Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) wants to wish you all a holiday season filed
with joy, good will, fulfillment and blessings. The past two years have been a challenge but we have succeeded when we've worked together, built partnerships and focused on helping our communities - large and small - become better, more prosperous places for everyone. CAPK Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Tobias shares CAPK’s holiday wishes for everyone we serve and all those work beside us for a better world.

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**CAPK Food Bank Expansion**

On Dec. 16, CAPK celebrated a huge milestone in our fight against the hunger and food insecurity which challenges more than 13 percent of Kern County residents. We broke ground on a 40,000 square foot expansion of the CAPK Food Bank - a more than $10 million project which will triple the size of the Food Bank and dramatically expand our capability to receive and distribute food to communities across Kern County’s 8,000 square miles. This project was empowered by partnerships forged with government, business and other non-profit organizations. As Kern County’s central food bank, this CAPK facility will continue to link more than 150 food distribution organizations - both large and small - to quality, healthy, life-sustaining food for all of Kern County.

City, County, State and Federal elected officials join CAPK Governing Board members and leaders to break ground on the expansion of the CAPK Food Bank.
CAPK’s food distribution partners from across California came to support CAPK as it launched the Food Bank Expansion. State government and partner organizations have been critical to this success.

The City of Bakersfield and County of Kern - joined by Assemblyman Rudy Salas - contributed funds to support the expansion of the Food Bank. Leaders from both groups came out in force to support CAPK’s efforts to overcome hunger.

We were honored to have many CAPK Governing Board members and the team from MLKCommUNITY Initiative - a volunteer community partner which connects CAPK Food Bank with people in need - join us for the event.

**Food Bank Townhall Meeting**

CAPK held a community townhall meeting at the CAPK Food Bank the week before the groundbreaking event for the expansion. Months of construction will be going on in the South MLK Blvd neighborhoods around the Food Bank as we expand. We wanted to give the neighbors information about the work, the impact on their community and answer their questions. We were also able to give out some food donations to families in need during the event.

**Kern Family Health Brings the Santa Spirit**
Kern Family Health and Santa Claus teamed up this month to bring some serious holiday cheer to the families of Mojave. Children in the Play-and-Learn program at CAPK’s East Kern Family Resource Center enjoyed a visit with the Big Guy (with presents of course) and the donation from Kern Family Health also provided some critical life tools to parents and other people who are served by the center. We’re very thankful for Kern Family Health for making the holiday season real for the people we serve.
Servant Leadership is one of the core values of Community Action Partnership of Kern and our commitment to that is strong. We're proud to announce that two of our new leaders - Director of Community Development Rebecca Moreno and Energy Program Administrator Wilfredo Cruz have joined the next class of Leadership Bakersfield. We know they'll do great things in the program - just like they do every day at CAPK.

Holiday Celebrations at CAPK

Community Action Partnership of Kern is a family and, when the holiday's come around, we make sure to spend some quality time celebrating our bonds with each other and renewing the spirit of giving and commitment that powers our service to our clients and communities. Here are some of the photos from our Head Start program's celebration this past week. Christmas Karaoke anyone?