GREAT PERSONS NEVER DIE, THEIR MEMORY LIVES FOREVER-CESAR CHAVEZ

By Father Patricio Guillen

Cesar E. Chavez will be honored once again as we commemorate his birthday on March 31. His many devoted followers, admirers, friends, and family, together, remember how he and Dolores Huerta worked and struggled for many decades to organize a union to improve the miserable working conditions that existed for many years for farm workers and their families.

Since then, human rights and working conditions have dramatically improved. However, added working conditions, health services and education for the youth has not reached the level of services and resources to the farm families that are available to the public at large.

Cesar Chavez had a special charisma. He projected a gentle and meek image that had the ability of disarming his fiercest opponents. Beneath this harmless appearance was the powerful spirit of a dauntless and tenacious fighter for campesino rights. He knew that he was to the farm grower what young King David was to the giant Goliath for the eight long years he and Dolores spent their lives organizing the farm worker.

Those of us who lived through the entire process are aware of the great price that Cesar, Dolores and the farm worker movement paid. Sheriffs and police departments used clubs to beat up pickets and defenseless women and the utilization of police dogs to intimidate and harass the campesinos that believed in non-violence. Added to the struggle for individual decency were the hateful words of strike breakers and others who were opposed to the union. The climax to these violent encounters were the martyrs who gave their lives for human justice to the farm workers.

The deaths of these martyrs were the rare occasions when Cesar’s comment was put to the test. He wondered if he was doing the right thing the right way. But this was also the moment when he and Dolores redefined their efforts. They could not let these brave persons die in vain.

When Cesar Chavez gave up his spirit, the torch was passed on to Arturo Rodriguez. The transition has had its ups and downs. They have renewed their efforts to organize strawberry pickers and other sectors of the compesino workforce.

We who are celebrating Cesar Chavez’ birthday, must renew our commitment to support our brother and sister campesinos that harvest the food we eat daily. Justice is won by actions and not mere words.

More young men and women need to support this cause for justice. Before Cesar Chavez died he told one of his many audiences, “If the United Farm Worker movement dies it is because I did not do my job right”. I firmly believe that Cesar Chavez will never die because he gave his life in the service of those he loved so dearly and with whom he so passionately identified.

Father Patricio Guillen is co-director of the Libreria del Pueblo.

LATINO NETWORK SALUTES LATINAS OF ACHIEVEMENT AT LUNCHEON

LaNet (Latino Network), a non-profit community organization, celebrated its March Annual Latinas of Achievement Recognition Luncheon at the Zacatecas Restaurant, Riverside, attended by 150 persons from the Greater Riverside area.

Alfredo Figueroa, master of ceremonies, introduced the honorees and presented the Latina Women of Achievement Awards.

GLORIA LOPEZ

Gloria Lopez’ message to all members of the community is that we must care about each other in order to live and work together in peace. She has transformed her life experience into action on behalf of others.

As a staff member with the Inland Agency’s People Reaching Out, she has assisted youth to find jobs and learn to respect each other. As a breast cancer survivor, she brings the powerful message of early detection to women of all ethnic groups, both as a staff person with Desert Sierra Breast and Cervical Health Program and as a volunteer for the Inland Aids Project and Kaiser Permanent Breast Support Group.

Gloria Lopez is one of the founding members of the Latina Women’s Health Forum; a group committed to providing quality health care information to low-income Spanish-speaking women.

The above-mentioned characteristics are a few examples of the many ways Gloria Lopez demonstrates and promotes peace, health, and caring among all people.

KAREN AQUINO

Karen Aquino, Administration Services Manager for the Riverside Police Department, is the highest-ranking civilian in its department.

In her position, Karen Aquino has managed the procurement of funds for Project Bridge, a nationally recognized youth outreach program aimed at curbing gang-related crimes in the community. Numerous at-risk youth have benefited by participating in Project Bridge through its job training, placement, and educational components.

She was also able to get funding under the Value Based Initiative to establish a collaborative effort with the Cops and Clergy Network to develop and operate six safe havens for middle school, at-risk teens throughout Riverside. Such efforts have allowed for the development of a partnership between police department and community.

Continue on Page 3
RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DELIVERS ANNUAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, celebrated the academic achievement of Riverside County schools in his annual "Education Briefing."

The event was attended by more than 170 school teachers, principals, and administrators from districts around the county. In addition, local legislative leaders and community members were on hand to hear how Riverside County schools continue to grow in enrollment and test scores are also on the rise.

There were 286,210 students in the county five years ago and 364,180 now, Long said. The largest minority group is Hispanic students at 50.4 percent and Anglos are 35.5 percent. In 1999, there were 348 schools compared to 404 in 2004 now, 13,531 voters for passing Measure T, the $140 million San Bernardino School Safety, Overcrowding/Repair Measure.

Based on improvement on the API, the top five districts are San Jacinto Unified, Coachella Unified, Perris Elementary, Romoland Elementary, and Desert Sands Unified school districts.

Riverside County Achievement Teams (RCAT) are working with dozens of school districts in the county, Long said. RCAT schools are improving faster than the county and state average. RCAT was honored with a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District wishes to thank local voters for passing Measure T, the $140 million San Bernardino School Safety, Overcrowding/Repair Measure. Unofficial results as of the morning of Wednesday, March 3, 2004, showed Measure T with a 60.57% approval rating, more than the 55% approval needed to pass a local school bond measure under Proposition 39.

"I am very pleased with these results," said San Bernardino City Unified Superintendent Dr. Arturo Delgado. "By passing Measure T, the citizens of San Bernardino and Highland have not only made it possible for our District to better educate our children through the construction of new schools and the repair and improvement of existing schools, but they have also demonstrated to our children that they value education."

According to unofficial results, voters also passed Proposition 55, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004, with 50.6% of the vote. The statewide bond will provide funds for facilities to school districts and universities throughout California that demonstrate need and have matching funds. The San Bernardino City Unified School District may be eligible for some of these funds.

SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT THANKS VOTERS FOR PASSING BOND

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THE SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PROUDLY SALUTES

2004 GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNERS

representing the many dedicated employees serving the San Bernardino community and its children.

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No Better Place to Learn!

San Bernardino City Schools
No Better Place to Learn!
LATINO NETWORK SALUTES LATINAS OF ACHIEVEMENT AT LUNCHEON

Continued from Page 1

Karen Aquino is someone who works diligently behind the scenes to ensure that the necessary funding is available for the numerous outreach programs that impact the community.

PATRICIA AVILA

Patricia Avila is current Coordinator of the Riverside Community College Puente Project, where she directs efforts aimed at increasing the number of Latino students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Patricia Avila's proactive efforts include taking an active part in understanding students, their lives, cultural impact, and their family environment. She helps students through legal issues, maternity, substance abuse, financial problems, cultural dynamics, and educational challenges. "She is the 'Jaime Escalante' of RCC in many respects with the many extras she does on behalf of students," stated one of her nominators. She does all this while raising three beautiful children of her own with husband, David.

NANCY MELENDEZ

Nancy Melendez works for the Riverside Chamber of Commerce as Coordinator for Keep Riverside Beautiful. Newly elected Councilman Steve Adams, states, "Nancy has consistently out-performed her job title and in doing so, the entire city has greatly benefited." Aside from her current duties, she also finds time to volunteer to serve as a member of the library board.

Nancy Melendez' attitude and people skills have made her a tremendous asset to the entire community. Her efforts have provided opportunities for individuals coming from diverse walks of life to participate in community service.

MARIA EVANS

Maria Evans is branch manager for the Union Bank of California in Rancho Cucamonga. A long-time Riverside resident, she has been a strong supporter of organizations that empower youth and mujeres.

Maria Evans has worked for years with Riverside County YWCA and their youth programs. She has encouraged her employer, Union Bank, to continue their sponsorship of Hispanics Organized for Political Equality, and has actively participated in their events.

She has presented workshops in conferences organized by the Latina Women's health Forum. A black belt karate instructor, Maria Evans presents workshops and involves young women and their mothers in self-defense strategies aimed at building self-confidence.

María Evans has proven that you can succeed professionally while still giving of your time to the community.

TINA MARINEZ

Tina Marinez has been an educator for 32 years and is current director of Migrant Education for the Riverside County Office of Education.

Born in a small town of Donna, Texas, Tina Marinez knows well the life of migrant workers and English language learners. Through her work, she has been able to advocate and provide for parent training and educational programs for the most needy of our students. She has been a dedicated and committed advocate for all children, especially for those needing her skills in the area of second language learning.

This same dedication and expertise led to the election of Tina Marinez as State President of the California Association of Bilingual Education.

Tina Marinez recently announced her retirement, effective at the end of the school year. Her compassion, dedication and expertise will be missed by all, however, most of all by the students and families who have come to admire and appreciate her efforts.

SUSANNA MEDINA HERNANDEZ

Susanna Medina Hernandez (Susie) is the owner/manager of the Zacatecas Cafe, and we could also add a gracious host. Gracias Susie for a wonderful lunch and making us all feel at home.

Susanna Hernandez keeps alive the tradition of community giving and service that her parents had established since first opening the restaurant forty years ago, and has never altered from that cornerstone. Susie has ensured that numerous community organizations have had a place to meet, has developed a cultural hub in the middle of the Eastside by hosting a variety of events, including the arts, and more importantly, has brought together people from all walks of life.

Beyond the duties of running the restaurant, Susie also remains committed to providing services to neighborhood centers, promoting educational information regarding health issues and education-related activities.

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CHARIO IS AWARDED $1 MILLION BUSINESS CONTRACT IN INLAND EMPIRE

CHARIO has been awarded a 3-year contract by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Administration to operate the Inland Empire Minority Business Development Center (MBDC)—the first of its kind specifically serving the needs of the Ontario/Riverside communities.

The CHARIO-MBDC will provide business training, business consulting, access to capital and procurement assistance. The Center will provide access to one-on-one "hands on" assistance, in the areas of: marketing, financing and accounting, technology (information systems), administration personnel and general management for the express purpose of enhancing business growth, profitability and access to capital.

Funding provides for targeted outreach to minority owned firms in the Inland Empire, including high priority, California State Enterprise Zone target areas, such as Santa Ana in Orange County, Coachella Valley and Callejon in Imperial County; San Diego's Barrio Logan and Otay Mesa and Riverside City/County.

Serving the needs of Hispanic businesses comprises 47.9% of all minority business - thus, the need for Spanish-speaking professional services is in high demand," said Amador.

Our mission is to be an economic catalyst, creating opportunities for growth and generating local community wealth," said Amador.

Riverside ranks #3 on the Top 25 Best Cities for Business for its relatively low cost of doing business, coupled with affordable commercial and residential real estate prices, making Riverside a great business locale.1 Riverside is also the 11th largest city in California and is strategically located within the Los Angeles and Metropolitan area including being adjacent to the March Inland Port and Foreign Trade Zone2.

To learn more about the CHARIO-MBDC or apply for one of the new professional positions contact CHARIO (909) 269-0751 or visit www.chariocorp.com.

SUPERVISORS APPOINT ARM CHIEF MARK UFFER AS INTERIM CAO

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today appointed Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Director Mark Uffer to serve as interim County Administrative Officer and guide the county through what may be the most difficult budget period in the county's history.

Mr. Uffer will take over for Ken Miller, the county's Director of Public Works, who was appointed by Board of Supervisors Chairman Dennis Hansberger to oversee the County Administrative Officer following the resignation last Wednesday of Wally Hill, who had served as COO for 11 months.

Mr. Uffer has overseen the county-owned and-operated Arrowhead Regional Medical Center since he was appointed interim director in July 1999.

He was appointed director on March 14, 2000. In that position, Mr. Uffer has successfully managed one of the county's largest and most complex organizations. He has developed a number of cost-saving efficiencies while blazing new trails in effective customer service.

"We're looking to Mark to get us through the budget, keep us on track, and preserve good leadership," Chairman Hansberger said. "We look forward to his even-handed and knowledgeable leadership."
ROMEO CLUB MEET TO REMINISCE ON WAR STORIES

ROMEO CLUB members, above, meet on a monthly basis to reminisce about their experiences during their tenure in the California State Department of Corrections and Parole as corrections and parole officers and catch up on each member's activities since their last meeting. The club's name, ROMEO stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out and does not connote a club's requirement to engage in extramarital situations. Although membership includes both sexes, original members have, yet, to vote for a club name change to identify female membership.

Parole agents pictured at right: Martha Vejar, PA I, 24 years; Sal Torres, Lt, PA III, 26 years; Josie Gonzalez, 5th District Supervisor candidate; John Bacha, PA III 30 years; Bob Rudin, PA I, 30 years; Dan Gutierrez, PA I, 28 years; Charles Felix, PA I, 33 years; Mike Garcelaza, PA I, 30 years; Diane Cowell, PA II, 26 years; Sal Gutierrez, PA II, 30 years; Coy Beaver, PA II, 30 years; Richard Negrete, PA II, 30 years; Barry Sherman, PA III, 34 years and Danny Macias, Captain, 30 years. Total service years served is 391 years. Members have strong feelings regarding parolee's release and rehabilitation. The recidivism rate is an average of 68 percent and as a member stated, "once you are in the system, it's a recycling process." Other opinions given are a holistic program for parolees that would include counseling, job training, job placement, support system and housing. The current drug court system is generally accepted, although not 100% successful.

Photo by IEHN

CESAR E. CHAVEZ 5K RUN/WALK
Hosted on UCR Campus, Saturday, April 3rd, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Registration Fee: Adults $15 - Children $10

Sign Up Today, Individual & Team Registrations accepted
Funds raised for scholarships & community service projects.

The event is held in connection with California's designated César E. Chávez Day of Service & Learning.
Vendors, information booths and music will be provided to highlight the program.

Race Schedule: Registration: 8:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremonies: 8:30 a.m. - 5k Run/Walk 9:00 a.m.

Check website at: www.emp.ucr.edu/chavezrun

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Mon. - Sat 9am-6pm * Sun. Closed

Ad prices in effect March 24 - April 7, 2004

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I/E. HISPANIC NEWS WOMEN OF THE MONTH

March is dedicated annually to honor women that have excelled in their respective professions and/or committed to volunteerism in their community. The Inland Empire Hispanic News has selected the following honorees.

MARIE ARAKAKI

Marie M. Arakaki was appointed affirmative action officer for the San Bernardino Unified School District in 1995. Her main responsibilities are to ensure that administrators and supervisors adhere to the board of education's affirmative action policies in the certificated and classified system.

Arakaki's added responsibilities involve conducting investigations on claims of employment discrimination, sexual harassment, resolving claims by negotiations or written recommendations, conduct orientation sessions, analyze laws pertaining to employment/educational related equal opportunities and civil rights, parent and student complaints, provide technical assistance to personnel in non-discriminatory and harassment-free school environment, among other duties.

Arakaki's professional expertise has been in the areas of employment, housing, and civil rights discrimination. Her previous employment tenure included the California Employment Development Department Program Supervisor, California Fair Employment and Housing Consulting and Supervisor of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, assisting in the development of the civil rights enforcement administrative process.

Arakaki received a BA in Education from the University of Hawaii and attended numerous seminars and conferences on affirmative action. Her professional membership includes the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Association for Gender Equity Leadership in Education.

Actively involved in the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, Arakaki was president in (2002-2003), and committee memberships in: fundraising, Home of Neighborly Services, scholarship, Children's Christmas Party, Cesar Chavez, Veronica's Home and Salute to the Route.

Arakaki is the single mother of twin daughters, Amber, a junior at UC-Berkeley and Kristen, a junior at UC-Davis.

CHARLOTTE GONZALES

Charlotte Gonzales has a well-deserved reputation as one of the most dedicated volunteers in the City of Redlands. During a five decade-plus multi-volunteer ‘career’ Gonzales has donated her valuable time to the school system, health agencies, civic groups, cultural and sorority activities, and a myriad of other socio-educational activities benefiting the City of Redlands and its residents.

Charlote Gonzales moved to Redlands from Garden Grove in 1939. Charlotte Gonzales initially started volunteering when her children, Helen, Bob, and Dan started at Lincoln School in 1949. She joined the PTA, becoming its president for several terms, and later joined other PTA groups as her children advanced at each grade level.

Her continued involvement at elementary school sites in the district included assisting principals and teachers with school and classroom challenges; assisted parents in translations, home problems, guidance in district policies and procedures and school conferences, helping children with problematic situations, including clothing needs, transporting to medical/dental appointments, and a myriad of other self-appointed school/parent/student-related tasks.

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After an 18-year “volunteer career,” the Redlands School Board appointed Gonzales as a district community aide, recognizing her valuable services as an enhancement to children’s education in the district. “The district started paying me for work that I enjoyed doing for our children in the school system,” she said with a smile while being interviewed.

Gonzales has had an equal interest in her community. She started a clothes closet, worked at the Home of Neighborly Services and Headstart, has volunteered for the Red Cross, Cancer Society, Redlands Health Services (a component of the county health department—also a registered pressure measurement specialist), Heart Association, AARP (three-time president), March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy, and others.

She was founder of the Asociacion Femenil, a sorority of women performing community services, first Ballet Folklorico in Redlands, and La Posadas in 1960.

Gonzales has donated her services to St. Mary’s Church since its founding in early 1940’s, joining the Alter Society, Guadalupanas and assisting in many fundraising and charitable functions.

She has received multiple awards and commendations from the school district, principals and teachers, governmental agencies, service groups and individuals in the community.

“My biggest joy is when people of all ages stop and hug me, and tell my how I was able to help them and will never forget me,” she said with tears in her eyes.

OLIVIA SEVILLA

Olivia Sevilla’s professional career has been in the area of family, behavioral, drug and alcohol prevention programs, beginning as secretary/bookkeeper in 1977, advancing to administrative assistant in 1984, and direct involvement as clinical counselor, clinical supervisors and since 1988, as executive director in the Bilingual Family Counseling Service, Inc. (BFCS) in Ontario.

BFCS is a multi-program agency founded in 1976, serving the West End of the County of San Bernardino; however, services are available throughout the county. Since its founding, BFCS has expanded to provide services, including Drug/Alcohol Outpatient Treatment; PC1000 Diversion/Prevention/Education Program; School-based counseling; Decision Program; Child Abuse Treatment Program and other family/prevention programs.

During her tenure with BFCS, Sevilla has accelerated her education. She received an AA from Chaffey College, majoring in General Education, in 1978, BA from Cal-Polytechnic University, Pomona, majoring in Behavioral Science in 1985, and an MSW from the University of Southern California with concentration in Family, Youth, Children and Chemical Dependency in 1988.

Her added certificates and licenses include: certified clinical supervisor, AMFT “equivalent” supervisor, Certified field Instructor for Graduate Social Work Students, Certified Suicide Intervention Skills Trainer and Certified Dialectical Behavioral Counseling/Instructor.

Sevilla is member of: National Association of Social Workers, Focus West Collaborative, Family Solutions Collaborative, Association of Community Based Organizations, Price Foundation, Chaffey College-EOPS Advisory Board and other West End organizations.

She has been recognized with the following awards: Bien Hecho Award from the Latino Social Work Network, Montclair Community Collaborative Honor, Juvenile Justice/Delinquent Prevention Commission Award, YWCA Woman of Achievement Award, and California Department of Drug/Alcohol Programs-Distinguished Treatment Program Award.

Linda Miranda, special assistant to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Herbert Fischer, stated that BFCS is an outstanding drug and alcohol rehabilitation agency in the West End. “The agency is performing valuable services under the leadership of Director Olivia Sevilla and a very educated and passionate staff that goes beyond the call of duty to help at-risk youth and families with specialized programs,” she said.

TERESA PARRA

Teresa Parra was elected to the San Bernardino Board of Education in 2001 and current vice president of the board. Parra, a mother of four children with three attending the San Bernardino School District, is involved in many school activities relating to her role on the school board.

“There are many areas in the educational system that we, as board members, must be acquainted with. The more we are aware, in terms of academic programs and support resources, the better equipped we are with our responsibilities at the board level,” she said.

Parra reflects a parent involvement with their children’s education. She was president of the Highland-Pacific Elementary School, Fifth District first vice president and chair of the health and welfare committee; San Bernardino PTA Council Parliamentarian; San Bernardino PTA President, (of 36 local PTA councils), Measure M Bond Campaign (liaison with Belvedere School); and President of the Belvedere Neighborhood Association.

Her membership includes; Cesar Chavez Committee, Five-Year Housing Committee; Latino Caucus; NALEO; Latino School Board Association; California School Board Association, Organization of Latinos for Education; and Chair of the Federal Governmental Relations Committee.

Parra has completed the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy and NALEO Educational Fund National Institute.

Parra stated that “all children in our district, regardless of their language, economics, or skill capacities, should be provided an equal opportunity and the highest quality of education in preparation for a higher education.”
An English king once muttered words to the effect: "Can someone rid me of this meddlesome priest," referring to a bishop who countered the king's effort to use the Church for his purposes.

It's not the priests or the kings now who run things, it seems to be the trial lawyers of America.

Orange County Jurors will soon be presented with a case by trial lawyers that boggles the mind. The case is the City of Santa Monica against a Texas company that manufactures MTBE, a fuel additive required for several years by the federal government in our gasoline. MTBE has a deleterious effect on ground water supplies and has been considered to be part of the problem 13 years ago when Santa Monica's water was polluted.

Do they expect Orange County jurors to join the city and its lawyers in its greedy quest for more money? Aren't they satisfied with having located the actual polluters and punishing them with a $300 million zap? That was the purpose of the law suit to begin with, wasn't it?

If the city and its lawyers are successful in this punitive pursuit of a company they didn't feel responsible ten years ago, who will they go after next? Will they go after drivers for driving cars that put out air pollution? Will they go after car owners for owning cars that pollute?

What kind of justice is at work here? Why can the City of Santa Monica not add a target to their suit ten years after the leaks occurred? How much will the trial lawyers pocket if this suit is successful? How much did they collect from the $300 million suit against MTBE?

Exactly who benefits from pursuing a company for more money? Will the people benefit? Or, will the people have to pay more and more for gasoline because trial lawyers are collecting huge fees from settlements, not surprisingly from actually convincing jurors in public courtrooms.

Why should we be interested in something so esoteric as a law suit on MTBE to bring a company to court, and what does Santa Ana want? We must be interested because it is our hard-earned money, being sough, for the public always pays. Companies simply charge their customers more to pay the fines, or settlements.

We are the customers, and Southern Californians of all ethnic persuasions who are paying record prices for gasoline. Trial lawyers don't care who pays them, only that they get paid. So much for the public interest.
EARLY DIAGNOSIS KEY TO TREATMENT OF CHOLESTEROL

When it comes to an early diagnosis of a disease, what you find out may help you—and others—in more ways than you suspect.

For instance, many believe a recent increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with high cholesterol has contributed to an overall increase in use of, and spending on, medications to treat the disease.

High blood cholesterol is considered by many to be of significant medical concern because individuals with this condition are at increased risk for heart disease, the leading cause of death among both men and women in the United States.

More than one million Americans have heart attacks each year, with about one-half million dying of heart disease.

According to experts at Pharmaceutical Research And Manufacturers of America, PhRMA, more aggressive efforts to diagnose the disease have also lead to improved medicines, new standards of care that dramatically emphasize the use of these improved medicines in broader populations and greater attention on the part of the public and health professionals to preventing and managing cholesterol and cardiovascular disease.

In addition, the trend in medicine toward prevention, particularly by using newer medicines, is an important part of health maintenance for cholesterol patients.

This trend has not only proven cost-effective but has also improved the quality of patients' lives.

As more aggressive diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment reach more patients with high cholesterol, and as new treatments are developed, it is predictable that we'll spend more on medicines to treat this condition.

Allocating resources to medicines that treat high cholesterol may also contribute to a more productive society.

Research indicates that patients who achieve their treatment goals—in this case, lowered blood cholesterol levels—have slower disease progression, maintain better health, and use fewer health care services such as hospitalization.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.phrma.org.

GUAJOME PARK ACADEMY GRADUATION AT INLAND EMPIRE JOB CORPS


Photo courtesy of Guajome Park Academy

Guajome Park Academy, a partnership component of the Inland Empire Job Corps Center, recently graduated 49 high school students at a ceremony attended by parents, school personnel and guests at the IEJCC, San Bernardino.

City of San Bernardino's Sixth Ward Councilman Rickke Van Johnson, keynote speaker, encouraged graduates to continue their education in their chosen career field to be better prepared to compete in the work force. "The competition out there is tremendous and the number of jobs in certain fields are few," he said.

Maura David, Guajome Park Academy Site Leader, congratulated

CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AGENCY
ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) 03-01
INNOVATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM

The One-Stop Career Center is seeking qualified organizations to provide comprehensive employment and training services to youth, eligible under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Programs must address the purposes of the WIA youth training program, including the improvement of basic educational skills, the achievement of a High School Diploma or GED, the ability to provide work readiness and occupational skills training, on-going counseling and guidance, mentoring, supportive services, development of citizenship qualities, and effective connections to the employer community, through job shadowing, community service placements, or through work experience/internships.

Eligible organizations included, but are not limited to, public and private schools, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and governmental entities.

Programs must be operated in accordance with the Workforce Investment Act and its regulations, and within state and local policy, as set forth in the RFP instructions.

A proposal must be submitted in its entirety to the One-Stop Career Center by 4:00 PM April 22, 2004 in order to be considered.

For further inquiries, contact:

ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER
599 NORTH ARROWHEAD AVENUE
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401
(909) 888-7881
ATTN: CONTRACTING & PLANNING STAFF
Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable sponsored a workshop on communication fraud, with Anna Montez, Director of Technology and Consumer Education, Latino Issues Forum, above, spoke on communication fraud and consumer education preventive methods for the Latino and Asian population in California. Photo by IEHN.

Millions of families have telephones in their homes and many million more persons at every age level use cell telephones, both being essential communication tools in our society today.

On a daily basis, users of these communication tools are, however, bombarded with strong sales pitches either at home or in advertising to purchase these services. Slamming, cramming and false or misleading advertising are common types of consumer abuse, and the elderly and non-English speakers are targeted groups who are less likely to know and assert their rights in regard to contractual agreements.

The California Consumer Protection Fund, recognizing major abuses to these targeted groups, funded the Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable (ICHR), a non-profit organization, to organize the Telecommunication Consumer Protection Program (TCPP) as a local resource to families or persons who have problems regarding contractual agreement and/or billing statements with their respective telecommunication services.

In order to further emphasize the importance on the issue of abuse, ICHR sponsored a local workshop with Anna Montez, Director of Technology and Consumer Education, Latino Issues Forum, and an expert in communication abuse, as keynote speaker, attended by ICHR Board of Directors and organization leaders. Montez spoke of large Latino and Asian and other groups that are subject to fraud by a huge multi-million dollar communication industry. Language difficulties, contractual agreements, telephone bill costs, among other factors, may contribute to fraudulent practices or a misunderstanding for these groups, she said.

Montez said consumer education at the neighborhood and community level is a preventive device for these groups to select legitimate communication services and avoid future problems.

Montez also advocate a strong consumer bill of rights and truth in advertising advocacy as essential to prevent fraudulent practices to the general public and to those residents who are more susceptible to fraud.

Currently, TCPP’s has establish a speakers bureau to be available to interested reside to community or non-profit groups to speak on consumer awareness in topics such as avoiding telephone fraud, misleading advertising, choosing the best telephone or telephone wireless services, and other topics relating to communications in our communities. TCPP personnel are also available to speak to persons with contract or billing problems.

Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable, a consortium of regional organizations, is a multiple service center, with a central information data base of governmental and other agency services, a communication link to area activities via an e-mail weekly system; a service agency sponsoring community program(s) based on community needs, and clerical services for member groups.

For information on the Telecommunication Consumer Protection Program or Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable, contact Eufemia Reyes, program coordinator, at (909) 885-5777 or write to ICHR, 468 West Fifth Street, San Bernardino, CA 92401.

Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino

of San Bernardino

Salutes

Cesar Chavez

holiday

March 31, 2004
S.B. MAYOR'S EDUCATION ROUNTABLE 10TH ANNUAL APPLE AWARDS

Delfina Bryant, one of 12 recipients at the 10th Annual Apple Awards, began as a clerk in the San Bernardino School District, and with encouragement from her supervisor and mentor, took a leave of absence to concentrate on her education, eventually receiving a teaching credential and M.A. in Education. Starting at Lytle Creek School as a teacher, Bryant progressively held various administrative positions, including elementary and middle school principal, and principal on assignment. She is currently District Director of English Learners and Support Programs. Bryant believes in teamwork and is known for her ability to have staff work cohesively toward set goals. Her education philosophy is one of inclusiveness, and assurances to students of her support in providing them with multiple opportunities for success. She is a strong advocate for the most needy students and passionate about student’s achievements.

Laura Gomez, one of 12 recipients at the 10th Annual Awards, is entering her 26th year in education and 20th year at San Bernardino Valley College. She received an A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts at S.B.VC., and a BA in Spanish and M.A. in Educational Counseling from Cal State, San Bernardino. A desire to travel since her youth, Gomez had an opportunity to study Spanish Literature at the University of Madrid through the CSU International Program. The interest to travel further gave her an opportunity to coordinate the International Study Program at SBVC and each year, takes students to Costa Rica. A linguist, Gomez speaks Spanish, Italian, French, and “a little Greek.” She joined SBVC in 1983 as a Spanish professor and counselor, and directs the Puente Program, and has conducted numerous workshops for national organizations. She received the Hispanic Image Award as Educator of the Year and Outstanding Educator of the Year from AMAE. “The students keep me at Valley College. I meet students who have no idea what they want to do with their lives, and I’m given the opportunity to help them discover the treasures they have within.”

GUAJOME PARK ACADEMY GRADUATION AT INLAND EMPIRE JOB CORPS

Continued from Page 3

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The Inland Empire Job Corps has served Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since 1978. Students are enrolled in year-long residential program that offers an array of vocational trades. Guajome Park Academy, since 1964, has trained the non-traditional student with necessary skills to be an active participant in their community.

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Inland Empire Hispanic News
April 7th

For inquiries on the Job Corps, visit www.jobcorps.org. For information on Guajome Park Academy contact Maura David at (909) 887-1502.
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