

May 2011

Caring Connections



2010-2011 Executive Board Members

Renett Banagas
Community Services
Coordinator

Nichole McGahey
Bethel Reformed Church

Doug Easer
Bellflower Rotary Club

Jeanette Gosden
Consultant

Elizabeth Trombley
Kaiser Permanente

Cindy VanMeeveren
Bellflower Volunteer Center

Mayra Lopez
Beaver, Menkes, & Hass
Accounting Corp



John J. Gunther Blue Ribbon
Practices in Community
Development Award

Association of California School
Administrators Partners in
Education Excellence Award

Greater LA Federal Executive
Board Partnership Award

California School Boards
Association
Golden Bell Award for
Partnerships & Collaboratives

Basic Needs are Essential Needs

Caring Connections case managers assist families with basic need resources. We know it is important that students have the appropriate school clothing, socks, underwear, shoes, food, and more in order to arrive at school ready to learn and be successful. When parents cannot afford to purchase these items for their children, we are there to lend a helping hand. So far this year we have referred **375** families with food resources which include referrals to food pantries and assistance with gift cards in emergency situations. **220** families have been referred for clothing resources which include clothing closet referrals, clothing and shoe vouchers and special programs. **315** families have been referred and assisted with other basic need services. These other services may include backpacks and school supplies, toiletry items, and others. During these tough economic times we are grateful we can continue to serve families with these very important basic essentials to help their students be successful in school.



Case Managers visit ChildNet Youth and Family Services

Thank you to ChildNet for opening their doors to us on May 2nd. Julie Swanson graciously welcomed case managers to their agency. We were able to tour their facilities and learn more about one of the many programs they offer. ChildNet offers a variety of mental health services to children ages 2-18 years of age. They are located at 2931 Redondo Ave. in Long Beach. For more information you may contact them at (562) 490-7600 or visit their website at www.childnet.net.

Donations

Caring Connections would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their generous financial donations:

**L.A. County Quilters
Guild (April)
\$80.65**

**Nacho's fundraiser
\$250.00**

**CeeCee (April)
\$94.00**



Caring Connections Mission Statement:

Our commitment is to be a bridge to a successful future for children and families of the Bellflower Unified School District.

2010-2011 Case Managers

Angela Guardado
Albert Baxter Elementary
(562) 804-6505
Intensive Learning Center
(562)804-6513

Edna Amezcua
Craig Williams Elementary
(562) 804-6540

Sandra Roveri
Ernie Pyle Elementary
(562) 804-6528

Sailly Grkinich
Stephen Foster Elementary
(562) 804-6518

Renett Banagas
Frank E. Woodruff Elementary
(562) 804-6545

Ana Perez
Ramona Elementary
(562) 804-6532

Estella Delgado
Thomas Jefferson Elementary
(562) 804-6521

Norma Montes
Washington Elementary
(562) 804-6535

Tami DiPaolo
Esther Lindstrom Elementary
(562) 804-6525

Cesar Rangel
Bellflower Middle/High School
(562) 920-1801 ext. 3271

Myra Rodriguez
Mayfair Middle School
(562) 925-9981 ext.3209

Socorro Melgarejo
Mayfair High School
(562) 925-9981 ext. 3209

Mary Ball
Somerset High School
(562) 804-6548
BAE Center
(562) 866-9011 ext.3150



Olive Crest Family Resource Fair



Saturday, May 14th Olive Crest will be hosting a Family Resource Fair from 9:00am-1:00pm. They will have agencies providing free blood/glucose screenings, dental and spinal screenings, job counseling, food resources and many more. They will have prizes, live entertainment and children's games. Share information with families and friends! Olive Crest is located at 17800 Woodruff Ave. in Bellflower. For more information contact David Renteria at (562) 866-8956 ext.1647.



School Readiness "Kindergarten Visitation Day"

The First 5 School Readiness Program is getting our incoming kindergartners ready for the 2011-2012 school year. They are hosting a Kindergarten Visitation Day at all the BUSD schools. These visits will consist of meeting the principal, a "mini-tour" of the school, observing Kindergarten classes in action, and receiving a *Get Set for School!* activity calendar. These visits help parents and children get comfortable with their new school and what they should expect. For more information call the BUSD School Readiness Program at (562) 920-6963.



Resource Directory

It's that time of the year again! Caring Connections provides collaborative members, case managers, principals, and other BUSD staff with a listing of local community agencies that service our students through our Resource Directory. Each summer we update this directory to reflect any program changes and/or updates with agencies. If you are a new member and would like to be added please fill out our template or contact me at (562) 866-9011 ext.3248. Updated directories will be provided at the September meeting.

Calvary's At Your Service Event

Calvary Church is having an "At Your Service" event on Saturday, May 21st from 10:00am-3:00pm. They will be providing "Free" car washing, haircuts, resume building, and sign ups for yard work service and simple home repairs. They will be having kid activities such as face painting, jumpers, and more. Please share information with family and friends. Calvary is located at 14722 Clark Ave. in Bellflower. For more information you can visit their website at www.calvarybellflower.org or you can e-mail questions to: questions@calvarybellflower.org.

Community Events

- **Olive Crest Family Resource Fair**
Saturday, May 14th at 17800 Woodruff Ave. from 9:00am-1:00pm
- **Calvary's At Your Service Event**
Saturday, May 21st at 14722 Clark Ave. from 10:00am-3:00pm
- **Next Caring Connections Meeting**
Tuesday, June 7th at 7:30am at the Bellflower Unified School District

Save the Date!

