



Community
Action
Commission
A PRIVATE NONPROFIT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

2018 FALL NEWSLETTER

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Community Action Commission
A PRIVATE NONPROFIT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
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OCTOBER IS AWARENESS MONTH!

GOLETA LEMON FESTIVAL

And
Community Action Commission of
Santa Barbara County



Gary Lynd and Kemba Lawrence



CAC Energy Program

National Weatherization Day October 30th

October 30th is National Weatherization Day! CAC's Weatherization Program offers a variety of services that help improve the energy efficiency and safety of your home. Some services we offer include appliance upgrades and repairs, window and door replacements and repairs, home safety testing, insulation and weatherstripping to name a few. To get more information and to see if you qualify **please contact (805) 617-2897 or energyinfo@cacsb.com**

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Patricia Keelean

The Public Policy Institute of California recently identified Santa Barbara County as having the third highest rate of poverty in the state – a shocking statistic for a region that takes pride in its image as the American Riviera. The Community Action Commission (CAC) is embracing this statistic as a call to action, recommitting ourselves to attacking this problem directly by developing new programs to address the root causes of poverty including the need for education, financial literacy, job training, affordable housing, childcare, reliable transportation and other basic needs.

I am excited to announce that CAC will be implementing three new programs in the coming months which are designed to address the key issues that often prevent low-income people from becoming financially stable. These programs include:

- Financial Literacy Program
- Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Education & Outreach Program

CAC's new **Financial Literacy Program** will work in partnership with **Rabobank** to implement the "Your Money, Your Goals" educational toolkit developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C. The program, funded by the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), is designed to financially empower parents, building their skills to manage money including maintaining a budget, establishing a savings account for asset building and responsible use of credit, resulting in less financial stress.

With funding from our Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), CAC is also implementing a **Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSSP)**. This project will identify 15-20 low-income individuals annually who



Pat Keelean, CEO, for CAC, Alicia Patino, Mayor of Santa Maria and Marlana Murdock, Multifamily Training Manager at The Towbes Group



The Towbes Group partners with CAC for a donor appreciation event

are seeking to complete a degree or job training certification program in order to secure employment and/or increase their earning potential. Intensive case management and financial coaching for a two year period will help participants access services needed to overcome barriers to employment, including stable, affordable housing, child care and reliable transportation. In short, FSSP will provide the long-term support needed to navigate the complex pathway to independence.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Finally, CAC will also be spearheading the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Education & Outreach Program**, funded by the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD). EITC is one of the nation's most successful anti-poverty programs because it puts money directly back into the pockets of the working poor. This year, eligibility has been expanded to include adults 18-24 years of age and seniors over 65 years of age so that more low-income Californians can benefit from the tax credit. CAC will be working this tax season to educate Santa Barbara's low-income population about the credit and connect them with local organizations that can help them prepare their taxes for free. This program is truly a "win-win" for the community since these refunds – on average \$3,176 per tax return – are typically spent in the local economy.

Each one these programs – along with CAC's existing programs – are essential components for building a system of support that helps low-income people find a pathway out of poverty. They also have one thing in common: Education. CAC is committed to creating opportunities for individuals and families to gain the knowledge and skills needed to improve their quality of life and earning potential as adults. It makes good sense for our children, our families and our communities. Together, we all rise.

PROGRAMS WISH LIST

FYS - TEENS

School Supplies
Backpacks
Pens/Pencils
Composition Books
3 hole binder paper
Spiral notebooks
Erasers
Protractors

SENIOR SERVICES

Volunteers for :
Meal Delivery Drivers
Congregate Meal Sites Volunteers
Facilitator for games and events
Bingo games
Playing cards
Entertainment:
Music for dancing

EARLY HEAD START 0-3 YEARS

Diapers (newborn)
Baby wipes
Diaper rash cream
Bibs
Pull-ups



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Volunteer Information Form

Name:	Telephone #:
Address:	E-mail Address:
Emergency Contact name:	Emergency Contact Telephone #:
Availability:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Short Term <input type="checkbox"/> Long Term <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects Dates Available: _____ Number of Hours Available: _____ Per: <input type="checkbox"/> Week <input type="checkbox"/> Month Preferred Schedule: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends Only <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference Times of Day: <input type="checkbox"/> Mornings <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoons <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference	
Volunteer Interests: (mark all that apply)	
Direct services (working with): <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Teens <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors <input type="checkbox"/> No preference Indirect services: <input type="checkbox"/> Admin Support <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Video Production <input type="checkbox"/> Drivers <input type="checkbox"/> Home Delivery Meals <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Congregate Meal Site <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Explain: _____	
How did you hear about CAC? _____	
Why do you want to volunteer at CAC? _____ _____ _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____

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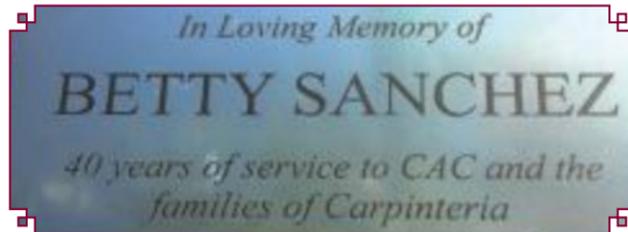
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Head Start Program

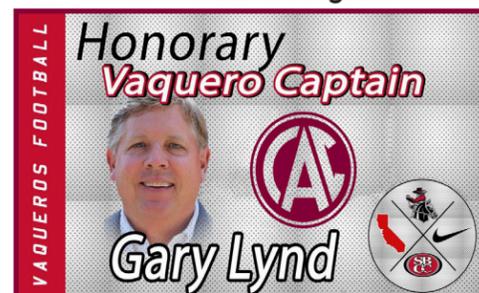
CAC/Head start dedicates Betty Sanchez Center

A ceremony to dedicate the outdoor classroom of the Community Action Commission/Head Start Program in honor of Betty Sanchez was held on Aug. 15. Betty, who passed away last year, had been the Site Supervisor for 17 years. A mulberry tree was planted at the center in her honor. Her brother, Rudy Garnica, built a redwood bench to surround the tree that will provide a shaded resting place in the coming years for our Head Start children.



Senior Nutrition Program

Santa Barbara City College Acknowledges CAC's Senior Nutrition Program!



The Art of Giving Back Café & Catering Company

Our new name for the Back Door Deli isn't the only change. We're sprucing up the interior and look forward to providing catered lunches for your upcoming boardroom meetings and more. Remember all of our profits go towards our Senior Nutrition Program; not only are you feeding yourself, you are helping us feed our low-income seniors! Watch for contact, menu information and more in the coming months!! Thank you!

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Family Youth & Services Program

Young Mom Briseyda Balances Baby and Education

"If it weren't for Monica, I don't think I'd be in school anymore," says Briseyda, a young mom and future high school graduate who is taking the steps she needs to build a strong future for herself and her baby. This might not have been possible without the **state-funded Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP) run by the Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County**, which connected Briseyda with case manager, Monica.

AFLP case managers meet with pregnant and parenting youth one-on-one twice a month to discuss goal setting and life planning; connect clients to resources to meet their basic needs; and identify strengths and build skills for managing difficult situations.

Briseyda—who goes by Bri—felt lost in the traditional educational system and didn't feel equipped to navigate her educational options on her own. Having a baby made things more challenging. Once connected with AFLP, Monica was there to help. Monica, having been an adolescent mother herself, could relate. She understood that Bri

needed someone in her corner. Someone to help her navigate and explore her options, and help to facilitate an educational plan that best served Bri and her goal to graduate from high school. "Monica is like a second mother to me," Bri says. In addition to helping Bri secure an educational plan tailored to her needs, Monica also helped Bri obtain child care

town over, Bri stuck with it: "It's difficult, but I have to keep on doing what I have to do for my baby."

AFLP is not designed to solve all of the problems in an adolescent's life; rather, the goal of the program is to build upon a youth's strengths and skills so they know how to handle life's challenges. This is certainly true for Briseyda who plans to complete high school and continue her education by going to cosmetology school.

This young mom's determination to meet her goals for both herself and her daughter is palpable. Bri lights up when she talks about her daughter, and she loves watching her baby grow and learn new things. Bri fosters her daughter's interest in learning and hopes Priscilla will pursue an education as well, and

hopefully not have to struggle like she did.



Case manager, Monica (left) and AFLP youth, Briseyda

for her daughter. To help juggle so many responsibilities, Monica worked with Bri to figure out the local public bus schedule and tight morning routine Bri would need to stay in school and get her daughter to child care on time. Despite the challenges of dropping her daughter off and catching a bus to go to school a

Says Monica, "I set her up and she flew; she's doing it all on her own now." This speaks highly to Bri's strengths. Her resilience and positive, can-do attitude will carry her far.



Briseyda, AFLP youth and her daughter, Priscilla

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Development Department

Exciting news from CAC's Development Department!

Do you ever wonder how CAC provides 22 programs, from Early Head Start to Senior Nutrition to Weatherization for over 51 years? The only way we can continue these programs is with your support!

You are the reason we are able to help over 10,000 individuals and families throughout Santa Barbara County every year. Without your generosity and contributions, we would not be able to help educate children ages infancy to four, provide and deliver seven nutritious meals per week to over 1,000 seniors, weatherize and give energy assistance to almost 2,000 households. Let's not forget the medical, dental and mental health care you help us to provide. The number of lives we have been able to touch is countless, thanks to your support.

Our development team is busy trying to keep up with the ever-increasing demand for services. We are thrilled to share information about our new **Volunteer Guild Committee**. The committee was created to help with fundraising, events and new concepts to attract donors and participants. We are busy planning an upcoming Halloween Happy Hour fundraiser as well as a December Holiday High Tea at a lovely ranch estate.

Funds raised from these two events are earmarked for our Family and Youth Services Programs; Teen Age Pregnancy and Parenting (TAPP), Tutoring, and FamilyWellness – just to name a few. Watch for more details and specifics. We are also planning a fun-filled family cycling "Friend-raiser" event for early 2019, that includes a picnic.

Interested in volunteering or Donating?

If you are interested in volunteering for CAC, please fill out the attached volunteer information form and mail it back or click on this link http://www.cacsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CAC_Volunteer_Application-2018.pdf and complete the form online. We will contact you immediately!

We are thankful for your continued support and please think of CAC as we work towards closing out our year with funds to carry us into 2019. There is no such thing as a donation too small, as every dollar you send helps us reach our year-end goal of \$100,000. For your convenience, a donation form and envelope are included in this Fall Newsletter, or you can click on button **Donate now or Give Now** to make your donation online. We treasure each and every one of our donors and know that you are the reason we are able to help people and change lives.

Thank you to everyone who uses our monthly donation program for giving. It is hard to believe that \$83.33 per month adds up to \$1,000 per year or \$41.66 per month equals \$500.00 per year. Just think, if 100 people committed to giving \$1,000 over the year, we will start the year off with a bang ~ a \$100,000 commitment!!

Upcoming Events



Halloween Happy Hour



Holiday High Tea



Family Cycling



Picnic



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I want to use your monthly plan:

- \$83.33 Monthly (\$1000 Annually – Billed for 12 months)
- \$41.66 Monthly (\$500 Annually – Billed for 12 months)

I want to contribute the following in one payment:

- \$1000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- Other \$ _____

Check Payable to CACSB is enclosed

Name on Card: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Please charge my Credit Card (Visa/Mastercard) # _____

Expiration: ____/____ Security Code: _____ Billing zip code: _____

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