

New Program Supervisor for EKFRFC



LUISA REYES

Luisa Reyes understands the challenges and uncertainties that low-income families struggle with every day.

As the new program supervisor of CAPK's East Kern Family Resource Center (EKFRFC) in Mojave, Luisa oversees the facility's day-to-day operations, including case management services and referrals to community resources that help disadvantaged at-risk families improve stability.

"I'm excited about bringing new resources to the East Kern Family Resource Center," Luisa said. "Building partnerships with new organizations, helping shape and build the EKFRFC is really exciting to me."

Luisa joined CAPK on Dec. 8 and brings valuable experience and insight from her previous position as manager of the Youth Policy Institute's Hollywood Family Source Center in Los Angeles. She received a BA in Sociology from Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles in 2004 and wants to pursue a master's degree in social work.

"This is my calling, to work with families in the community," Luisa said. "I feel that's where I have my core strengths and what I am passionate about."

Working in east Kern County, in contrast to Los Angeles, presents unique challenges, said Luisa. Whether urban or rural, the needs of most at-risk families are similar, but for small, remote communities like those in east Kern County, access to and the number of services available are significant barriers that hinder families' ability to overcome difficulties. Visiting clients in their homes, rather than requiring families to come to the center, is one of EKFRFC's service strategies that Luisa sees as especially effective.

The EKFRFC service area includes Boron, California City, Edwards Air Force Base, Mojave, North Edwards, Rosamond and Tehachapi. The center primarily focuses on helping families with children who are at-risk of abuse and neglect and preparing children to enter kindergarten. The center also maintains an emergency supplies closet to help individuals and families in crisis.

"This is my calling, to work with families in the community"
-Luisa Reyes

From our Executive Director

Dear Friends of CAPK,

I consider myself fortunate to be a part of Community Action Partnership of Kern as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary. After all, half a century of service is a milestone for any nonprofit.

But what does a 50-year anniversary really mean?

Certainly, it's an opportunity to look back and celebrate the agency's many accomplishments.

But it can also be a reality check, a look in the mirror, a self-assessment of how we can do better by the community we have been charged to serve.

On the evening of Thursday, May 7, we will be celebrating CAPK's Golden Anniversary at our annual Humanitarian Awards Banquet, which this year will be held at the Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center in Downtown Bakersfield.

Please visit www.capk.org for more information on how you can be a part of the celebration, which will include the presentation of a timeline of CAPK's major accomplishments: a look back at where we've been for the last 50 years, so we can chart the best course for where we're going in the next 50.



Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment (MCAP) Partners with Red Cross

The Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment Program recently collaborated with the American Red Cross on presenting their Latino Community Preparedness (LCP) program. The American Red Cross Central Valley Region serves the diverse Latino population in Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern Counties.

The LCP program educates and engages different Latino minority and immigrant communities, especially limited English speakers and low-income and underserved individuals, in emergency preparedness. The LCP program oversees all Spanish-language services, including community events, communications with Latino media, and assistance to disaster services. The LCP presentations are conducted by bilingual (Spanish/English) adult volunteers trained in disaster

preparedness as well as CPR and Basic First Aid.

The Migrant AP Child Care Program serves migrant agricultural working families by providing subsidy assistance for child care services. The program enrolls clients in the counties of Kern, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Tulare. If interested in applying, or for more information about the LCP program, call **1-800-259-8866**.



Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA)



How does a largely government-funded agency like CAPK ensure that state and federal grant dollars keep coming in to support our programs? By delivering on anti-poverty goals.

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (or ROMA) is the system Congress has designed to help us achieve these goals. For the low-income folks we serve, the goals include: increased self-sufficiency, greater community engagement, strengthening of families and support systems, and improved lives. For CAPK as an agency, ROMA goals focus on building our capacity and partnerships to ensure low-income community members are properly served.

CAPK is so committed to ROMA compliance that it has designated its very own Organizational Standards/ROMA Facilitator, Brady Bernhart, an Administrative Analyst in CAPK's Planning, Research & Development

Division.

"I can help you identify what you need in your program to meet ROMA goals," Brady told close to 20 attendees at a recent CAPK managers meeting.

Brady, who has been working on ROMA since he came on board in September 2013, said CAPK is already well on its way to meeting the required organizational standards, and October 2015 is the date by which we want to be fully compliant.

"We all have a role to play," he told the managers, and offered to meet with them individually to ensure ROMA compliance in every program. "I'll come to you no matter where you are," Brady said. "We can figure it out together."

Brady Bernhart may be reached at:

bbernhart@capk.org or by dialing extension 1152.



2-1-1 Kern County Receives AIRS Accreditation

CAPK's 2-1-1 Kern County program was recently accredited by the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRS). AIRS is the professional association for over 1,200 community information and referral providers in the United States and Canada.

2-1-1 Kern County is a 24/7 helpline that provides residents with comprehensive information and referral services that link local residents to community health and human services at no cost.

CAPK Provides Supervisory Training to Employees

Throughout 2015, a select number of CAPK supervisors, managers, and staff members aspiring to become supervisors or managers someday, are expanding their knowledge and improving their skills.

In November, CAPK was selected to participate in a training program offered by the State of California to provide supervisory skills training to 48 full-time agency employees. Interest in the program was so great that the three-member management review team had a hard time selecting participants from the 62 applications that were submitted.

The Supervisory Training Program, which began the second week of January, is



being taught by Robin Paggi of WorkLogic HR Legal Solutions through a series of 13 classes offered over a 12-month period. Each class is three hours long. The curriculum covers everything from communication skills, to becoming an effective leader, to ethical and legal aspects of supervision.



ROBIN PAGGI

“We are excited to bring this training to CAPK,” said HR Director Michele Nowell. “Managing employees is a hard job, and we are so happy we were selected to participate.”



VICTORIA VALENZUELA

Head Start “Delivers” Financial Empowerment

Expectant mom Victoria Valenzuela, 24, attended a half-day, free Financial Empowerment Training for CAPK Head Start parents, volunteers and staff on Jan. 12 at the Four Points by Sheraton.

“I just want to gain a better grasp on how to save and manage money,” Victoria said, in anticipation of the birth of her baby girl, due Jan. 31.

Victoria Valenzuela is a living example of how Head Start/Early Head Start can help children and families even while the baby is still in the womb. By participating in the Early Head Start Home-base Program, she has benefited from home visits and other services—including financial empowerment.

Following her daughter’s birth, she will receive post-partum support until the baby is six weeks old, and then Baby will take Mom’s spot in Home-base without having to be put on a waiting list first. As long as the child remains enrolled in Home-base, she will be a priority candidate for center-based services when full-day child care is required.

Victoria has agreed to let us follow up with her and her baby in a few months—photos included.

Food Bank Updates



The **Oscar Mayer Weinermobile** donated 50 packages of hot dogs to the Food Bank on Volunteer Day, Nov. 1, 2014. Thanks to the 40 volunteers who assisted us that day: CSUB dancers and cheerleaders, and the Kai Big An Club.



In November, **Ameriprise Financial** collected over 700 lbs. of food, which it donated to the Food Bank along with much needed cash. On Nov. 21, they brought 40 volunteers to help sort through the Holiday Food Drive donations.



Feeding Children Everywhere packaged and donated nearly 80,000 lentil casserole packages. The donations will help feed the homeless and will also be distributed to food insecure children through the CAPK Food Bank's **BackPack Buddies Program**.



Beginning this year, the **CAPK Food Bank's Produce Education Program (PEP)** will provide important nutritional awareness to clients at four busy distribution sites monthly by focusing on the health benefits of consuming fresh produce. Interactive lessons and recipe cards will be a part of the healthy-eating fun.

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News from the Friendship House

Donations Brighten Holidays for Friendship House

Our friends at Bright House Networks spread holiday joy to 90 kids of the Friendship House and Shafter Youth Center by treating them to a trip to Christmas Town in Bakersfield. Bright House provided two chartered buses for transportation and four Bright House ambassadors to lead holiday songs on the trip, pass out snacks, and ensure that the children enjoyed their time at the event.

In addition, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s special holiday donation of \$450 provided 45 After-School Program participants with a \$10 gift card.

Many thanks to Bright House Networks and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for thinking of the Friendship House and giving our children a fun and memorable holiday!

Southeast Partnership Recognition

Congratulations to Lois Hannible, Friendship House Program Manager, who received special acknowledgment by the Southeast Neighborhood Partnership in November for her dedication and contribution to the Partnership and the southeast community. Lois was one of three people selected to receive this recognition.

Kern High School LCAP Advisory Council

The Kern High School District has invited the Friendship House Program Manager, Lois Hannible, to serve on the Local Control and Accountability Plan Advisory Council. The Council, made up of community members, Kern High School District staff, parents, and students, helps to determine how Local Control funding will be allocated for low-income students, foster youth, and English learners.

Friendship House Mixer

On November 15, the Friendship House Advisory Board held its second annual Mixer at the Friendship House to inform the community about the Friendship House and to recruit new Advisory Board members. A special fundraiser was also held to support the Quad Project, which would create a special outdoor gathering place for families and the community at the Friendship House. A special thank you goes to Bright House for sponsoring the Mixer, to Leticia Perez and Alpha Phi Alpha Sorority for their generous donations to the Friendship House, and all attendees and volunteers who helped make the evening special.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Reminds Us What The Holiday Season Is About

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. made a special holiday donation to the Friendship House in the amount of \$450, to provide 45 After-School Program participants with a \$10 gift card! This generous donation is sure to bring holiday cheer to many program youth at the Friendship House Community Center. Thank you to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for thinking of the Friendship House and those we serve!



CAPK VITA New Location

Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program office is now located at **300 19th Street** in downtown Bakersfield. VITA offers no cost tax preparation and e-filing for low- and medium-income individuals and families; and also assists eligible clients to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), thereby increasing the amount of their tax return and boosting the local economy.

Call now and schedule your no cost tax appointment at **(661) 834-1724** or dial **2-1-1**.

Food Bank Updates (continued)



The **KGET Holiday Food Drive** brought in donations of 10,500 lbs. of food and \$5,000 dollars for the **CAPK Food Bank**. Local youngster **Kabe McClenney** even emptied out his piggy bank in his selfless quest to help the less fortunate. Thanks to all our community partners whose generosity helped Kern's hungry and food insecure make it through the holidays.



Drought Emergency Food Assistance Program (DEFAP): Between May and November 2014, we distributed 76,991 boxes (2,309,730 lbs.) of DEFAP food to families facing job loss or economic hardship due to the prolonged drought.

CAPK Energy Program Welcomes New Assistant Manager

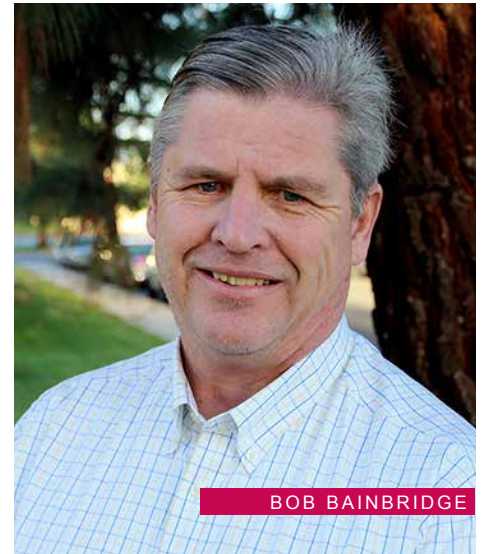
Since late August, CAPK's Energy Program Manager, Loretta Andrews, has been enjoying the help and financial expertise of a new Assistant Manager, Robert (Bob) Bainbridge.

Bob was a controller for Kern Medical Center for 10 years before he took an early retirement last January. "I'm still helping my children through school," said the 59-year-old, who has a 24-year-old daughter in pharmacy school and a 21-year-old son at Bakersfield College. "I'm not ready to retire and not do anything, so I knew I was going to get another job." And Bob wanted to continue to do people-focused work.

"It's the mission that really attracted me to CAPK," he said. "The pure mission of serving the poor. There's not a profit motive to it."

"Bob's financial savvy and Loretta's institutional knowledge acquired over more than 30 years with CAPK make for great teamwork, program strengthening and wise contingency planning," said Romala Ramkissoon, Director of Family, Youth and Community Services.

The hiring of Bob and other Energy Program staff has been possible thanks to an increase in funds received from the California Department of Community Services & Development to make home weatherization and solarization more accessible to low-income households. The funding is based on needs determined by local population and poverty data, utility costs, and "cap and trade" incentives to control pollution in census tracts



BOB BAINBRIDGE

that have the most greenhouse gas emissions.

You can send Bob an e-mail welcoming him as a new member of the CAPK Team at: rbainbridge@capk.org.

"It's the mission that really attracted me to CAPK." "The pure mission of serving the poor. There's not a profit motive to it."

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 20, 2015

Stuff the Bus Food Drive
4:30am-6:00pm @ the Sears Parking Lot

APRIL 10, 2015

Friendship House Zumba Party Fundraiser
6:30-8:00pm @ Friendship House, 2424 Cottonwood Rd.

MAY 7, 2015

2015 Humanitarian Awards Banquet
6:00-9:00pm @ Bakersfield Marriott, 801 Truxtun Avenue

MAY 20, 2015

Last day of classes for part-day Head Start
*subject to change



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