



Community Action Partnership of Kern is charging into the New Year - helping people and changing lives. Learn about the impacts some of our programs are making and how our partnerships are helping improve our communities in this weeks' CAPK in Action Newsletter.



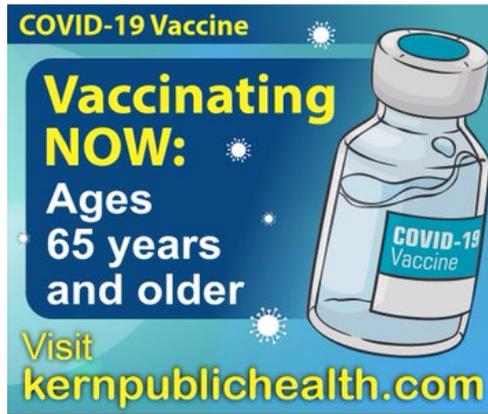
**Mentoring with Kindness**  
Positive Youth Development Mentor Program  
Nikola Dojcinovski volunteers his time as a mentor at the Friendship House Community Center in the Positive Youth Development Mentor Program. That time is a priceless gift for the children who he serves. Nikola recently developed a friendship with a nine-year-old foster student who was struggling with his history of homelessness. Nikola was able to help the boy connect with his feelings and develop better ways to cope. They met every week and the student's anger and difficulty following directions faded as his kindness grew. Thanks to all our CAPK volunteers who make a difference every



**Making progress on Homelessness**  
Coalition recognized for efforts  
The Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative has been recognized by the national Built for Zero group for achieving "functional zero" for chronic homelessness in Kern County. "Functional zero" doesn't mean that Kern County isn't still confronting homelessness. But it means that we are able to find homes for people quickly so that they don't stay homeless for long periods of time. CAPK has been involved in this work as we operate the Coordinated Entry System and the M Street Navigation Center.

Bakersfield Californian  
story

day.



Vaccines that can protect you from COVID-19 are now available in Kern County. Individuals 65 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine as are individuals who work in specific critical jobs. Please find out more about the vaccine and your eligibility to receive it by visiting the Kern County Public Health website at the link below.

Visit the Kern County Public Health Vaccine Website



**Empowering Working Families**  
*VITA launching EITC credit efforts*

CAPK's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is launching its annual effort to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit for this tax season. The EITC credit is a major tool that can help low-income working families and individuals afford housing, eliminate debt and build toward future successes through focused efforts. EITC recipients with an ITIN or Social Security number who focus on their financial goals can turn their tax returns into a new life. And EITC can be a lifeline for families struggling with the economic impact of COVID-19. Learn how to access the EITC Benefit by clicking the link below.

Visit the Kern EITC



**Empowering the Food Bank**  
*Major gift supports food distributions*

Kaiser Permanente has donated \$95,000 to the CAPK Food Bank to help boost food distribution to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was part of a \$1.38 million effort to support food banks across Southern California.

The CAPK Food Bank has dramatically increased its ability to deliver food to families and individuals who are facing food insecurity as the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered businesses and forced layoffs. We have been able to accomplish this because partners like Kaiser Permanente have stepped up to help.

Read the KGET 17 story

website

