
CALL Alex Tran (714) 897-6670 ext. 3405

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.

Visit
www.capoc.org

2010 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 30: Money Management 101 Workshop at El Modena Family Resource Center 12:00-1:30p.m. For more info contact Caitlin at Desmond McLeish at 909-792-8877

Feb. 10: Valentine's Day Celebration, arts and crafts, love poem contest, treats and more. Ages 12-17 at Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center at 4:30 p.m. For more info contact Cristie Loera at (714) 826-9070

Feb. 12: CAPOC offices closed in observance of Lincoln's Birthday

Feb. 15: CAP OC offices closed in observance of President's Day

Martin Luther King DAY



Martin Luther King Junior once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

563 volunteers spent their rainy day off giving "A Day of Service" at the Orange County Food Bank to benefit the poor and hungry. The volunteers packed much needed food boxes that will serve hungry seniors and women with children living in Orange County.

Local organizations who participated in the volunteer event included Center for Service in Action, Doig Middle School, Circle K International from University of Irvine, Whitney High School, Los Alamitos Humanitarian Club and Girl Scouts Troop 1444. Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans also participated.

Volunteers ranged from youth to college students packing an estimated 6,800 boxes. Thank you to all the families and organizations who spent their day off giving back to Orange County.

