



**California/Nevada  
Community Action  
Partnership**

1964 -2006

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## From the Desk of Tim F. Reese

Executive Director



We live in challenging times. That's a constant given. Recent federal funding changes have eliminated CFNP (Community Food and Nutrition Program) funds. Cal/Neva is facing the new federal fiscal year with a 40% reduction in funding for direct programs and some resulting staffing adjustments as well. In spite of this, we are committed to outcomes at the association level provided by a small but dedicated professional staff guided by the experience of our executive committee volunteers.

Cal/Neva has successfully moved the funding formula bill (SB1376) forward as required in AB444. We have worked very closely with CSD to include technical clean up language to the bill. We are on the record and have provided written and public testimony regarding a number of bills that affect low income families. Cal/Neva continues to provide education, training and technical assistance to the network as a whole and to individual agencies, specifically. Members of our executive committee sit on the boards of our national partners, representing the perspectives of California CAA's. Remember, your paid Cal/Neva membership automatically includes a membership to CAPLAW, which provides a significant savings to you.

Our priorities remain clear and have been adopted by the executive committee at a recent planning meeting in Sparks, Nevada. Cal/Neva will remain vigilant to our mission by focusing on

the following four priorities;

- 1. Capacity Building** of the community action network to assist our members fulfill the Promise of Community Action.
- 2. Direct individualized Training and Technical Assistance** to the community action network based upon local needs through referral or direct requests.
- 3. Asset Building** through the community action network utilizing a variety of federal and state initiatives such as EITC, IDA and food stamp access projects.
- 4. Member Services** providing for education opportunities, networking, legislative advocacy and public awareness.

Of course, Cal/Neva will continue to work closely with you and other partners including, the state CA Department of Community Services and Development department, federal Office of Community Services, National Community Action Foundation and Partnership, CAPLAW and the state directors association NASCSP.

I am very proud of our board, staff and members and the accomplishments of Cal/Neva over the past year in helping you, help people and change lives. Plan now to join us at our Fall Quarterly meeting at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel LAX October 18th - 20th.

See you there!

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**CAL/NEVA QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**October 18-20, 2006**

**Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)**  
*Additional information will be e-mailed to you soon!*

## Cal/Neva Welcomes New Executive Directors

Cal/Neva would like to announce and welcome four new Executive Directors to the Community Action Network.

Ms. Estela Barrera, of LA County Community Action Board (CAB). Ms. Barrera has been the new Executive Director since April of this year and previously held the position of Human Services Administrator I at LA CAB.

Mr. Darick Simpson, of Long Beach Community Action Agency was hired as Executive Director on May 1, 2006. Prior to working at LBCAA, Mr. Simpson was employed by Long Beach City College as a Consultant and as a

presenter on Community Education.

Ms. Pam Miller, Director of Yolo County Department of Social Services was formerly employed by the Riverside County Department of Social Services. Ms. Miller has been Director of Yolo County DSS since January of 2006.

And finally, Ms. Georgina Lehne Executive Director, of Lake County Community Action Agency was hired as Executive Director in March of 2006 and was formerly the Director of the Lake County Red Cross.

Please join us in welcoming these new ED's to our network.



*Pictured clockwise from top left: Mr. Darick Simpson, Ms. Pam Miller, Ms. Estela Barrera. (Not pictured: Ms. Georgina Lehne.*

### What's the Status of SB 1376?

Many of you may recall that Cal/Neva was charged by AB 444 to conduct a study and propose to the legislature recommendations of an equitable funding formula for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) allocations to all California community action agencies.

Over the past six months, Cal/Neva staff, Legislative Committee, and Executive Committee have been working very close with the Department of Community Services and Development to finalize language to suggest to the legislature. Senator Wesly Chesbro (D-Arcata) has authored this language which is now in the form of SB 1376, and the bill has been moving through the legislative process with much success.

This bill would revise the method by which federal assistance is allocated to agencies to establish a base amount for each agency that increases, as provided, and to provide for additional allocations. If the amount of federal assistance declines by more than 20% below the 2005 federal fiscal year amount, the bill would require the Director of Community Services to convene the network of agencies receiving grant funds to determine whether changes to the allocation system should be contemplated and referred to the Legislature for consideration.

This bill is scheduled to be heard on the Assembly Floor on August 7th. Complete bill text can be viewed at [www.cal-neva.org](http://www.cal-neva.org).

### New CSD Director Appointed

*...Article continued from pg. 1*

18-person board of directors. He was Executive Director for the Boulder County Economic Development Council, Inc. when it offered the first HeadStart and HeadStart Follow Through program in the United States.

A (former) Board Member of the California Community Economic Development Association (CCEDA) and the Board of Directors of the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), Mr. Throne has also served as an Executive Committee Member of CAL-NEVA, and on the Humboldt County Homeless Task Force, the Economic Development Task Force and the Disaster Assistance Task Force for the County.

Mr. Throne received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Colorado University, Boulder, and attended the Graduate School of Community Development, University of Missouri. He served in the Peace Corps as a member of the first rural Peace Corps to be sent to Colombia, South America.

His interests include cycling, kayaking and travel.

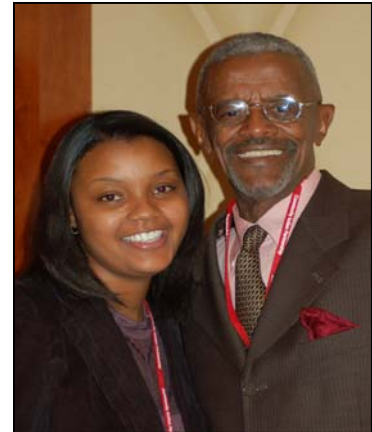
Congratulations Lloyd!

## Where's All The CASH?

The CASH Campaign has successfully ended another tax season. With over 7 million in EITC dollars claimed and 12 million in federal refunds throughout California, the Campaign has a reason to celebrate.

This tax season, many new partnerships were born. We witnessed CAAs working together to provide tax preparation and financial literacy, agencies conducting traveling VITA sites, and agencies preparing finished taxes for their own employees. Fifteen agencies increased partnerships and focused on connecting low-income families to asset development, financial literacy, and combating refund anticipation loans (RALs) in this 2005 tax season.

In July, the CASH Campaign will culminate the tax season with the CASH Campaign Financial Education and Asset Development National Institute in San Francisco. The Institute presented a train the trainer model for practitioners interested in choosing and implementing a financial literacy program. The Institute was the first of its kind being held in California- designed for community action agencies and their partners.



Above: EITC Program Coordinator, Ms. Zena Scott with San Francisco EOC Executive Director, Mr. Nathaniel Mason.

### Success Stories:

Imperial County- Campesinos Unidos with 3 staff completed 164 tax returns- helping their clients receive over \$180,000 in EITC refund.

San Francisco County- San Francisco Economic Opportunity Council partnered with Associated Community Action Program of Hayward to provide a Free Tax Day at the Potrero Hill Child Center.

For more information on the CASH Campaign or to share your EITC success stories, please contact Ms. Zena Scott at 916-433-1721 x 17.

## Six Head Start Centers Granted Accreditation

### Article taken from "The Bakersfield Californian", July 10, 2006

Six Head Start child development centers through Community Action Partnership of Kern earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The association accredited three centers in Bakersfield and others in Tehachapi, Lost Hills and Arvin May 31.

Head Start centers provide child care and education, plus referrals to health care for children from infants to age 5, said partnership spokeswoman Christine Lollar.

The centers serve 2,600 children

throughout the county, mostly from low-income households.

"Accreditation reverberates the quality Head Start strives for", she said.

Accreditation for the centers took nearly a year, Lollar said. The accreditation lasts five years.

The partnership will continue the process of accrediting its 54 child development centers.

The accredited Head Start centers are: 425 E. Fairview Road, 4404 Pioneer Drive and 3000 Sterling Road in Bakersfield; 1120 S. Curry St. in Tehachapi; 21109 Paso Robles Highway in Lost Hills; and 115 Monroe St. in Arvin.

The association accredits centers serving infants to children age, 8, said association spokesman Alan Simpson. The association's criteria cover health and safety, child-to-teacher ratio, and classroom size, he said.

To earn accreditation, Head Start conducts a self study and makes internal improvements.

After a report is made, the association sends reviewers to the site and the program is evaluated by a panel, which decided whether to give accreditation, Simpson said.

For more information or to enroll a child in the Head Start program, call 336-5236 or 800-701-7060.

# Food Access News

## Are You Ready to Walk Your Socks Off?

This past May Cal/Neva kicked off the "Walk Your Socks Off" campaign for a healthier lifestyle. By using a pedometer (step counter), CAA employees participated in walking 10,000 steps per day to effectively change their behavior to live a healthier lifestyle. In doing this they showed their clients that they are not only advocating and educating, but they are participating too.

We are proud to announce that six of our member agencies have participated in this program. The participating agencies include: Community Action Agency of Butte, Community Action Partnership of Riverside County, Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County, Community Action Agency of Merced, Redwood Community Action Agency, and the Associated Community Action Program (ACAP).

With a combined total of over 600 participants in the program we can say that this program is off to a successful beginning. The Walk Your Socks Off Program will conclude at the end of August.

If you have any questions regarding this program. Please contact the Cal/Neva Office.



## Hunger Action Day 2006

Cal/Neva staff and members recently participated in Hunger Action Day on May 16, 2006. Cal/Neva has been a proud supporter of this event for the past 3 years and has worked closely with the California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC), California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) and the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) to plan and coordinate this valuable event.

This year CHAC recognized seven individuals as the 2006 Hunger Fighter Award recipients for their work in helping to combat hunger in California. Hunger Fighter recipients included, Representative Joe Baca, Assembly Member Noreen Evans, Assembly Member Bonnie Garcia, Sanger Unified School District's Director of Food Services, Jeffrey Davidson, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Ag Against Hunger Board Chair, Joe Pezzini, and Owner of Raley's grocery store chain, Joyce Raley-Teel.

## Cal/Neva Food System Summit

On June 1, 2006 Cal/Neva in collaboration with Lassen-Plumas-Sierra Community Action Agency to host the Cal/Neva Food System Summit the food.

The summit was a great success. With over 25 people in attendance representing all three counties.

Speakers of the summit included Cal/Neva staff Lisa Tadlock who gave an overview of federal nutrition programs and how they can be better utilized in Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties; Zenae Scott, who presented on the Earned Income Tax Credit Program and how it can be used as a tool to help secure money for low-income families to purchase nutritious foods; Melissa Ortiz-Gray, who presented on the Cal/Neva Walk Your Socks Off campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle while preventing obesity. Other Summit presenters included Angela Dazey from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada who introduced the food bank of Nevada County and their services, Elizabeth Powell from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada county who presented on the formation of Food Policy Councils and how they can help communities actively shape the food systems on which they depend; Sara Martinez and Mercedes Ramof from the Colaboracion de Mujeres para la Salud y Nutricion who presented on the collaborative vision for a healthier food system; and Janet Canty from the Portola CARES Resource Center who facilitated a session on Open Spaces of Food and Nutrition.

Cal/Neva would like to thank the summit attendees for their participation and special thanks to Elizabeth Powell for being instrumental in the organization of the Summit!

*"The spirit cannot endure the body when overfed, but if underfed, the body cannot endure the spirit."*

*-St. Frances de Sales*

## State and Federal Legislation

Cal/Neva has been very active this legislative session. Below is a listing of bills that we have recently supported or are currently watching.

### **AB 569 -Garcia: School breakfast**

This bill would require the department to conduct a study on or before May 1, 2007, on certain matters relating to the feasibility of requiring schools that meet the qualifications for the federal severe need reimbursement to offer breakfast. *Cal/Neva Position: Support*

### **AB 2466 - Daucher: CalWORKS Eligibility & Excluded Assets**

Existing law exempts from consideration when determining public assistance program eligibility the principal and interest in an individual development account. This bill would exclude the principal and interest in a 401(k) plan, a 403(b) plan, an IRA, a 457 plan, a 529 college savings plan, or a Coverdell ESA, from consideration when determining eligibility and the amount of CalWORKS assistance. *Cal/Neva Position: Support*

### **AB 2556 -Jones: Child Poverty**

This bill would declare that it is a goal of the Legislature to reduce child poverty by one-half by January 1, 2016 and to eliminate it entirely by January 1, 2026. This bill would require the Department of Finance to report to the Legislature on how the Governor's Budget proposal will impact the state's goal of reducing child poverty. *Cal/Neva Position: Support*

### **SB 1534 - Alarcon: Coordinated Low-Income Eligibility Assistance**

This bill would require the California Health and Human Services Agency, the Public Utilities Commission, the State department of Education, the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, and the Department of Insurance to collaborate to ensure that individuals and families meeting income eligibility requirements for low-income programs administered by these entities are concurrently enrolled in all available programs for which they are eligible. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the As-

sembly Appropriations Committee on 8/9/06. *Cal/Neva Position: Support*

### **SB 437- Escutia: Health Care Coverage**

This bill would create the California Healthy Kids Insurance Program operated by the State Department of Health Services. The bill would require the program to educate families about and enroll individuals in the most beneficial Healthy Families Program or Medi-Cal program component and to promote voluntary participation by employers in providing health care coverage to employees' children. This bill would also delete the family income eligibility requirement (below 200% of the federal poverty level) under the Medi-Cal Bridge Program and would delete the time limit (1 month of health care benefits while applying for the Healthy Families Program) for benefits under both bridge programs, providing health care benefits until the person's eligibility has been determined. *Cal/Neva Position: Watch*

### **AB 2205 - Evans: Food Stamp Program, Categorical Eligibility**

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to establish categorical eligibility program for recipients of benefits under the Medi-Cal program when those individuals will be receiving or are eligible to receive benefits or services funded under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant by July 1, 2007 and to fully implement it as to new food stamp applicants by January 1, 2008. *Cal/Neva Position: Watch*

### **AB 3029-Laird: CalWORKS/Food Stamp Program Redetermination and Recertification**

This bill would repeal the quarterly redetermination requirements and instead would impose requirements for a semiannual redetermination by January 1, 2009. Also, this bill would also repeal the requirements for prospective determination of a recipient's grant amount. In addition, this bill would

require the State Department of Social Services to seek a federal waiver or waivers of the federally required face-to-face interview requirement for annual recertifications, and would require the department to develop a food stamp simplification demonstration project. *Cal/Neva Position: Watch*

### **AB 2384- Leno: Healthy Food Purchase Pilot Program**

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to develop a "Healthy Food Purchase" pilot program to increase the sale and purchase of fresh produce (fruits and vegetables) in low-income communities. *Cal/Neva Position: Watch*

### **SB 1376- Chesbro: CSBG Funding Formula**

See article on page 3. *Cal/Neva Position: Support*

### **Petition to Support Federal Programs for Low-Income People**

In June, Cal/Neva sent out a petition to all Community Action Agencies to gather signatures to encourage members of Congress to immediately restore funding in full to the Community Service Block Grant, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Weatherization Program, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

We received an overwhelming response to our request for petitions, totaling 4,017 signatures from Community Action clients from across the state. Petitions were mailed to NCAF and respective members of Congress from which signatures were gathered. Special thanks to the Community Action Partnership San Bernardino County, Community Action Commission of San Luis Obispo, Community Action of Napa Valley, San Benito County Community Services & Workforce Development, and Ventura County Commission on Human Concerns for their participation.

# 2006 Region IX & Cal/Neva Annual Conference

In May of this year Cal/Neva hosted its Region IX & Cal/Neva Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA.

Cal/Neva provided excellent speakers and presenters for 30 dynamic workshops. Speakers included: Tim Donnellan, Board Chair of the National Community Action Partnership, David Bradley, Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation, and Sharon Fujii of the Administration for Children and Families, Health and Human Services (ACS-HHS).

Over the three day conference attendees gained knowledge in areas ranging in topics from

Earned Income Tax Credit/Asset Building to Program Assessment Rating Tools.

The highlight of the conference was the reception honoring Dr. Margaret Washnitzer. Long time Community Action friends gathered and thanked Dr. Washnitzer for her dedication to low-income issues and wished her a happy retirement.

For those who were unable to attend the Cal/Neva Annual Conference, you won't want to miss the October Quarterly meeting in Los Angeles. For registration information contact the Cal/Neva office.



*Pictured above: Mr. Tim Donnellan, Board Chair of the National Community Action Partnership, addressing conference attendees.*



*Pictured clockwise from top left: Mr. David Droker and Ms. Elizabeth "Biz" Steinberg enjoy an ice cream snack during a conference break; Ms. Kristen Hayes of ACF-HHS receives an award from Cal/Neva President, Fred Drew; Conference Attendees from CAP of Orange County take a photo with Dr. Margaret Washnitzer at her retirement reception; Ms. Sharon Fujii of ACF-HHS addresses conference attendees; Conference attendees participate in a workshop led by Dr. Barbara Mooney and Ms. Julie Jakopic on planning for results; Ms. Stephanie Upp facilitates a workshop on Asset Policy; Mrs. Lois Carson and Mr. Tim Donnellan visit during the a break in the conference.*



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*Funding for this newsletter provided by:  
California Department of Community Services  
and Development*

## 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 5-8**  
National Community Action Partnership  
Annual Convention  
Orlando, FL  
[www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com)

**September 19-21**  
CFED  
Assets Learning Conference  
Phoenix, AZ  
[www.cfed.org](http://www.cfed.org)

**September 26**  
CASH Campaign  
Strategic Planning Meeting  
Mendocino County, CA  
[www.cal-neva.org](http://www.cal-neva.org)

**October 11-13**  
National Community Tax Coalition  
Building Prosperity for Working  
Families Conference  
Los Angeles, CA  
[www.tax-coalition.org](http://www.tax-coalition.org)

**October 18-20**  
Cal/Neva Fall Quarterly Meeting  
Los Angeles, CA  
[www.cal-neva.org](http://www.cal-neva.org)

## California/Nevada Community Action Partnership EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Fred Drew**, President, Community Action Partnership of Kern

**Vacant**, 1st Vice President

**Cheryl Hagen**, 2nd Vice President, Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Partnership

**Daniel Steinhagen**, Treasurer, Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action, Inc. (IMACA)

**Helga Lemke**, Secretary, Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County

**David Droker**, Advocacy & Education Committee Chair, Kings Community Action Organization

**Thomas Tenorio**, Legislative & Public Policy Committee Chair, Community Action Agency of Butte County

**Lois Carson**, Membership & Meetings Committee Chair, Community Action Partnership of Riverside County

**Charlie Rodriguez**, Board Representative, Board Member, Community Action Partnership of Kern

**Vacant**, National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Representative

**Cloyd Phillips**, State of Nevada Representative, Community Services Agency & Development Corporation

**Clarence "Buddy" Ray**, Immediate Past President, Community Action Partnership of Orange County

**Elizabeth "Biz" Steinberg**, Region IX Community Action Partnership Representative, Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo, Inc.