



## **MAY IS COMMUNITY ACTION AWARENESS MONTH**

Here are some of the exciting things our network agencies are doing during May:

- CSET – Their Board of Supervisors did a proclamation on May 4. Additionally, CSET is holding a reception on May 17 and will honor ten people/organizations who exemplify promise of community action.

## **WE CAN DO IT! THE BUZZ AT THE 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Representatives from agencies throughout the state and beyond assembled in beautiful San Francisco, April 13-16, for training, presentations and networking at the Cal/Neva & Region IX 2010 Annual Conference and Poverty Summit. This year, unlike any other, has brought many challenges and successes in our network's local communities and the conference proved to be an excellent venue, strengthening ties, solving problems and learning valuable and empowering skills.

Visiting dignitaries included David Bradley, National Community Action Foundation; David Hansell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families; Seth Hassett, Director of the Division of State Assistance (DSA) within the Office of Community Services (OCS) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF); Sharon Fujii, Region IX; Lloyd Throne, California Department of Community Services and Development; Don Mathis, National Community Action Partnership; among others.

Attendees were offered an array of interesting and informative topics and treated to excellent trainings and panel discussions, enlightening them to new ways of doing business, including skill development and knowledge building.



The Board Training (a day geared specifically for board members, executive directors and senior management staff) featured a return of October conference presenter, Anita Lichtblau of CAPLAW. Her engaging topic *Top Ten Answers Every Good Board Member Should Know*, focused on ten key elements of being an effective board member, with

particular emphasis on issues of legal compliance. *Improve Your Meeting Mojo* hosted by Liz Guthridge, Connect Consulting Group, Registered Parliamentarian, National Association of Parliamentarians, engaged the audience by discussing the best ways to hold a Board meeting, including problem solving through facilitation and observing rules and regulations.



Excitement and positive energy filled the air as the Annual Conference got underway with a showcase of Solano County's creative logo project – We ARRA Workin'. For more information on how to order t-shirts, hats, etc., go to [www.wearaworkin.org](http://www.wearaworkin.org)



Featured topics at the conference included: What is Community Economic Development and Is My Organization Ready; CSBG – A Federal Update; Building the Value in Your Mission – Using Media Skills; Addressing the Needs of ARRA Projects; Mental Discipline/Innovation/Critical Thinking Skills; Project Finance, Case Study – CAP Sonoma Evolving Roles as a Locally Based Intermediary; Excellence in the Public Sector – Redesign of LA City Human Services Delivery System; Social Media, Legislative Processes; Graphic Facilitation; Strategy for Economic Self-sufficiency; EITC Best Practices; Using Checklists to Clarity Process; ARRA Showcase; and Pathways to Excellence.



For more information on the presentations and copies of the PowerPoint slide shows, go to [www.calneva.camp7.org](http://www.calneva.camp7.org)

To join the conference planning committee, please contact Koleen [kclary@cal-neva.org](mailto:kclary@cal-neva.org)

## **PATHWAYS IN CALIFORNIA UPDATE**

Lil Dupree's (nCAP) engaging presentation to the network at our Annual Conference in April was met with enthusiasm. Pathways to Excellence focuses on getting organizations started on their own unique journey toward excellence using the Self-Study and Comprehensive Feedback Process as diagnostic tools for setting agency improvement priorities. Not only is Pathways coming to California, Lil is looking for Peer Reviewers. To become qualified as an Award/Pathways to Excellence peer-expert reviewer direct inquiries to: Lil Dupree, Director of Training, 202-449-9775, or email [ldupree@communityactionpartnership.com](mailto:ldupree@communityactionpartnership.com).



For more information on the Pathways Program go to:

[http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=126](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=126)

## **FULFILLING THE PROMISE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROJECT – PHASE 2 UNDERWAY**

The final tapings, demonstrating how Community Action Agencies are fulfilling the promise of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), have been completed and are now being edited for the website. Take a look at all the new videos -- [www.fulfillingthepromise-us.org](http://www.fulfillingthepromise-us.org).

Media Kit folders are printed and have been distribute to the participants. Work has begun on customization of local agency inserts. Soon, these will be used at State capitol visits, as we approach “May revise”, to educate Legislators on the importance of the work we do to help those in need.

As part of the FTP project, a Community Action ARRA at Work “butterfly” logo was created. In April, Cal/Neva hosted a nationwide webinar to provide information to CAA representatives on how they can obtain the logo for their own use. It is exciting to note that the webinar was well attended and ten agencies have signed the memo of agreement and are now using the logo for their local or statewide projects.



More than 25 Cal/Neva agencies currently participate in the *Fulfilling the Promise Educational and Outreach Project*. You can still participate in this incredible educational and outreach project...for more information, contact Lynn Grogan [lynn@cal-neva.org](mailto:lynn@cal-neva.org)

## **CAL/NEVA IS NOW OFFERING MONTHLY WEBINARS**

One of the benefits of belonging to Cal/Neva is that we listen to our network's needs. Responding to requests for information on how to sustain ARRA programs long after

September, a training and technical assistance program in the form of a webinar series was created by consultant Catherine Marshall. These webinars have been an important teaching tool on topics such as Getting Great Grants, Sustainability Toolkit: 10 Steps to Maintaining Your Community Improvements and creating a Development Plan.

Upcoming webinars include:

Tue, June 15 @ 10 am - Building a Fundraising Board (1.5 CFRE credits)

Thu, July 22 @ 10 am - Developing Your Case for Support (1.5 CFRE credits)

Wed, September 15 @ 10 am - Mission Driven Earned Income

Memos on how to sign up are sent out from Cal/Neva on a regular basis, so be on the look out. For more information, contact Lynn Grogan [lynn@cal-neva.org](mailto:lynn@cal-neva.org)

### **CNP3 / SKILLS BANK— A GREAT RESOURCE!**

Cal/Neva's CNP3, Peer-to-Peer training project is an innovative tool for agencies to learn best practices and productive strategies from their peers throughout California.

Three levels of training are available:

- Regular 1 to 1 (1 day)
- Extended (more than 1 day)
- Enhanced (group training)

Take advantage of our Peer trainers, available in the following subject areas:

Governance/Program Administration, Community Outreach, Fiscal, Evaluation, Human Resources, History & Purpose, Strategic Planning, Program Development, ROMA, other. For more information or to sign up [www.cal-neva.org](http://www.cal-neva.org)

### **BENEFITS OF CAL/NEVA MEMBERSHIP**

Cal/Neva offers a variety of support services to assist our member agencies in providing innovative programs and services to low-income individuals and families in the midst of a constantly changing political, social and economic environment. Membership benefits include:

- Training and technical assistance workshops
- Cal/Neva serves as liaison and coalition builder with allied statewide and national organizations
- Educating Federal, State and Local representatives about the Community Action Network
- Informing the network about funding opportunities and other important information via newsletters, emails and e-news updates
- Resource development
- Discounts at Meetings and Conferences
- Opportunities to network and build skills
- CAPLAW membership – a significant savings and value to members

Become a member today! Go to: <http://www.cal-neva.org/join/becomeMember.cfm>

### **PARTNERSHIPS ARE WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT AT NCO, INC. – LEARN MORE**

Many of North Coast Opportunities, Inc.'s projects are in partnership with others. The following link to a youtube video shows the recent grand opening of a commercial

kitchen at the Willits Grange. This kitchen is meant for community use, entrepreneurs producing value added products, use for assisting with getting fresh produce into the schools, etc. This was a joint project between NCO and the Grange.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KHrvsEdPyM>

## FOOTHILL UNITY CENTER ON AMERICAN IDOL

Read the exciting news below:

### IDOL ALL THE TIME

April 19, 2010

By Shirley Halperin, Los Angeles Times

Ellen DeGeneres and David Arquette team up, give back, help feed...



*Photos: Ellen DeGeneres and David Arquette are debriefed by Joan Whitenack, Executive Director, on Feeding America's distribution method at the Foothill Unity Center in Monrovia. The two visited the food bank as part of "Idol Gives Back." David Arquette and Ellen DeGeneres pose with volunteers and recipients. Credit: Ray Mickshaw / Fox*

From the minute you step foot into the Foothill Unity Center in Monrovia, some 25 miles east of L.A., you get the immediate sense that these people mean business. Sure, the guy greeting you at the door is pushing 90, but you learn soon enough that when it comes to [Feeding America](#) volunteers, they come in all ages, colors, sizes and creeds. Likewise, the center's beneficiaries span every demographic. The person coming in for a cart full of basic groceries (a \$10 donation equals 90 pounds of food) could be your neighbor, a friend, a teacher or anyone struggling to scrape by in a down economy.

Those were some of the lessons learned by "American Idol" judge Ellen DeGeneres upon visiting the center as part of "Idol Gives Back." Her host? Actor David Arquette, who volunteers twice a week at the [St. Joseph's Center in Venice](#). "The old statistic was 1 in 8 Americans don't know where their next meal is coming from," he explained. "Now, it's 1 in 6. It went from 36 million to 49 million, so the numbers are increasing." Ellen's response, like so many who confront the reality of hunger in this country: simply, "Crazy."

The two made their way through the Costco-like aisles, flanked on all sides by crates of peanut butter, cereal, fruit, vegetables and rice. "We typically think of a soup kitchen," David continued, "but there are 60,000 pantries like this one where they're filling bags and carts full of groceries for people." Indeed, Ellen was introduced to a family of five who are struggling to pay their bills on a junior high teacher's salary. Or David offered a scenario just as close to home: "It could be an out-of-work actor who had to get some help with food so that he could pay his rent or gas for his car to get to auditions," he said. "It is our neighbors." Added Ellen: "We have enough money and resources in this country, no one should be hungry.... Right now, a lot of people are struggling. We need this place."

David will be in attendance at Wednesday's "Idol Gives Back" special, both to represent the charity and as an "Idol" fan. It seems the show is must-see TV in David's household. His Season 9 favorites? "I like the rock 'n' roll kid with the scratchy voice," he said, referring to Lee DeWyze. "And I like the blond girl with the dreads" (Crystal Bowersox). Clearly, he's not great with names. So how about the ladies in his life? Daughter Coco hasn't invested herself in any one contestant, said David, but wife Courteney Cox is still lamenting one early elimination. "She had a favorite who got voted off and was a little upset about that," said David, again hard-pressed to come up with a name. "She called him the mullet." Say no more.

### **BUTTE CAA WINS 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE FOR FTP THEME FLOAT**

Thomas Tenorio, Executive Director, Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc. writes, "Congratulations to those who worked on the parade float that was entered into the Pioneer Days Parade in Chico this weekend. The theme of the event was "Celebrating Non-Profits". The theme of our float was "Fulfilling the Promise" and featured staff and volunteers from our Esplanade House. The effort resulted in a first place finish!



Additional photos are at the Chico Enterprise Record [www.chicoer.com](http://www.chicoer.com)  
Now it is on to the Feather Fiesta Days Parade in Oroville this coming weekend with our best wishes. Again, congratulations and thank you."