



**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 L.A. Federal Executive  
Board Partnership Award*

*California School Boards  
Association Golden Bell Award  
for Partnerships &  
Collaboratives*

# Caring Connections

January 2012

## Ralphs Community Partners Grant

Caring Connections applied for a grant through the Ralphs Fund Program. We are happy to announce that Ralphs awarded us with a generous donation of **\$2,500!** This donation will be used to purchase gift cards for food for many of our most needy families. Thank you Ralphs for your continuous support of the work we are doing in the Bellflower Unified School District. As a reminder, if you are a Ralphs shopper you can sign up to contribute to our organization through the Community Contribution Program at [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com). Don't forget to include our NPO#92226 when you sign up!



## Health Insurance Updates

Thanks to the expert work of our case managers and the dedicated collaboration with Crystal Stairs, Inc., **45** students have been enrolled in health insurance programs since September. Thank you to Family Service for generously providing the office space for our certified health insurance enroller Janet Lopez. Students qualified for the following programs:

- **25** students enrolled into Medi-Cal
- **9** students enrolled into Healthy Families
- **7** students enrolled into Kaiser Child Health Plan
- **4** students enrolled into Emergency Medi-Cal



Not included in these numbers are families that are also referred to Gloria Raab at Universal HealthCare. She is always a big help to us when we call on her services! We know that health insurance plays an important role in our children's lives and can affect their ability to succeed in school if an illness is not treated. Caring Connections continues this work to stay true to our motto "Healthy Kids Learn Better."

## Nacho's Fundraiser



On January 17<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 8:00am to 9:00pm enjoy a tasty Mexican dish from **Nacho's Mexican Restaurant** in Bellflower. Caring Connections will receive 10% of the food sales on this day when you present our flyer. Nacho's is located at 9834 Flower Street in Bellflower. Orders can be called in ahead of time for pick-up at (562) 867-8582. Nacho's also has catering services available. Order your tamales and freeze them for a later date! Thank you for your support!

## Donations

December Cee Cee  
\$106.33

Ralph's Grant  
\$2,500

Doug Easer  
\$500

LA Quilters Guild  
\$129



## City of Bellflower Farmer's Market!

Start the New Year off right with some fresh produce. Every Monday 9:00am to 1:00pm at Simms Park

# Christmas Programs = Success!!!

December was a busy month for case managers! We have been very lucky to work with many different organizations that provide holiday assistance to our families in need. The holidays become very difficult for many of our families to provide gifts and meals for their children. We want to say thank you to all organizations and individuals for getting into the holiday spirit and lending a helping hand. Some of the organizations and programs that helped our BUSD families were:

- **The Bellflower Noon Lions Club** – Assisted 89 children with a \$25 K-Mart Shopping Spree for Christmas
- **The Bellflower Family Noon Lions Club** – Assisted close to 300 individuals with a Christmas breakfast and toys for children at Hollywood Sports Park
- **Rosewood Church/Kingdom Causes** – Christmas Toy Store event helped parents purchase gifts for close to 700 children
- **Assemblymember Lara** – Assisted with a toy giveaway for children
- **Supervisor Don Knabe** – Supported us with \$1,000 for holiday assistance
- **Bellflower Medical Center** – Adopted BUSD families and provided gift cards and gifts for the children
- **Individual school sites** – Assisted children with gifts through staff and Project APPLE at school sites

Thank you to all organizations and individuals that work with us during the holidays to make the day of a special child!!!



Family Noon Lions Event at Hollywood Sports Park



Hard working case managers helping at the Rosewood Toy Store Event



Rosewood Toy Store Event

*"Christmas is forever, not just for one day, for loving, sharing, giving are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.*

*The good you do for others is good you do for yourself!"*

-unknown

## Community Events

- **January 17<sup>th</sup> – Stress Relief for Daily Living Seminar**  
6:30pm located in the BUSD Board Room
- **January 19<sup>th</sup> – Woodruff Well-Child Clinic**  
1:00-3:00pm located at Woodruff Elementary
- **January 26<sup>th</sup> – Landlord/Tenant Rights, Rules and Regulations**  
6:30pm located in the BUSD Board Room
- **February 9<sup>th</sup> - City of Bellflower Bravo Awards**  
10:00am at the Bristol Civic Auditorium located at 16600 Civic Center Drive
- **February 14<sup>th</sup> - Next Caring Connections meeting**  
7:30am in the BUSD Board Room