



**Community Action Partnership of Kern**

*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CONSTRUCTION STARTING ON FRIENDSHIP HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Ground Breaking Ceremony to be held Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Bakersfield, CA – November 30, 2010** – Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) and the Friendship House Community Center Advisory Board invite the community to join in a ceremonial breaking of the ground of the new Friendship House Community Center. This event marks the culmination of 5 years of planning to rebuild the multipurpose center servicing southeast Bakersfield.

The groundbreaking will take place Thursday, December 2 at 10:00am at the site of the future building, 2424 Cottonwood Road. Representatives from the community, CAPK and the Friendship House Community Center Advisory Board will be on hand to participate in the golden shovel ceremony to kick off construction of this highly anticipated facility. Speakers include Fuschia Ward, City Council Member Irma Carson, and Assemblyman Danny Gilmore.

The Friendship House will provide educational and recreational services to children from low-income families, such as afterschool and summer programs, as well as resources for the entire community, including plans for medical services, food distribution, job training and an outreach center.

The 13,500 square foot facility will feature a multipurpose building housing a full sized basketball court, and four classroom buildings for arts, computers, and instruction. Outdoor amenities include two basketball courts and space for a future sports field. All services will be offered at no cost to participants. Space will also be available for community organizations and groups to hold meetings or other small gatherings.

Construction on the Friendship House is scheduled for completion in the spring, with the grand opening anticipated for June 2011. For more information please contact Corrine Coats at (661) 336-5236 x160.

**About The Community Action Partnership of Kern** Community Action Partnership of Kern is a private, non-profit corporation created in 1965 to combat poverty in Kern County. The mission of CAPK is to provide and advocate for resources that will empower Kern County residents to have the skills and resources necessary to improve their quality of life and become self-sufficient. CAPK improves the quality of life for over 130,000 Kern County residents annually. CAPK serves Kern County by providing an integrated network of services including 2-1-1 Helpline, Energy Bill Assistance, Family Health Center, the Food Bank, Head Start, HIV testing and prevention, the Shafter Youth Center, the Friendship House, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Weatherization and WIC.

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