

## New 211 Kern County Manager

Community Action Partnership of Kern is proud to announce the appointment of our new 2-1-1 Kern County Manager, Michael Saltz. Hailing from Portland, Maine, Michael Saltz has resided in Kern County along with his family for a number of years. He studied law and practiced it for most of his career, including starting and running his own business called Attorney's Resource Service. Most recently, Michael was at Santa Barbara Business College, serving as the Dean of the Business Department. About his decision to work in the non-profit sector, Michael said, "It is not about the paycheck, but about helping others."

*"2-1-1 is one number for an infinite amount of resources."*

When asked what his plans were for 2-1-1 Kern, Michael said, "I'd like more people to know what the importance of 2-1-1 is. We are offering many services to a diversified public." Throughout our conversation, Michael insisted that the 2-1-1 staff and Information and Referral Specialists were the real success behind the helpline. He is determined to get the community familiarized with the number and what it offers. For example, not many people are aware that 9-1-1 redirects its non-emergency calls to 2-1-1. Michael sums it up perfectly, "2-1-1 is one number for an infinite amount of resources."



MICHAEL SALTZ

To find out more about 2-1-1 Kern County and the services it offers, please see article on page 3.

## CAPK Head Start Sponsors Bakersfield KidsFest 2014

CAPK Head Start Program recently participated in KidsFest 2014 with great success! This outdoor event saw more than 4,500 individuals come through the gates of the Kern County Museum. The 6-hour event was held on a warm and sunny Saturday, July 19, and saw

many children excitedly making their way through the exhibits.

As an event partner, CAPK Head Start was able to contribute flyers to the 1,200 goodie bags provided to children upon entry. Eight of the program's most dedicated and energetic staff volunteered their

time to spread the word about Head Start services. The team handed out more than 1,500 gold crowns, pens, cups and first-aid kits to the many families and children that stopped by the booth.

Our presence at KidsFest 2014 resulted in nearly 100 interested families completing applications for service at the in-take clinic held later in July at CAPK's administrative office.

# CAPK VITA Program Expands Thanks to Welcome Infusion of Funds

In the coming tax season, CAPK's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will be able to expand services in rural communities and among clients in other CAPK programs—such as Head Start or Low Income Home Energy Assistance—thanks to new funding received from the State.

On July 25, the California Department of Community Services & Development awarded CAPK \$55,153 in Community Services Block Grant funding for VITA program expansion. Some of the planned expansion activities involve using web-based technologies to deliver services to clients in isolated mountain and desert communities.

CAPK thanks key VITA partners who provided letters of commitment and support for this grant opportunity: City of Wasco Housing Authority; Community Trust Federal Credit Union; Valley

Republic Bank; Kern County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Leticia Perez; and California Veterans Assistance Foundation.

And, of course, CAPK also owes a lot to the 'V' in VITA: Our dedicated Volunteers without whom CAPK VITA would not be possible. We appreciate you all.

Tax Season 2015, here we come!



## Migrant Child Care Alternative Payment Program is currently enrolling

The Migrant Child Care Alternative Payment (MCAP) Program is currently enrolling families throughout six entry counties: Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Tulare and Fresno. Outreach efforts have greatly increased to enroll clients that have migrated to work in agriculture in the region. By visiting state migrant housing complexes, community health fairs in rural areas, and locating agricultural work-dependent communities, the MCAP Program is enrolling families in order to allow parents to work while their children thrive in a safe child care setting. In connection with enrollment efforts, the MCAP Program held meetings in the months of July and August, 2014, to inform and answer questions from parents and child care providers of eligibility and program requirements. Both parents



and providers must abide by state and program regulations in order to remain eligible for services; therefore, education and an understanding of rules and requirements is a priority.

If your family or a family you know may be eligible for our services, please contact the MCAP Program at **1-800-259-8866** or e-mail the Regional Migrant Administrator, Manuel Barrera, at [mbarrer@capk.org](mailto:mbarrer@capk.org). Program staff will inform all prospective clients of eligibility criteria and the pre-application procedure.

# Shafter Youth Center Children Visit the Museum

Kids at the Shafter Youth Center were on Spring Break travel bug mode this past Spring as they took some trips to local museums. The children loaded up in vans as they embarked on a journey of the arts to the Bakersfield Museum of Art. They received a docent led tour with museum volunteer Norma Savage, and learned about the artists and their masterpieces. After the tour, the kids got a chance to make their own finger puppet in the art studio workshop.

The children enjoyed a number of galleries, among them “The World on a String: Puppets from the Alan Cook Collection”, “A Story of Immigration” by Belle Yang, Horace Bristol’s “The Dust Bowl Series”, and paintings by Keith Wicks.



The second trip took flight to the skies as the kids went to the Minter Field Air Museum. They were led by retired Air Force, Major General Jim Whitehead. At the Air Field, the kids learned about the role that Minter Field played during World War II. They learned about aircraft and the history behind Shafter’s Minter Field.



## 2-1-1 Kern County

2-1-1 Kern has 15 years of experience in providing an integrated information and referral service that links residents to agencies and programs in Kern County. The program is the only comprehensive, live-answer, information and referral program in the county that runs 24/7 - 365 days per year. 2-1-1 Kern is run by 14 full and part-time CAPK employees that are dedicated to providing callers with impeccable customer service and relevant information and/or referrals. Here are some facts about 2-1-1 Kern:

- Our database includes over 643 agencies and 1544 programs.
- Nearly all of our Information & Referral (I&R) Specialists are bilingual (English/Spanish), and 2-1-1 Kern is able to assist callers in over 150 languages through tele-interpretation services.
- 2-1-1 Kern has an Online Resource Directory, which has assisted over 7,277 visitors this year to date.

- The 4 most common assistance requests from callers are: food, financial assistance (including rent and utility assistance), clothing, and housing.
- 2-1-1 Kern recently introduced a call-back feature during after hours, which allows callers to opt for a call back from an I&R Specialist, instead of being on hold and waiting for assistance.
- In June, 2-1-1 Kern handled 261 calls for assistance related to the Shirley wildfire.
- 9-1-1 refers non-emergency callers to 2-1-1 Kern.
- As of this August, the 2-1-1 Kern office will be located downtown at 300 19th Street, Bakersfield.

Our I&R Specialists take pride in providing callers with the assistance needed to help themselves. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or information, please tell them about 2-1-1 Kern. To use the free service, just dial 2-1-1.

# CAPK Energy Program to Expand

With the temporary easing of federal sequestration, funding levels are being restored for CAPK's Energy Program. In recent years, CAPK's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has operated on a budget of \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy, with funds allocated through California's Department of Community Services and Development (CSD). However, for the next five years, the program expects a significant increase in funding that could fuel job creation, generate business for local vendors, and help thousands more families in Kern County.

Due to CSD's updated statewide allocation formula based on Census and other socioeconomic data, increased LIHEAP funding levels are: \$7.4 million for 2014; \$7.9 million for 2015; and, thereafter, \$6.6 million per year through 2018. Local conditions which merit increased funding include a 27% rise in Kern's population from 661,645 in 2000 to 839,631 in 2010; and an average poverty rate of 22.5 percent from 2008 to 2012—well above the state's 15.3 percent rate for the same period. On average, LIHEAP helps 400 Kern County households annually with home weatherization and another 8,000 residents with once-per-year utility assistance.

CAPK Energy Program recently launched a publicity campaign with billboards, radio advertisement and newspaper notices to bring awareness to a program that enhances property values, saves money and lowers energy use.

CAPK Energy is currently providing water bill payment assistance through CSD's Drought Water Assistance Program. **Dial 2-1-1 toll-free** to check if you qualify for assistance or make an appointment!

## Experience of Working at Friendship House Life-changing for Volunteer

This summer marked a year of volunteering at CAPK's Friendship House Community Center for Bakersfield College student Ramona Zaragoza. Ms. Zaragoza contributes her time and energy to the Friendship House as part of her internship program. Former Police Chief of the Bakersfield Police Department, William Rector, is the instructor for the internship program. During his evaluation of Ms. Zaragoza's internship experience, Professor Rector indicated that the experience of volunteering at the Friendship House has been life-changing for his student.

Ms. Zaragoza also works at Carl's Jr. at the Marketplace and made a donation request to Manager Ryan Shelly. As a result of this request, Carl's Jr. generously donated food to a Friendship House party for Summer Program participants on July 25th.

The Friendship House counts on the time and

kindness of volunteers like Ms. Zaragoza, who can connect with and act as a role model for our community's youth. It is wonderful to know that the center also gives back and makes a positive impact on the lives of our volunteers.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at CAPK's Friendship House Community Center, please contact Program Manager Lois Hannible at **(661) 369-8922** or e-mail [lhannib@capk.org](mailto:lhannib@capk.org).



Volunteer, RAMONA ZARAGOZA (center),  
with Friendship House youth

# From our Executive Director



JEREMY T. TOBIAS

Dear Friends of CAPK,

We have been keeping very busy this summer with several renovation and relocation projects. In order to ensure continuity of services to our clients, we want to keep the community informed about these changes. Our previous administrative office at 300 19<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Bakersfield has been closed for much-needed renovations over the past year. Once the new building is complete, 300 19<sup>th</sup> Street will house three of CAPK's programs: Energy, 2-1-1 Kern Helpline, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

Our hope is that the 19<sup>th</sup> Street location will serve as a "one-stop shop" where Kern residents can learn about and take advantage of several of our services.

## Reauthorization of CSBG

First introduced in 1998, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) sets aside funds specifically aimed at combating poverty across the United States. CSBG currently provides \$680 million dollars in funds to 1,100 Community Action Agencies in the United States, including Community Action Partnership of Kern. The Community Economic Opportunity Act of 2014 proposes to revise, reauthorize, and extend the CSBG Act for the next 9 years. With the support of local elected officials, including Congressman David Valadao, we hope to see approval of the reauthorization, allowing anti-poverty agencies like CAPK to continue providing important services to the community.

CSBG funds support vital programs at CAPK such as the Food Bank, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, Shafter Youth Center, and Friendship House Community Center.

## Food Bank Fall Fundraiser: "Hunger is No Game"

And finally, the new Food Bank Fundraiser "Hunger is No Game" Casino Night took place this past Friday, September 12 at the Friendship House Community Center. The event featured food, casino style gaming, a silent auction, and the "Faces of Hunger" Art Exhibit & Sale by local professional artists.

I would like to thank every person that attended the fundraiser, and the volunteers; this event would have not been possible without their support; and express my appreciation to our event sponsors: 3Way Chevrolet, The California Endowment, The Law Offices of Floyd & Horrigan, Advance Beverage Inc., and the Kern Community Arts Partnership. Proceeds from the event will help the Food Bank purchase a new refrigerated delivery truck.



# CAPK Food Bank Updates



The CAPK Food Bank has distributed over 27,000 Emergency Food boxes since May throughout Kern County



Chevron brought 90 of their interns to volunteer at the warehouse by sorting, packaging, and building food boxes that will in turn help feed thousands of Kern County residents.

Maureen Andrew, our new food sourcer, was able to obtain over 40,000 lbs of fresh produce from local farmers the past two months.

During Rally4Hunger, children collected over 130 lbs. of food while have a great time playing tennis.



Attendees (top) and volunteers (bottom) had a great time at the "Hunger Is No Game" Casino Night Fundraiser.



The fans at the Kern County Raceway donated over 1,150 pounds of food.

# Head Start Staff Development

Two managers in CAPK's Child Education and Development Services Division, LeTisha Brooks and Patty Hinojosa, attended the train-the-trainers Family Development Credential (FDC) Institute in June of last year. The FDC Program was developed by Cornell's Department of Human Development, using the Empowerment Skills for Family Workers curriculum by Claire Forest, PhD, to help reorient New York State's family services from a deficit approach to a strength-based partnership approach. The FDC Program is a professional development and credentialing program that provides Family Service Workers (FSW) with the knowledge and skills, both personal and professional, that they need to empower families to help themselves.

After completing an application in the fall of 2013, 6 Family Service Workers and 4 Family Education Coordinators were invited to attend the training between November 2013 and May 2014. The benefits of the approach for families include coordinated services, improved access to community resources, and positive experiences of moving toward self-reliance and healthy interdependence within the community. The training also helps FSW's in several ways: they become more effective in helping families set and attain their own goals using well-researched strength-based approaches; they develop life skills that help reduce stress and promote a sense of well-being; and they grow personally and professionally, helping increase morale and decrease burnout.



Head Start Family Service Workers and Family Education Coordinators at one of the trainings

## “THANK YOU!” to our supporters:

### **BANK OF AMERICA**

With our Food Bank expecting a significant increase in demand for services due to the drought, Bank of America provided \$40,000 in philanthropic support. In addition, the company will mobilize its extensive network of employee volunteers, many of whom call the area home, to work with the CAPK Food Bank.

### **WALMART**

We would like to thank Walmart for their generous donation of \$25,000 to the Food Bank. Chris Fulmer, store manager from the Walmart Supercenter on Colony Street, was on hand at our June Board meeting to present the check. This money was used to purchase a new forklift for the Food Bank warehouse.

### **CALIFORNIA WATER FEEDS OUR COMMUNITIES**

For twenty pallets of fresh produce donated to help support the drought-affected residents of Kern County. We would also like to thank Congressman David Valadao, Senator Jean Fuller, and Senator Andy Vidak, for their continued support of our community and the drought related issues that we face!

### **MILAN INSTITUTE and the KERN ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS**

For their generous donations to our programs. Both organizations presented checks at last month's Board of Directors meeting.

### **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT**

For awarding CAPK \$55,153 in Community Services Block Grant funding to expand our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. These funds will help us reach rural and unincorporated areas of Kern with free tax preparation assistance.

# 'This is Just Me,' Energy Program Manager Completes 30 years at CAPK



CAPK's Energy Program Manager Loretta Andrews recently received her 30-year pin—but she has actually worked for our agency for about 33 years.

The Shafter native began interning with what used to be Kern County Economic Opportunity Corporation in 1974, while still in high school. She was a secretary, it was her first job and she ended up hiring on and staying until 1977.

But she left KCEOC to work in the

private sector: for Community First Bank, later for Continental Telephone, neither of which is still around.

"In all sincerity, I really missed helping people," she said. "This is just me. So I came back in 1984," 30 years ago.

This time, she became the agency's Homeless Program Coordinator and helped open a KCEOC thrift store. "People who donated to it said, 'Thank you,' because they could see their things were helping homeless people," she said.

Some three years later, she was reassigned as Energy Program Manager.

"I was terrified because I didn't know anything about weatherization or energy assistance," Loretta said. But she rose to the occasion: "I took the contract home and read it from page one to page 500."

Through the years, Loretta has seen her

program grow tremendously. Back in the 1980s, weatherization was limited to weather stripping of doors and windows, and the installation of water-efficient shower heads. Now service delivery also includes energy efficient appliances and fixtures: furnaces, air conditioning units, stoves, refrigerators, even solar panels.

"Low-income people can be a part of energy conservation," the mother of one daughter and a 6-year-old granddaughter said. "It's good to get them involved in things they normally wouldn't be able to afford."

Loretta keeps her 30-year pin in her jewelry box at home. Her office itself is homey, with plants, pictures of granddaughter Faith, a collection of angel figurines, even a fish tank.

Retirement is still far away and Loretta doesn't want to think about it. "When that time comes, I'll probably bawl walking out the door," she said.

*"Low-income people can be a part of energy conservation."*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

Feed the Need Canned Food Drive  
3:00-9:00pm @ The Kern County Fair

OCTOBER 2, 2014

FREE Basketball Program for boys and girls  
@ Friendship House, 2424 Cottonwood Rd.

NOVEMBER 15, 2014

Friendship House "NCIS: LA Giveaway" and Mixer  
@ Friendship House, 2424 Cottonwood Rd.

NOVEMBER 22, 2014

Head Start School Readiness Family Resource Fair  
9:00am-12:00pm @ Hodel's Country Dining, 5917 Knudsen Dr.



[facebook.com/capkern](https://www.facebook.com/capkern)

# CAPK Food Bank Updates (continued)



Attendees having fun at the Blackjack table at "Hunger Is No Game" Casino Night Fundraiser



The Martinez Family and friends enjoying the evening at "Hunger Is No Game."



CAPK Administrative Analyst, Patty Mallard, and her husband Dick Mallard enjoying "Hunger Is No Game."



CAPK Administrative Analyst, Louis Medina, introduces the artists of "Faces of Hunger."



## Friendship House Giveaway

Proceeds will benefit the Friendship House Quad Project



**You could win a visit to the set of NCIS: LA**  
including a one night stay at the world famous Hollywood Hotel

Other giveaway items include:

**4 Disneyland tickets, 2 Universal Studios Hollywood tickets,  
4 Six Flags Magic Mountain tickets, \$50 gift certificate to Uricchio's Trattoria**

For more information and tickets please contact  
Lois Hannible at (661) 369-8926 or [Lhannib@capk.org](mailto:Lhannib@capk.org)

**Tickets can also be purchased online at: [capkdevelopment.capk.org/FHNCISLA](http://capkdevelopment.capk.org/FHNCISLA)**