

Community Action Partnership of Solano



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

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Community Action Impact

For each newsletter, we will devote this section to a client testimonial from one of our partner agencies, demonstrating the impact of community action.

This issue's testimonial comes from Garth Hopkins, Founder/President of Divine Guidance Outreach (DGO) Inc.

"On one of our recent mobile distributions here in Vallejo, we met an individual who was a homeless single father with an 11yr old son. They are new to Vallejo. They had even gone as far as living/staying/sleeping at rest stops with no transportation. They had gotten enough cash together to spend a few nights in a motel. The motel they were in happened to be on our distribution route. We were able to provide them with food, clothing, hygiene items, toys, bottled water and juices, and other misc. items that were helpful to them in their delicate situation.

Since then the father has been attending church services and the son is enrolled in the youth program at Church on the Hill under the Leadership of Scott Peterson. As time went on I made contact with other social service providers and made referrals in order to try and make sure that they were able to receive the best possible local services that would be helpful in transitioning them from poverty to prosperity.



The Mission of Divine Guidance Outreach, Inc. is to lead by example and to serve on one accord, as one body to provide services that will build up, empower, and make provision for individuals according to the various needs of the homeless, needy, low-income, underserved and elderly wherever we are divinely led to do so.

Norma Ramos, Executive Director of the Christian Help Center (CHC), responded. Once their time ran out at the motel I was able to go and pick them up and take them to CHC and shelter services were provided for them.

The father has been very open and responsive to receive the services that are being offered to him. Therefore DGO Inc. has continued to make extra efforts to assist them with mentoring, transportation, clothing, and preparations to acquire their own living space.

Tes Childs of Catholic Social Services (CSS) has agreed to meet with the father to do intake and assessment in

order to secure compliant eligibility for assistance with move in costs during the future process of obtaining low-income housing.

The father has been using his daily free time at CHC to search for possible places to live. During these times he was blessed to meet with a property owner that has agreed to work with him so that he will possibly be able to move into a small apartment unit with the help of CSS.

DGO Inc. has also acquired bikes for the father and son that will provide transportation and quality time for them as they move forward. I see great progress ahead for the both of them!"

Be a part of the Solano
County Voluntary
Organizations Active in
Disaster (SVOAD)!
The first General SVOAD
meeting will be January
31, 2012 from 9:30am to
11:00am at the Solano
County Events Center.

From the Executive Director

By PJ Davis

As we move into 2012 we are faced with reduced funding and increased demand for services to low-income and/or homeless persons in Solano County. Though this may seem like a daunting task before us, we are blessed with passionate and caring service providers and board members working to move people out of poverty each day. Too many times we only hear the negative of the day. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every board member, staff and volunteer who work to move people out of poverty every day. In Solano County you move homeless persons off the street and into shelters, transitional housing and permanent housing conditions. Every day you move people from unemployed to obtaining a job. Every day you set aside your personal issues to help those entering the doors of your organizations. My hat is off to all of you who work all year long and deserve some recognition. There are too many to name here but you know who you are. As a board member you bring your expertise to the organization and lend a hand to the staff and volunteers in raising funds, setting policy and addressing the issues and barriers to overcome poverty. As staff you devote your time and knowledge to assist clients in navigating the path out of poverty. As volunteers you commit to making someone else's life better just by being an active part of the organization. Solano County will face 2012 with determination, collaboration and a desire to end poverty and homelessness one person at a time. That may not sound like much to many people, but to the one person who is no longer homeless it means the world. To someone who can now pay for groceries and rent it means the world. And to those families who can now get child care or health insurance for their children it means the world. So take comfort and joy in what seems like small successes because they are huge in the lives of the people of Solano County.

2011 Project Homeless Connect Measureable Outcomes

The 2011 Project Homeless Connect Events in Vacaville, Fairfield and Vallejo were a great success.

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers, service providers, and churches who helped to make these events worthwhile for homeless in Solano County.

If you are interested in planning and/or participating in next year's events, please contact CAP Solano right away! We would like to get the planning started soon to make the 2012 events even better.

Fairfield and Vallejo Combined Statistics

The following services were cited by the homeless as most needed:

- Employment: 83
- Education: 38
- Legal Aid: 33
- Housing: 88
- Emergency Shelter: 18
- Domestic Violence: 6
- Social Security: 44
- VA Benefits: 14
- Public Assistance: 32
- Credit Counseling: 14
- Substance Abuse: 7
- Banking: 15
- Mental Health: 29
- Medical: 40
- Vision: 70
- Dental: 72
- Bicycle/Wheelchair Repair: 14
- Spiritual Care: 17
- Pet Care: 28
- CA ID: 30
- Medical Insurance: 29
- Immigration: 4
- Haircuts: 49



Clients receiving medical services from Touro University students at PHC Vallejo.

Selected Demographics

- Children (0-18): 2
- Adults (18-60): 167
- Seniors (60+): 13
- Males: 87
- Females: 95
- Am In/AK Native: 16
- Nat HI/Pac Islander: 12
- Black: 54
- White: 94
- Hispanic/Latino: 26
- Asian: 4
- Military: 16
- Mentally Disabled: 23
- Physically Disabled: 35
- Mentally and Physically Disabled: 33

Ninety-three participants in Fairfield and 34 in Vallejo (127 total) described themselves as currently homeless. Of the 44 who said they were not homeless, many were staying in emergency shelters or in situations defined as homeless. This indicates that the actual number of homeless served was higher than 127.

More complete statistics on the demographics of Project Homeless Connect Participants can be found on our website at www.capsolano.org.

PHC Stats At-A-Glance

Homeless Served

Fairfield— 137

Vallejo— 52

Provider Agencies

Fairfield— 24

Vallejo— 30

Volunteers

Fairfield— 53

Vallejo— 104

Come Be a Part of the Solution!

By Kari Rader

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), "A Continuum of Care Plan is a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and to prevent a return to homelessness."

The Continuum of Care is important because it provides for the assessment of capacity, requires the identification of gaps, allows the community to become more proactive rather than reactive, helps the community develop a common vision and a set of common goals, identifies ways of coordinating and linking resources to avoid duplication, provides a forum to obtain community buy-in and access to mainstream resources, and allows the community to apply for certain federal and state grants.

The Continuum of Care system is the mechanism used to move homeless individuals and families from the streets to permanent, safe housing. Not all homeless move through the system in the same way, nor does every homeless person need all of the components of the system. The fundamental components of a CoC system are: the CoC members & meetings; coordinated outreach efforts; universal intake and assessment; emergency shelters; transitional housing programs; permanent housing programs; supportive services; and homeless prevention & elimination.

The Mission of the Vallejo/Solano Continuum of Care is to be an action-oriented collaborative comprised of local service providers, governmental representatives and leaders, faith-based organizations, and community members dedicated to restoring lives, eliminating homelessness, and improving our communities.

Our values as a Continuum are: the value and dignity of human life; the central importance of the family and community well-being; a special emphasis on the poor, the homeless, the aged, and the distressed; a belief in the power of one, but more importantly, the power of many working together; and a belief that programs benefit people only when they contribute to the individual's freedom and independence.

The final meeting of 2011 took place in October. The meetings will commence for 2012 on January 25th. Please clear your schedule on the 4th Wednesday of every month, January through October, to collaborate with your partner agencies. If you already attend the meetings, make it a goal to bring someone new. We look forward to seeing you in January!

Vallejo/Solano CoC 2012 Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2012

Topic: What is a CoC? Why are we here?

Highlights: Schedule of year's meetings, Committee sign-up, 10-year plan update

February 22, 2012

Topic: Youth & Foster Care

Highlights: Office of Education, First Place for Youth, Children's Alliance, Children's Network, Youth & Family Services, CASA, Child Welfare, CPS

March 28, 2012

Topic: Housing

Highlights: Real Estate and Property Managers, Transitional Housing, Permanent Housing, City Housing Departments, Public Housing Authority, Seasons of Sharing

April 25, 2012

Topic: Discharge

Highlights: Reentry Council, Realignment, Law enforcement – PD, Probation, Parole, Legal Aid, Princess House, Compliance Housing

May 23, 2012

Topic: Healthcare

Highlights: Kaiser, Sutter, North Bay, Solano Coalition for Better Health, Healthcare for the Homeless, Mental Health Services, VA Healthcare, Fairfield-Suisun CAC Respite Home, La Clinica, Toro University, Substance Abuse Programs

June 27, 2012

Topic: Education & Employment

Highlights: Workforce Investment Board, EDD, Goodwill, Human Resources, CAL Works, Solano Community College, Adult Schools, SPARK Program, Vocational Rehab, Career and Technical Education

July 25, 2012

Topic: Seniors & Veterans

Highlights: Area Agency on Aging, VA – Ted Puntillo, Public Housing Authority

August 22, 2012

Topic: Food

Highlights: CAL Fresh, Vacaville

Storehouse, Salvation Army, Food Bank, Food Pantries, Farmers, Gleaning

September 26, 2012

Topic: Shelters

Highlights: HMIS, APRs, Spotlight agencies

October 24, 2012

Topic: Review of Year, Feedback, Planning for 2013



CAP Solano has worked with the CoC to create a Community Meetings Calendar.

Please go to our website at www.capsolano.org to view the calendar and become more involved in community happenings.



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We're on the Web!

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Vision Statement

To stimulate a better focusing of all available local, state, private, and federal resources upon the goal of enabling low-income families and individuals of all ages in rural and urban areas to attain the skills, knowledge, and motivations to secure the opportunities needed for them to become more self-sufficient and move out of poverty.

Mission Statement

Community Action Partnership of Solano, Inc. is a nonprofit organization working to move low-income people out of poverty and homelessness through partnerships with public and private organizations in Solano County, by administering grants and contracts, providing capacity-building, training, oversight and coordination of services, and promoting community action at local, state and national levels, resulting in stronger communities.

Upcoming Events

November

- 11/10/11, 8:30a-10:00a, Fairfield Basic Needs Meeting @ Salvation Army
11/16/11, 10:00a-11:00p, Nonprofit Board Meeting @ CAP Solano
11/16/11, 12:00p-1:00p, Healthcare for the Homeless Meeting @ SCOE
11/17/11, 2:00p-3:00p, Vacaville Homeless Ad Hoc Meeting @ Vacaville Housing & Redevelopment
11/18/11, 9:30a-11:00a, SVOAD Executive Committee Meeting @ CAP Solano
11/24/11, 2:30p-3:30p, Vallejo Basic Needs Meeting @ Fighting Back Partnership

December

- 12/8/11, 8:30a-10:00a, Fairfield Basic Needs Meeting @ Salvation Army
12/9/11, 9:30a-11:00a, SVOAD Executive Committee Meeting @ CAP Solano
12/15/11, 2:00p-3:00p, Vacaville Homeless Ad Hoc Meeting @ Vacaville Housing & Redevelopment
12/21/12, 5p-TBD, National Homeless Person's Memorial Day

January

- 1/12/12, 8:30a-10:00a, Fairfield Basic Needs Meeting @ Salvation Army
1/19/12, 2:00p-3:00p, Vacaville Homeless Ad Hoc Meeting @ Vacaville Housing & Redevelopment
1/25/12, 11:00a-1:00p, CoC Meeting @ Suisun City Chambers
1/12/12, 08:30a-TBD, Solano Safety Net Summit on Poverty @ Solano Events Center
1/18/12, 10:00a-11:00a, Nonprofit Board Meeting @ CAP Solano
1/18/12, 12:00p-1:00p, Healthcare for the Homeless Meeting @ Solano Events Center
1/26/12, 2:30p-3:30p, Vallejo Basic Needs Meeting @ Fighting Back Partnership
1/31/12, 9:30a-11:00a, SVOAD Meeting, Solano Events Center