



# CAC NEWSLETTER

Community Action Commission  
of Santa Barbara County

# 2009 FALL

## *CAC and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*



*CAC's Community Reinvestment  
Project Sub-Contractor meeting*

The recession has taken its toll in our county and this has resulted in more people needing the assistance of non-profits that serve the low-income population. Unfortunately, these increased demands are coupled with recent decreases and eliminations in state and private funding. Community Action Commission (CAC) is receiving federal stimulus funding to advance self-sufficiency and will benefit the low-income population in the following ways:

**CAC Community Reinvestment Project-** CAC is serving as the lead agency to distribute federal stimulus funding to non-profits that serve the low-income community. Services to be funded include food, youth services, HIV case management, employment readiness, legal aid and child care.

**Senior Nutrition** - Union Plaza Apartments in Santa Maria and Pilgrim Terrace in Santa Barbara, which provide housing for low-income seniors, are now being served delicious daily meals by CAC. Additionally, more seniors are able to receive meals delivered into their homes.

**Weatherization** - Increased funding for 1,000 homes of low-income people to be weatherized and made energy-efficient.

**Head Start-** Stimulus funding was made available to cover the increased costs in staff benefits and additional services for children attending the part-day program.



*Fran Forman, Ellen Goodstein, Niki Richardson,  
Jerry Schwartz, and Tom Spodoro.*

*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

[www.cacsb.com](http://www.cacsb.com)



*Lilliana and Kevin*



## *Community Action Commission Teenage Pregnancy Program*



*Crystal and Daughter*

CAC's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP) successfully provides a comprehensive case-management and home-visitation program working with one of our most-vulnerable and high-risk populations: pregnant and parenting teens and their infants. Recently, state budget cuts were made to many vital services and TAPP saw its funding cut in half, by \$235,000, effectively ending services for over 150 young women in Santa Barbara County. Most of these youth live in impoverished, unsafe/unstable home environments.

*Until these cuts, TAPP was contracted to serve 303 clients throughout Santa Barbara County. However, as the 2008-2009 program year came to an end, 405 pregnant or parenting teens had received services.*



*Tonya and Fausto*

This group of young women and their partners experience psycho-social barriers, substance abuse, chronic health conditions, suffer from poor self-esteem, and a lack of adequate resources. Most are struggling with the life changing process of dealing with an unintended pregnancy during their teen years.

In May, TAPP held an end-of-year celebration to recognize clients who obtained a high school diploma or enrolled in community college. The celebration was attended by approximately 45 clients and was a true testimony that young mothers and fathers can find their road to self-sufficiency with the assistance of community partnerships.



## CAC's Fiesta Participation 2009



CAC's Head Start children and staff participated in Santa Barbara's 85th El Desfile Historico on August 7th.

## Policy Council Recognition Dinner



L-R: Board Member Grant House, Mattie Gadsby, Cesilia Ortiz

Cesilia Ortiz was honored as this year's recipient of the Sergio Andrade award. Cesilia was recognized for her active membership in the Policy Council and support of her daughter's Head Start center.



The Head Start Policy Council Recognition Dinner was held August 14th in Buellton. Outstanding parent volunteers were recognized for their service.



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of Santa Barbara County**  
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**COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION  
OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Community Action Commission is dedicated to providing high-quality, culturally appropriate services and opportunities for low-income people of all ages as they maintain or achieve self-sufficiency while retaining their dignity and self-esteem.

**CAC is a private, non-profit community agency.**

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Send your e-mail address to [dkrier@cacsb.com](mailto:dkrier@cacsb.com). We will never share, rent or sell your e-mail address.*

*Board Member Spotlight*



Rachael Novoa, Chairwoman of CAC's Board of Directors, was appointed in February 2008. For the last 13 years, Rachael has lived in the Santa Maria Valley with her husband Angel and two daughters, Monae and Malena. Currently, Rachael is the CEO of Mission Staffing Inc., a full-service staffing company in Santa Maria.

When Joseph Sapien approached Rachael about joining CAC's Board, she was immediately interested in becoming a member. Rachael was elected Board Chair after Joseph's passing in 2008.

When asked what she enjoyed most about being a member of the Board, Rachael had this to say, "It helps so many beautiful families. It's an honor for the Board of Directors to support the organization, and it's fun. It's so rewarding to sit and read to children at the Literacy Fairs and attend the Senior Nutrition Program openings. To see these beautiful things in our backyard, that so many people don't know about, it warms my heart."



**A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE COUNT  
IS IN OUR HANDS.**

For more information about the 2010 Census, go to [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).

2010 CENSUS  
IT'S IN OUR HANDS





*L - R: Raquel Valdez, Silvia Segoviano, Teri Ann Ryerson, Elva Quintanilla, Maria Elenes, Michelle Rivas, Monica Chavez, Stacey Lara, Gina Santoy, Ralph Ybarra, Vicky Zavala, Nanette Brown, Maggie Espinoza, Raquel Rubalcaba*

## *Meet the New CAC Graduates!*



*Kimberly Sheehy*

On Friday, June 26th, fourteen Children's Services staff members walked across the stage of the Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara and received their diplomas from Antioch University. Each earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration on Child, Family and Society. This group also has the distinction of being part of the first north county cohort of students formed by Antioch.

For the eighteen months leading up to graduation, CAC staff members took time on evenings and weekends to attend classes in subjects such as social psychology, theories of learning and cognition, and the Latino community in American society. CAC provided partial tuition assistance and reimbursement for textbooks. This achievement also assisted with meeting new Head Start educational qualification requirements for teaching staff for 2013.

Over the past four years, twenty-five CAC staff members have obtained bachelor's degrees and fourteen have obtained associate's degrees. Head Start centers, families and the community they serve benefit from having well-educated and capable staff members, who have learned proven techniques and additional resources to aid them in their work.



*Vicky Zavala*

### *Snapshot of a Program Support Team Member*



Dianne Reasner is a program support staff member working in early childhood education. With the support of First 5 and CAC, she pursued and obtained an associate's degree, then a bachelor's degree, and most recently, a master's degree.

For Dianne, graduation day was a time when, in her words, "I felt proud. My grandchildren and children were there, and saw me walk across the stage. At that point, I felt the accomplishment."

"[With] every class I took, I became better at my job. When I started, I was a teacher, and learning about core development really helped me to be able to communicate better with parents. Later on, I learned more about statistics and the bigger picture. I think with education, your awareness as well as your knowledge grows, which allows you to do your job more effectively."

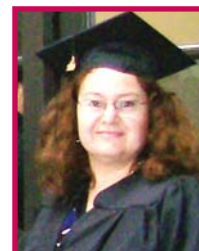
Dianne Reasner currently provides program support for education in North County.



*Nanette Brown*



*Maggie Espinoza*



*Raquel Rubalcaba*



# Summer Food Service Program



*Summer Food Service Program Interns*



Thanks in part to a grant from Exxon Mobil Foundation, five student interns helped CAC's Nutrition Services make and serve 1300 meals a day for the Summer Food Service Program. This program provided a nutritious lunch to low-income school-age children at over 20 sites Countywide.



*L-R: Nestor Martinez, Daniel Martinez, Jasmin Guerrero, Patrick Burgess, and Walter Lee.*

## Union Plaza Senior Center Grand Opening



CAC's Senior Nutrition Program hosted a Grand Opening Celebration at the Union Plaza Senior Living Facility in Santa Maria on September 17th. Approximately 100 seniors attended this festive event. Thanks to the efforts of Community Action Commission and the Area Agency on Aging, lunches will now be served Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

## Hutton Catering

CAC's Nutrition Services catered the Grand Opening of the Arts and Culture Building by the Hutton Foundation, located in downtown Santa Barbara.



*L-R: Joelle Dohrman, Mait Dwyer, and Pam Hamlin*

## Guadalupe Luau



Seniors at the Guadalupe Senior Center were treated to a Hawaiian Luau, complete with Hula. In addition to music and dance, the seniors enjoyed a festive meal.

