



Mission Statement:

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

2011-2012

Executive Board Members:

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

Renett Banagas
Community Services
Coordinator



*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*

Caring Connections

September 2011

Kaiser Permanente Supports Caring Connections!

Caring Connections submitted a grant request to Kaiser Permanente in April to support children and families in the Bellflower Unified School District with mental health, vision, and basic needs resources. We are very excited to share the great news that Caring Connections was awarded a grant for **\$9,500!** Kaiser Permanente has been a big support to Caring Connections and BUSD over the nineteen years we have been serving the community.

Since 1993, Kaiser has supported the students of BUSD by sponsoring a School Based Well-Child Clinic at Frank E. Woodruff Elementary. Kaiser pediatricians volunteer their time once a month to come serve uninsured students with physicals and acute care absolutely free. Through this partnership, prescriptions and lab fees are also free to the parents. We are happy to be continuing this program with Kaiser with our first clinic to be held on October 6th. We look forward to a very productive year using the grant funds to support our students!

KAISER PERMANENTE. thrive

CARE FOR THE
CHILDREN



Care for the Children is a non profit organization with a goal to make a difference on the lives of those less fortunate. Their mission is to provide food, clothing and shelter to families in need. One of the projects that Care for the Children does to raise funds is curb painting. They ask for donations of residents to re-paint their curb numbers. A portion of these funds are shared with local organizations that support their mission and goals. We are happy that they have selected Caring Connections to be one of the organizations to receive assistance. In August we received a check in the amount of **\$1,158**. So remember next time you are asked for a donation to re-paint your address numbers, keep in mind that it is going to help local organizations just like ours! For more information on Care for the Children please visit their website at www.care4thechildren.org.

StateFarm Helping Students

Thank you to Mike Chai's StateFarm office in Bellflower for helping Ramona Elementary students. Ana Perez, Case Manager at Ramona reached out to Mike Chai's office and shared the need for backpacks and school supplies. His office staff donated backpacks, school supplies, food, and a VISA gift card in the amount of \$70 for one of her homeless families she works with. Also a donation in the amount of \$50 was given to share with other families in need of school supplies!



Donations

Polly's Pies Fundraiser
\$82.60
L.A. Quilters Guild (June)
\$93.00
L.A. Quilters Guild (Jul)
\$62.66
L.A. Quilters Guild (Aug)
\$52.97



Thank you YMCA

Thank you to the Los Cerritos YMCA for working together with us to send Bellflower Unified students to summer camp. Students went on a one week trip in August to Camp Oaks where they were able to experience many fun activities. Thank you to the LA Quilters Guild for providing students with quilts to take camping!

Backpacks and School Supplies!

For the past six years, Caring Connections has assisted in helping Bellflower Unified School District students with new backpacks. With the support of programs like the Bellflower Volunteer Center, we are able to provide this service. The Bellflower Volunteer Center held its third annual Backpack Drive over the summer. Cindy VanMeeveren spread the word to local churches, service clubs, advertised it in the Bellflower Citizen, as well as the City of Bellflower website. She collected over 300 backpacks and school supplies. Case Managers at the school sites are busy identifying families in need to receive these backpacks. Having a backpack to start the new school year is important and we thank everyone who donated items to the Bellflower Volunteer Center.



Underwear Fundraiser

Sometimes it is the simplest of things that matter. Underwear is a basic essential with many of our families in need. CeeCee donations this month and next month will be to raise money for new packs of underwear. Caring Connections will also be accepting donations of underwear. If you are out shopping and can pick up an extra pack, you can bring it to the October meeting or drop it by the office at anytime.

In the past we have also assisted the health offices at the schools with new underwear for boys and girls. Many of the younger children have bathroom accidents and need a change of underwear. By being able to help with a new pair of underwear, the health office can get the kids changed and back in class. This helps eliminate the option of that student going home or waiting in the office for a parent. We appreciate your support!



Attention Local Food Pantries or Gardeners!

Ample Harvest is a non-profit organization with a goal to help fight hunger in America. It is designed to give backyard gardeners the opportunity to share their fruits and vegetables with local food pantries to give them the option of having fresh produce available to families. Organizations can sign up for free at www.ampleharvest.org. Once your organization is signed up, gardeners in the community wishing to share their harvest can easily find your pantry. You can arrange for the gardeners to drop off only on the days you are open. Let's spread the word and help get fresh produce to our food pantries. For more information please visit their website.

Community Events

- **September 24th - YMCA Community Car Show**
10:00am-1:00pm located at 15530 Woodruff Ave.
- **September 24th - Bellflower Talent Show**
7:30pm located at the Bristol Auditorium. Tickets are \$10.
- **September 30th - YMCA Family Fitness Night**
Located at 15530 Woodruff Ave.
- **October 4th - Mayor's Prayer Breakfast**
7:00-8:30am located at Simms Park. Tickets are \$10.
- **October 11th - Next Caring Connections meeting**
7:30am in the BUSD Board Room

