Holiday Spirit

The holiday season is upon us and Community Action Partnership of Kern has a lot to be thankful for. Community partners have stepped up to help feed Kern County. More community partners helped CAPK host a full Thanksgiving Dinner for residents at our M Street Navigation Center. And we have huge new undertakings in the works that we're excited to tell you about. You won't want to stop reading until the end!

M Street Navigation Center Thanksgiving

CAPK's M Street Navigation Center was able to celebrate a full Thanksgiving Dinner for our residents with the help of CityServe, Dignity Heath, Mossman's Catering and some extra-special guests who worked hard dishing up a fantastic feast for people who definitely need some holiday cheer!
Senior Policy Analyst Amanda Ruiz of Kern County and CAPK CEO Jeremy Tobias dish out turkey and mashed potatoes in the M Street kitchen.

One M Street resident gets the perfect slice of pumpkin pie during the Thanksgiving feast.

Assemblyman Rudy Salas, CAPK CPO Traco Matthews, Dignity President Ken Keller and CAPK Board member Fred Plane put the finishing touches on meals for M Street residents.

Thanks to all the volunteer servers who made residents' Thanksgiving a fantastic one. Your willingness to serve showed our commitment to changing lives for the better.

KGET Holiday Food Drive

The CAPK Food Bank team was extremely excited to have the KGET Holiday Food Drive.
Drive roar back into action in 2021. COVID made it impossible to hold this event in 2020. But the 2021 Food Drive came back at full strength. KGET television personalities were out working with CAPK to drum up support from the dark hours before dawn until after sundown. And people came by the Giving Corner parking lot in droves. Donors contributed $6,400 in financial donations and 9,219 pounds of food - 4.5 tons! Together those donations will provide 50,616 meals to individuals facing hunger in Kern County.

Shafter Youth Center Beach Clean-up

What to do when it’s the first day of vacation, and it’s foggy in Kern County? Get out of the fog! Shafter Youth Center kids did just that on Monday, Nov 22. They headed to William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach looking for sunshine,
education and entertainment. They found all three as they participated in the California Coastal Commission’s Kids Adopt a Beach program. They teamed up with Derek, a state parks interpreter, for some guidance along the way as they combed the beach and found various forms of litter, from cigarette butts to random flip flops. After lunch the kids loaded up the bus and headed six miles up the road to see the majestic elephant seals basking in the warm autumn sunlight and get an educational visit with the Friends of the Elephant Seals group. Some of the students experienced their very first visit to the beach. For one student, it was their very first field trip, ever! Thank you to California Coastal Commission’s Kids Adopt a Beach program grant. Opportunities like these really make an impact on a child’s life.

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**Food Bank Expansion**

This month the Community Action Partnership of Kern will break ground on a 40,000-square-foot expansion of Kern County’s central Food Bank. This major project will help CAPK consolidate our operations, expand our food distribution capacity and better serve all 8,000 square miles in Kern County. We are excited to move forward on this project with the help
of the state of California, County of Kern, City of Bakersfield and local businesses and donors. Behind this effort is a dramatic need for food assistance. More than 121,000 people in Kern County face days - each year - when they aren't sure where their next meal is going to come from. CAPK Food Bank fights to provide that next meal through our partnerships with more than 150 partner organizations in every corner of Kern County.

Donations from our supporters

Two great CAPK programs received $5,000 donations from two great community partners as November transformed into December. Guild Mortgage donated $5,000 to the CAPK Food Bank during a visit and a tour and Valley Strong Credit Union donated $5,000 to support the M Street Navigation Center.

Valley Strong had a great visit to the M Street Navigation Center. Guild Mortgage visited the CAPK Food Bank and learned about the program.