Shelter, Cooling and Community

The mission of Community Action Partnership of Kern calls on us to work side-by-side with our community leaders, non-profits, businesses and peers to help people build a better future. Our CAPK in Action this week highlights some ways we're pursuing that mission and ways that the public can get involved too.

County and CAPK team on Safe Camping Site

The M Street Navigation Center opened two years ago to help connect a larger portion of the homeless community with shelter and services by taking in people with pets, property and partners. This county low-barrier center, operated by CAPK, has linked more than 1,200 individuals to shelter and helped more than 140 residents find permanent housing or be re-unified with their families. Now we are moving forward with a new partnership with the county that will offer services and connection to homeless people who have refused help in the past. This safe-camping area near the M Street Navigation Center will have more than 40 tents available to homeless individuals. They will have their own space inside a secure facility where they will have access to three daily meals, restrooms, showers and health care, mental health and social services. But they will also have more autonomy than they would at a traditional shelter. Clients will be welcomed to the safe camping area starting next week and our staff is excited to begin building transformative relationships with them. There will also be safe parking spots for individuals who live in their cars.
Visiting the Camp

Serving the homeless population requires many hands and hearts working together with patience, passion and kindness. We were excited, on Friday, June 3, to share the new Safe Camping site with our partners from government, business and the Kern Bakersfield Regional Homeless Collaborative and show them around.
Summer has returned to Kern County and it can carry serious health risks for the low income and senior populations that CAPK serves. Kern County has opened cooling centers where individuals and families can seek shelter from the heat. Please click on the link below to view a flyer outlining the days, times and locations that all the county cooling centers will be open. Please share with those who may be in need.

Locate a Cooling Center

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**Planning the City of Bakersfield**

The public is empowered when it takes part in government processes that dictate how the community will grow and take shape. We encourage people to take part in the City of Bakersfield General Plan process. The General Plan is the set of rules the city follows as it determines where new housing, shopping, business and industrial development can be placed and how it gets approved. You can shape your community by giving input to the plan through the survey below!

Take the Survey Here

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