HONOR OUR WORKFORCE ON LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 6

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INLAND AGENCY'S LEADERSHIP CHANGES WITH RETIREMENT

LINDA DUNN RETIRES AFTER A 20-YEAR TENURE AS ADMINISTRATOR OF SOCIAL AGENCY

Michael and Linda Dunn, are active members of the North American Council on Adoptable Children. Linda Dunn recently retired from the Inland Agency after a 20-year tenure as executive director. Linda Dunn retired as Executive Director of Inland Agency on March 31, 2004, after a 20-year tenure.

The Inland Agency is a community based non-profit organization that has provided programs in Inyo, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties for 35 years. The goal of the agency is to provide programs to serve the population of all ages and disadvantaged that is least served.

During Ms. Dunn's administration, annual revenue grew from $1 million to over $5 million. Programs initiated by the Agency included People Reaching Out in the Eastside of Riverside, as part of a statewide ten-year youth violence prevention initiative of the California Wellness Foundation.

The Community Tool Box in Adelanto serves as a resource center and was recognized for effectively helping bring a Stater Brothers market to the underdeveloped area in the upper desert.

Other programs include the extensive breast and cervical cancer early detection for uninsured women, training program at the high school level to teach students living skills, an elementary-level program targeted to help bring better understanding to diverse student population, a health insurance counseling and advocacy system for seniors and the disabled and involvement in community development.

Ms. Dunn and her husband, a professor at UCR, became residents of Riverside in 1970. The couple became active in the North American Council on Adoptable Children, and Mrs. Dunn served as the first president and director of the West Coast office. She testified before the U.S. Sub-committee on Children and Youth in support of child welfare legislation.

Their interracial family includes three born to them, one adopted and one from foster care and three grandchildren. Their children attended North High School in Riverside. In 2001, the Inland Agency received the Outstanding Nonprofit Organization Award. Ms. Dunn has received the Black Voice Foundation Award, UCR Women's Hall of Fame Award, The Soroptimist International Award and Cal-State, San Bernardino Diversity Award.

Ms. Dunn is involved with the Latino Network, The Group, Women's Democratic Club, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Inland Valley Friends Meeting (Quaker) and Riverside Coalition for Police Accountability.

CORRECTION

The Inland Empire Hispanic News, in its August 11, 2004 edition, inadvertently deleted pertinent information on the Mother's Determination Achieves Sums Success article, page 5. Following is the correction:

Mother's Determination Achieves Sums Success

The Lytle Creek Staff is excited to have one of its former students, Juan Luna, return to serve as 5th grade teacher. Mr. Luna attended Lytle Creek School from kindergarten to 5th grade. During his youth, classmates and teachers perceived Mr. Luna as being a natural leader. His enthusiasm for teaching and his genuine desire to encourage our youth to strive to their full potential is commendable.

The Lytle Creek Staff is proud to have Mr. Luna as part of our team.

Dorothy Fenster, Principal, Lytle Creek School
Editorial

Your Vote Does Count

WHY THE LATINO VOTE IS CRITICAL

"You can’t ask for a better situation. Both parties say they have to have your vote to win. And when your vote is big enough to make a difference... issues that matter to our community are going to bubble up..." — Antonio Gonzalez, President, Southwest Voter Registration

With the drive and commitment to follow the vision set by Southwest Voter Registration Education Project’s founder, Willie Velasquez, SVREP’s current president — Antonio Gonzalez, has managed to continue this vision. Southwest Voter Registration Education Project is a non-profit, non-partisan that is dedicated to increasing political participation among minorities, particularly Latinos, throughout the United States. Since its inception, SVREP has aided in the constant and dramatic rise in Latinos’ political participation. Ten years ago there were about 1,300 Latino-elected officials in the country and about 2.5 million Latino voters nation-wide; ten years later, those numbers have doubled — Latino-elected officials number 2,500 with nearly 4 million Latinos registered to vote. But, do they vote?

According to Gonzalez, “Hispanics have been the fastest-growing group in registration in America since 1980, measured by every presidential election, without exception.” However, the US Census Bureau shows a different reality — since 1992, the percent of Latinos exercising their right to vote has steadily dropped from 28.9% to 18.9%. In California, the figures are more startling — in 1990 the total percent of Latinos actually voting was 20%, in the last major election the percent raised to 24%; however, it is anticipated that the apathy among existing and newly registered voters is so great that the projected Latino voter turnout, in California could be 17%. (Source: US Census Bureau. Current Population Reports: Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000.)

The Latino community seems to be rising from “utter and complete powerlessness, to having some power”, but some power is not enough — especially in the upcoming 2004 elections. Why is this election so important to the Latino? Currently, statistics show Latinos’ support for President Bush at 28%, with support for Kerry at 35% — it is important that Latinos become knowledgeable in all aspects of this upcoming election. How is their vote and whom they help into the presidential office going to affect their housing, healthcare, elderly, education, jobs, and immigrants? What are the views of both candidates on these issues as they affect Latinos, and how will these views be implemented once in office? As America and California saw in the 2000 presidential election, Latinos tend to vote for the most popular candidate, or the one who has a grandchild who is “part-Latino” or “somewhat bilingual.” Latinos, it seems, are happy with the scraps thrown at them instead of demanding they be heard, instead of yielding the clout they actually have at election time. The voting apathy among the overall population is great; however, we should only be concerned with the apathy among the Latino.

The Latino apathy became apparent with California’s gubernatorial election. Bustamante vs. Schwarzenegger. California’s Latinos had a historic opportunity to finally make their voice heard by propelling one of their own into the Golden State’s highest position. The state’s Latino community could have seen a Latino become the state’s governor for the first time in 100 years — but it did not materialize. Why?...the lack of Latino voter turnout AND because Latinos are happy “con las moronas que nos dan.”

Currently, for the 2004 Presidential election, both Republicans and Democrats are courting the Latino vote. Also, there is a very strong potential that four states with large Latino populations might have an impact on the outcome. But experts are split on whether the Latino vote is cohesive enough to swing an election. According to Rodolfo de la Garza, a Columbia University professor, “every four years, there is this claim that Latinos can swing the election. But if no Latino had voted at all (in the 2000 presidential election), it would have been exactly the same.” Hence, destroying the myth that Latinos, based on their numbers, both in population and voter registration, have any clout.

Robert DePosada, president of the Latino Coalition, summed it up this way. Latinos from the Southwest supported NAFTA because of the jobs and trade with Mexico it would bring. Puerto Ricans and Latinos from California opposed the agreement because of their ties with labor. Cuban-Americans initially withheld support but ultimately voted for it.

Two-thirds of U.S. Latinos — 66.9 percent — are from Mexico, 8.6 percent are from Puerto Rico and 3.7 percent from Cuba. Latinos from Central and South American countries make up 14.3 percent of the population, and

During her tenure as Director of Fund Development for the YWCA, Ms. Foreman became a member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee of the Desert Sierra Partnership, promoting breast, and cervical health, a current program of the Inland Agency. In 2003, Ms. Foreman resigned from the YWCA and joined the Inland Agency as the Eastside Outreach Program Director, a position which gave her the opportunity to return to North High School, her former alma mater, where she organized a new youth employment program.

She was appointed Interim Executive Director in April 2004, after Ms. Dunn’s retirement. In July 2004, Ms. Foreman accepted the position on a permanent basis.
Continued from page 1

ALFRED FIGUEROA PROMOTED TO UCR ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

Alfredo Figueroa is a leading Hispanic education advocate in Southern California and a community activist involved in critical issues pertaining to the minority population in the Inland Empire

Alfredo Figueroa followed the family tradition of advocacy during his university student years at UCR. Pictured above, at left, Figueroa and fellow students picketing the UCR cafeteria for serving lettuce and grapes during the struggle by Cesar Chavez and his union boycotting the grape and lettuce industry. The students won in their efforts.

Photo courtesy of the Figueroa family.

Elodia, raised seven children: Miguel, Sylvia, Alfredo, Joe, Adelina, Cuauhtemoc and Lazaro.

The close-knit Figueroa clan, consisting of paternal and maternal grandparents, uncles, aunts and close relatives, lived in homes adjacent to each other, following the Mexican tradition of close inter-family support system.

His father started working at the local post office as a janitor and eventually became the first Mexican-American to become postmaster in the Blythe area (an overwhelming achievement considering the anti-civil rights and discriminatory attitudes in the 1950s and later decades).

“My father was very knowledgeable in many ways, becoming a leader in the area. People came to him for help in resolving their problems. I remember doing my homework and listening to the conversations between my father and visitors,” he said.

His father and Uncle Alfredo

SERVIENDO A NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Contact your local realtor for all your real estate needs: sell or purchase of real estate, probate sales, vacant land, new construction or multiple units etc.
The Inland Agency, a non-profit community-based group organized in 1969, has served the communities of Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties by reaching out to provide resources, education, health programs, partnerships and advocacy for individuals and organizations.

The well-established agency with its dedicated professional staff works diligently in the various projects in geographical areas to alleviate problems or meet specific needs. The major projects consist of Community Peace Program, Eastside Youth Connection, Desert Sierra Partnership, Community Tool Box, and Health-Insurance-Counseling-Advocacy (HICAP).

COMMUNITY PEACE PROGRAM
The Community Peace Program partners with schools and communities to build a culture of peace where children can become responsible and highly productive people. Specialized training covers students teasing handicapped students, learning to live and get along with students of diverse cultures and faiths, children coping with verbal/physical abuse, and youth prevention of hate crimes. The Program provided services to nearly 19,000 children at elementary schools in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in 2003.

EASTSIDE YOUTH CONNECTION
The Eastside Youth Connection provides life skills enrichment/employment preparation skill workshops to youth attending North High School in Riverside. Classes are provided during lunch hours and after school, and are available to all students on "open-entry, open-exit" basis. In 2003, eight students gained real work experiences as paid interns through partnership with Riverside County. The Program bridges the gaps by giving youth the preparation training to help them set and attain career goals.

DESERT SIERRA PARTNERSHIP-PROMOTING BREAST/CERVICAL HEALTH
The Desert Sierra Partnership is a health education partnership with outreach through groups of volunteers, Ambassadors of Good Health, task force outreach, and other events and media that reached 2,650, 400 women in 2003. The Program bridges the gaps by collaborating to save lives through early detection of breast and cervical cancer. Two programs have recently been launched, a cervical screening portion of Cancer Detection Programs: Every Women Counts and a computerized site review program. In Inyo, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, 13,777 women were screened through the Every Women Counts Program.

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX
Community Tool Box Program serves as a community resource center where youth and adults are able to address the needs and seek available solutions in the City of Adelanto. Recently, young people collaborated with staff and successfully obtained grants to provided free basic computer training classes. Latino women self-educated themselves on how to prevent cardiovascular diseases and taught others on health intervention education of the disease. Over 2,800 adults and youth in the High Desert of San Bernardino County participated in the Program. A major event occurred when an organized group successfully advocated for a large grocery store in the underdeveloped city.

HEALTH-INSURANCE-COUNSELING-ADVOCACY PROGRAM (HICAP)
HICAP, funded by a grant from the State of California, provides objective information on Medicare, Medicare HMOs and Supplemental Insurance free of charge to residents. HICAP does not endorse or recommend insurance agents, brokers, or companies. Trained staff and volunteer counselors make presentations at senior centers, support groups, faith-based groups, and service organizations, herewith strengthening its role in the senior and disabled communities. In 2003, HICAP served 24,452 clients through presentations, one-to-one presentations and savings on Medicare beneficiaries $308,946 in 2003.

Inland Agency invites the communities to an annual breakfast to showcase the various projects and personal appearances of students and other participants to talk about their actual experiences. Open house meetings called 'Caring Connections' are scheduled for the public throughout the year at its Riverside office. The sessions provide full information on the various programs, program goals and objectives. A major function is the annual fundraising event where donors and volunteers are honored. The event is held at different location in the service area.

The Inland Agency Board of Trustees are Judith Auth, Chair, Lisa Romero, Vice Chair, Diane Perez, Secretary, Arian Anderson, Treasurer, and Trustees Alfredo Figueroa, Juan Medina, Hank Rosenfeld, Sandra Waters and Deborah Wong.

The Inland Agency is located at 6296 River Crest Drive, Suite L, Riverside, CA 92507. Telephone no. (909) 697-6565.

MANY WITH RECURRENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL ILLNESS ARE UNAWARE THEY NEED TREATMENT
People with co-occurring serious mental illness and substance abuse often do not recognize that they need treatment, a new report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) indicates. The report shows that 61 percent of those with both serious mental illness and a substance use disorder who had not received treatment for either illness perceived no unmet need for treatment.

The new report, "Adults with Co-Occurring Serious Mental Illness and a Substance Use Disorder", was unveiled today by SAMHSA Administrator Charles Curie at a conference in Washington D.C. on the complexities of co-occurring medical conditions.

The data show that more than half (52 percent) of the four million adults aged 18 and older with co-occurring serious mental illness and a substance use disorder received neither mental health nor specialty substance use disorder treatment during the past year. An estimated 34 percent only received treatment for mental disorders, 2 percent only received specialty substance abuse treatment, and close to 12 percent received treatment for...
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, August 25, 2004

YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN IS NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT A WILL
By John Addison

Where there’s a will, there’s a way to manage your finances after you are gone. Creating a will may be the last thing on your to-do list, but if you have a family, it is one of the most important steps you can take to protect them.

In most cases, if you don’t have a will:

- The state court can name the guardian for your children (most likely a family member).
- The court won’t award anything to stepchildren you haven’t adopted or charities you care about.
- Your unmarried life partner will inherit nothing.

A will puts you in the driver’s seat—which is especially important if you have children. But two other documents are also important: a durable power of attorney and a living will. They ensure that your wishes will be carried out in the event that you become terminally ill or critically injured in an accident.

There are three essential documents you should consider when planning for your family’s security. When crafted carefully and used in conjunction with a life insurance plan, these documents can provide maximum security for your family.

- Will: This is a legal document that dictates how to distribute your property after your death. If you don’t have a will, you die intestate (without a will), and your state law determines what happens to your estate and your minor children.
- Durable Power of Attorney: This names someone to manage your financial affairs if you become unable to do so.
- Living Will: This states your wishes about being kept alive by artificial means if you become terminally ill or seriously injured.

Legal costs vary widely for a basic estate plan, from $700 for simple wills to $3,000 for wills involving basic estate planning. The Primerica Legal Protection Program is a financial program that operates like legal insurance. This program includes will preparation as one of its benefits at no additional charge.

The financial professionals at Primerica have created a guide that offers legal protection for your family. Mike Baca expressed concern that despite the rapid growth in the remittances market, remittance customers - most of whom are low-to moderate-income wage earners in immigrant communities - still pay high costs to send money to their home countries.

In a letter dated June 3, 2004, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Office of Thrift Supervision said institutions would receive favorable consideration during CRA evaluation for providing this service.

“I am pleased that the federal banking agencies have affirmed our belief that banks can receive CRA credit for offering remittance services,” said Rep. Baca. “Regulated financial institutions like banks and credit unions control less than 10 percent of the remittances market. By encouraging them to expand their share of the market, we increase competition in the industry and provide remittances services and access to financial institutions to millions of Americans. It gives people a choice.”

Millions of consumers, including foreign-born workers residing in the U.S., send billions of dollars to relatives and friends abroad. According to the Inter-American Development Bank, remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean will reach nearly $40 billion by the end of 2004. Of this $40 billion, approximately $30 billion originates in the United States. According to a joint study of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Pew Hispanic Center, more than 10 million Latin American immigrants send remittances to their home countries in Asia, Europe and Africa.

“Latin American immigrants contribute an estimated $450 billion to the U.S. economy,” said Rep. Baca. “CRA credit is one way to encourage regulated financial institutions to enter the U.S.-Mexico market, which would result in competitive benefits that lead to lower costs for all consumers.”

REP BACA SEEKS CRA CREDIT FOR FINANCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTIONS OFFERING REMITTANCES SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) today welcomed federal banking regulators’ agreement that financial institutions should receive Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit for offering international remittance services. CRA requires federal banking agencies to evaluate how regulated institutions meet the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

In March, Rep. Baca, along with Financial Services Committee members Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), and Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), asked the federal banking regulators to determine whether CRA regulations could permit remittance services to be favorably considered during an institution’s CRA evaluation. Rep.

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These individuals provided necessary skills assisting many in finding their way through unfamiliar environment. They also never let one forget that there was a responsibility to others. There is also my soul mate, my wife Estela, who for 32 years has been by my side, as we have continuously worked toward making a difference. We are proud of our children and enjoying our two grandsons, Sol and Ezekiel.

The Inland Empire Hispanic News, calls Alfredo Figueroa for his distinguished professional career, lifetime dedication to education and community and congratulations on his well-deserved appointment to UCR's Assistant Dean of Students.

Alfredo Figueroa, right, escorting famous actor Edward James Olmos on the UCR campus during the Tomas Rivera Conference in 1999. Olmos was keynote speaker at the Conference. Photo courtesy of the Figueroa family.

Figueroa (young Alfredo was named after him) and many Figueroa family members and others in the area became civil right activists in Riverside and Imperial Valley counties. They strongly supported Cesar Chavez in his crusade against the agricultural growers. His Uncle Alfredo organized the Escuela Raza Unida in the mid 1970s, which exists to the present times.

"I remember very vividly going with my Nana Chuy every Saturday for groceries, which was a ritual for many years. Nana also liked the movies and I would go with her every Sunday because my Tata Jose did not like movies. I have wonderful memories of my growing up years," Figueroa said with a satisfying smile on his face.

Figueroa grew up in a family environment of strong convictions on human and civil rights, struggles against discrimination on social issues and education.

His father organized groups of young people to visit UCR, taking young Alfredo to also experience the higher levels of education.

"I knew that I would go to a college or university, and my father strongly stated that I would have to be the lawyer in the family," he said.

Figueroa has an extended commitment to civic groups and activities, coinciding with his university profession: Latino Network, Alternative to Domestic Violence, former member of the Concilio for Spanish Speaking (aided in obtaining funding for child care centers and youth programs), Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Riverside School District Latino Advisory Council, United Way Community Review Team, Mayor’s Use-of-Force Review Panel, City Council appointment to the Police Review Policy Committee, Riverside Arts Foundation, Press Enterprise Fiesta de la Familia, Inland Agency, Cinco de Mayo Organization Committee, and many other education, cultural and civic endeavors.

The City of Riverside and civic groups have acknowledged his commitment to the community. City of Riverside for Valuable and Distinguished Service to Youth Education Motivation Task Force-1993, County of San Bernardino Commendation for Dedicated Services to All Citizens-1993, County of Los Angeles for Dedicated Services/Inter-Racial Unity Conference-1994, Urban League Outstanding Minority Male, Riverside County Board of Supervisors’ Outstanding Community Volunteer-1999, Chicano News Media Association’s Esperanza Award, Riverside County 2000 Community Action Planning Community Leaders Award, Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine-Influenal Latino of the Year Award-2002, and many others. On September 18, 2004, Inland Agency is honoring Figueroa for his volunteer efforts as board trustee.

In summary, Figueroa made the following statement, “My success can be attributed to many factors. Growing up my parents and grandparents provided a nurturing environment, filled with love, values, and a strong sense of who I am. My parents continue to be that same nurturing factor today. Their wisdom and love is greatly appreciated. Upon arriving at UCR, I found a similar familia, faculty and staff willing to share their lives with students.
Calling the U.S. immigration system "badly broken," a national coalition of Hispanic civil rights and advocacy groups blasted "post-9-11" immigration policies and strategies Friday as harmful to the nation's Latinos.

According to a report released by the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, immigration enforcement has changed dramatically since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, with the government now viewing immigration "through an antiterrorism lens."

"Since Sept. 11, the federal government has enacted at least 100 anti-immigrant measures in the name of national security, with grave results for immigrants and immigrant communities, like the Latino community," said Katherine Culliton, a senior attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

"However, an incredibly low number of the thousands and thousands of immigrants investigated under such measures have actually been charged with terrorism," said Culliton, part of a panel discussion on the issue at the 75th national convention of the League of United American Citizens.

The report, which charges that racial profiling against Latinos has increased since 9-11, is based on numerical data and other information from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Justice Department, the American Civil Liberties Union, MALDEF and numerous other government agencies and advocacy groups.

"In case after case, Latino citizens, legal immigrants, and undocumented people have been stopped and their immigration papers demanded solely on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, language or accent," the report stated.

But Joe Cepeda, an assistant U.S. attorney in San Antonio who represented the government said he was not aware that racial profiling was occurring. "If it is, it's not coming to my attention," Cepeda said. "A police officer or a Border Patrol agent, anybody, cannot pull you over just because you look Hispanic."

Culliton also charged that stepped-up immigration enforcement has resulted in blanket sweeps and raids targeting Latino communities.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rumaldo Armijo of New Mexico, who also was on the panel, said he didn't know of any sweeps in New Mexico. "If someone's rights are violated an investigation will be done," he said.

While the report notes that the most visible impact of post-9-11 strategies has been on the Muslim, Arab and Sikh communities, it contends Latinos are significantly affected because they are the largest immigrant group.

The Census Bureau says Hispanics are the nation's largest overall minority group, with a population of nearly 40 million. The NHLA report says 40 percent of Latinos are foreign-born.

"We must ensure that our immigration policies will help instead of hurting the millions of immigrants who have been contributing to our economy, have established families and roots in our communities, and who will continue to be a significant part of the U.S. labor force well into the future," Manuel Mirabal, president of the National Puerto Rican Coalition and past NHLA chairman, said.

The NHLA is a nonpartisan coalition of 40 Hispanic groups, including LULAC. The coalition is calling for "long overdue changes" to the current immigration system.

"We are recommending that Congress and the administration take specific actions now to address these very serious issues affecting immigrants, the Hispanic community and all Americans," Mirabal said.
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