

Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County

CAC: *Creating opportunities for Santa Barbara County families to achieve stability.*



Newsletter

Summer 2016

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In This Issue

[2016 Champions Dinner](#)

[Youth Corps Graduation](#)

[New Healthy Senior Lunch
Location](#)

[Enrollment Carnival](#)

**Meet CAL-SOAP's New
Director Joanna Romo**



[Click on image for more
information](#)

Featured Sponsors



I am humbled by all that CAC has accomplished so far this year. Our community is fortunate to have so many great leaders and philanthropists like our 2016 Community Action Champions: Congresswoman Lois Capps and Jackie and Fidenzio Brunello. This Spring, CAC pioneered a collaborative project benefiting young men from the city of Lompoc. Our Energy Services Department and CAC's Youth Corps program teamed up to train young men to become certified California Weatherization installers ready to enter the growing green energy sector. Our Healthy Senior Lunch program has also grown, adding three new sites to better serve our senior citizens. I am also pleased to announce that we hosted our first Head Start Enrollment Carnival in Santa Maria, enrolling dozens of students in our program.

Community Action Champions Honored



Over 200 people attended the Community Action Commission's (CAC) [Community Action Champions](#) annual dinner June 2 at the Hotel Corque in Solvang. Honored because of their profound effect on the greater good of the community and their emphasis on helping those who are most vulnerable were Lois Capps, U.S. representative for California's 24th Congressional District, and Fidenzio and Jackie Brunello, life-long educators, community volunteers and philanthropists committed to fostering human development and building cultural unity in the City of Santa Maria. Thanks to [CenCal Health's](#) matching donation, this year's sponsorships had twice the impact.

Proceeds from the event will go directly to the CAC Healthy Senior Lunch program, which provides meals to 1,500 low-income seniors each year at thirteen countywide community centers and through home delivery to disabled seniors. [View photos from the event here.](#)

(Click [here](#) to see all CAC sponsors.)

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Youth Corps Graduation



Curt Taylor, Youth Corps Leader, and graduate, Jesus Navarro

Seven members of CAC Youth Corps graduated from the program in May after becoming California registered weatherization installers. The participants received training by CAC's Energy Services staff in the basics of weatherization installation as well as OSHA training to recognize and prevent hazards on the work site. The

final stage of training took place in Stockton, CA. Youth Corps members learned to work with combustion appliances and identify fuel leaks and health hazards to the occupants of the homes. We are very proud to say that all of the Youth Corps participants passed and are now California registered weatherization installers. Congratulations to Jesus Navarro, Erick Arevalo, Sheldon Carvalho, Joseph Covarrubias, Nate Eller and Javier Mora. [View photos from the graduation here.](#)

New Sites for Healthy Senior Lunch

CAC's Nutrition Services has opened a new Healthy Senior Lunch site, [Villa Caridad](#), and have two others planned to open July 1, [Louise Lowry Davis Center](#) and [Franklin Neighborhood Center](#). Healthy Senior Lunch provides hot nutritious meals to 300 seniors per day at community centers from Guadalupe to Carpinteria. We also deliver meals to 350 home bound seniors each day.



Head Start Carnival

CAC held the First Annual Head Start enrollment carnival for Santa Maria families with children 3-4 years of age. The carnival featured free food, activities, games, music and information about



CAC services. Families applied for Head Start right at the carnival. Teachers from Santa Maria Head Start centers were on hand demonstrating developmentally appropriate classroom activities. We are proud to announce that the carnival received 52 applications! [Event photos here.](#)

Thank you for your support of CAC. Together, we are making a difference in our community.

Sincerely,

**Fran Forman, Executive Director
Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara
County**