

# Communicator

Community Action Partnership of Orange County

June 2009

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## Public Hearing Provides Opportunity for Community to Discuss Needs

With the economy in decline, our community faces great challenges. Is there a plan to help low-income communities? Where do the poor go to communicate their needs and be heard? The Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC) held a Public Hearing in May to provide an opportunity for the poor to discuss its 2010-2011 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Community Action Plan (CAP). Close to 100 community members attended to discuss their needs and what CAPOC can do to help improve their families' and community's lives.

Representatives from Community Based Organizations were also on hand to discuss their experiences working with CAPOC and to talk about the growing needs their clients have. The representatives were also there to make suggestions to the Plan and offers to work with CAPOC. Emergency safety-net services such as the need for emergency food assistance was high on their priority list. Low-income residents spoke about the need for jobs and support after school programs. "We didn't want a hand out, we want a hand up" said one of the participants.



Many individuals relayed their own personal stories, the hardships they have endured and how the Partnership stepped in to help them become self-sufficient. Yari Arcos, a long-time volunteer at the El Modena Family Resource Center, attended the Center to find a safe place to study until her parents return home from work. As she got older, she became a volunteer with the youth program guiding and working with other youth. She received her first job at the Center in the Summer Lunch Program and today she works for the YMCA of Orange tutoring the neighborhood youth. Yari explains that "Without this El Modena Family Resource Center, I would not have this opportunity to be where I am today." She will be attending college with funds she saved from work and through an Individual Development Account program at the Center that was funded by Wells Fargo.

Low-income and limited English speaking mothers in the Community Builders Initiative program stood up to describe how they succeeded in getting the city to installing lights in their neighborhood park to make it safer for family use. The mothers presented a book they created to document their project to the agency's Board of Directors. Community members of all ages and ethnicities provided testimonies regarding agency services that they were helped with a box of food or with assistance to pay their utility bill or to enroll in benefit programs. The Plan incorporates county statistics, reports, other data and provide strategies with goals and objectives to address community needs. The CAP was approved by the agency's Board of Directors and submitted to the State to receive CSBG funds.

# Santa Ana to Receive Millions in Health-Related Grants

Central Santa Ana is one of 14 areas statewide slated to receive funds from the release of The California Endowment's (TCE) "Building a Healthy Community" project. The 10 year project will target issues such as gang violence, education, housing, health care, and jobs and local business opportunities. The strategic planning process will work with residents and local, state and Federal organizations to help build a healthy Central Santa Ana.



Santa Ana's project area is bordered, roughly, by Edinger Avenue and First Street, and Sullivan Street and Standard Avenue. The area is home to about 90,000 people, many of whom are 5-14 years old. "The city was selected because of its proven track record for grassroots collaboration and because it faces some challenges", said Greg Hall, a senior Program Manager for the Endowment. "The foundation isn't giving participants a fixed amount of money, but the group is prepared to dole out millions in health-related grants over the next 10 years."

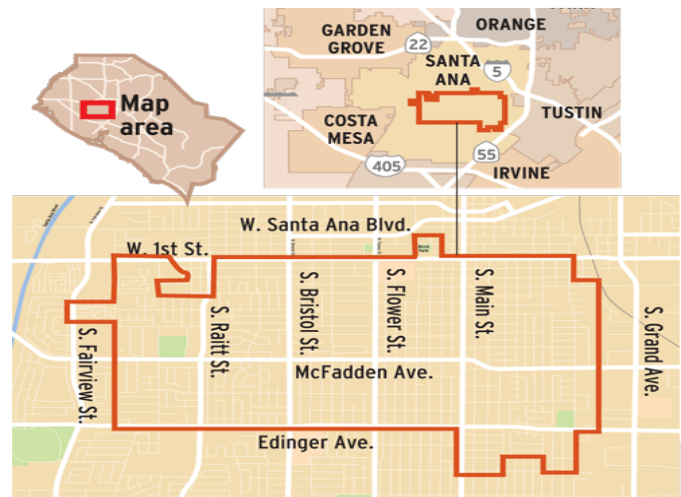
Organizers will collect input from residents, business owners and others using various methods such as large-scale events, forums, surveys and more. They'll use the information to draft an action plan and The Endowment will in turn issue grants.

Orange County (OC) Human Relations is the lead agency on the local project, and a 47-member steering committee—comprised of nonprofits, businesses, school, city and state officials and others—will help provide further guidance. Committee member Alfredo Amezcua said he hopes improvements made inside the project area will positively affect other areas of town. "We could use this as a model," said the Santa Ana attorney. For more information: [www.calendow.org/healthycommunities](http://www.calendow.org/healthycommunities). [www.santaanabhc.com](http://www.santaanabhc.com).

Community Action Partnership of Orange County is a stakeholder and collaborative partner in the project. Alan Woo, Director of Planning serves on the Steering Committee and Dolores Barrett, Director of Community partnership and Services serves on the Collaborative Partners Subcommittee. "This project provides our agency with an opportunity to help the poor help themselves and provide them with the tools to create a better life for themselves," said Alan Woo, Director of Planning and Resource Development.



Attorney Alfredo M. Amezcua was among audience members at a recent press conference held at Immaculate Heart of May Parish Hall in Santa Ana.



The Register

# Green Your Life Festival



The Green Your Life Festival & Titan Soccer Clinic, hosted by State Senator Lou Correa, The City of Anaheim, and the California State University, Fullerton's (CSUF) Men's Soccer team brought together Anaheim residents, non-profit organizations, community centers, and government agencies for an exciting day of soccer and eco-educational activities.

The June 20<sup>th</sup> event was held at Maxwell Park in the city of Anaheim. Participants received free information on the latest green technologies and energy saving programs and even got a chance to enter a prize raffle. The CSUF Titan's soccer team coached children about the importance of teamwork and maintaining a physically active body and mind.

Over 30 green vendors provided information on solar power systems, energy-saving lighting solutions, healthy foods, e-waste and plastic recycling and dozens of other services to help residents save money and the environment at the same time. The CAPOC Weatherization Department handed out flyers and answered questions about CAPOC's programs. Marc McCray, Manager and Outreach Coordinators Judy Chacon, Linda Rodriguez and Victor Salas talked to hundreds of residents about available help for utility assistance, refrigerator replacement and home weatherization.

In spite of the gloomy weather, it turned out to be a fun and educational day for the entire family. "Energy, conservation, recycling, and physical activity is important and easy to do in our everyday life," said Senator Lou Correa. "I encourage families to join me in learning more about the simple ways we can live greener and healthier lives."

## Computer Distribution at Diamond Elementary School

On June 4, Community Technology Partnership (CTP) distributed over 100 refurbished desktop computers to qualified 5th grade-students at Diamond Elementary School in Santa Ana. One of the youth exclaimed that she can now complete a homework assignments that required her to use the computer at home.

To date, CTP has connected over 6,500 low-income families with children with free computers to help them learn and practice their computer skills. The computers give youth the opportunity to practice computer skills and to complete homework, giving them the skills to be more competitive in today's job market.



CAPOC believes that the road out of poverty is through education. Furnish our youth with the tools to ensure educational success and they will strive. CAPOC partners with local corporate partners who are upgrading their computer inventory. CTP Volunteers helped refurbish and distribute the donated computers to the families. To volunteer or donate equipment to Community Action Partnership of Orange County's Computer Technology Partnership program, please contact Paul Hartsock at 714-899-0034 Ext. 5320 or email at [phartsock@capoc.org](mailto:phartsock@capoc.org).





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**CALL (714) 897-6670 ext.**  
**3405 or visit [www.capoc.org](http://www.capoc.org)**

***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*

- 2009  
UPCOMING EVENTS**
- June 4:** Computer Distribution at Diamond Elementary School
  - June 20:** Green Your Life Festival & Titan Soccer Clinic
  - June 29-July 2:** LIHEAP Monitoring Visit
  - July 2:** CAPOC Staff Meeting  
Off-site breakfast meeting
  - July 3:** CAPOC offices closed in observance of **Independence Day Holiday**
  - July 10:** CAPOC Company Picnic
  - July 25:** John Force Racing Station Car Show & Food Drive—22722 Old Canal Road, Yorba Linda, CA 92887. Bring a canned food item and receive a ticket for your chance to win a SANYO big screen TV!

## Backpacks for Success! 2009

With an ailing economy and with families having family members laid off or lost jobs, children in urban cities across Orange County are struggling to stay in school and obtain a good education. We need your support to help our kids stay in school and to be prepared for success.



Last year, Backpacks for Success! provided 1,200 backpacks to low-income youth. With your help and donations, we can provide 1,500 backpacks to low-income students that will be filled school supplies, educational materials and food to prepare them for their first day at school.

Drop out youth face fewer job opportunities, and lower salaries. 30% of California's children are abandoning school each year. We hope to make a difference by ensuring the kids have the supplies and nutritious food they need to succeed on their first day of school.

You can help kids succeed in school by taking action through direct contribution to supplies and/or donations. You can help today by making a donation at [www.capoc.org](http://www.capoc.org) or call Alexandra Tran at (714) 897-6670 ext. 3405. For corporations and business that wish to conduct a backpack drive, call Alexandra and materials and collection bins can be delivered to your office.