

THE COMMUNICATOR

FALL INTO WINTER 2023



Healthy
Communities

TOGETHER WE THRIVE



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

As we step into the final stretch of 2023, a period that holds considerable significance in the work Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) does, I find myself experiencing a wide range of emotions. While I take immense pride in the transformative influence of our initiatives and the unwavering support you have extended, I am acutely aware that the individuals we serve are still grappling with challenges. The backdrop of poverty, already demanding, has been further complicated by the burden of inflation. Your ongoing support is paramount in these times.

As you read on, you'll learn about our exciting new partnership with Cal Optima and how it is centered on tending to immediate necessities, while emboldening and empowering our communities. Since the impact of hunger and poverty knows no respite and undeniably leads to poor health, it remains imperative that we

persevere in aiding those in need, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and live a life that is filled with good health, a living wage and a safe home. With partners and supporters like you, CAP OC is creating lasting change through innovative programs like Financial Empowerment and our Empowered2Work program, furnishing those we serve with the tools to break the cycle of generational poverty.

In this issue, we also provide some ways you and your family can get involved to help our neighbors here in Orange County this holiday season. Whether you volunteer at our OC Food Bank, support the Adopt-a-Family program or make a year-end charitable contribution, your support helps fuel our mission to end and prevent poverty in Orange County. However you choose to celebrate, we wish you and yours a wonderful season.

With Gratitude and In Service,



Gregory C. Scott
President & CEO

Community Action Partnership of Orange County

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STABILIZING THROUGH CalAIM: NAVIGATING HOUSING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) has joined forces with Cal Optima in the dynamic California Advancing and Innovating Medical (CalAIM) initiative. CalAIM, a visionary five-year endeavor launched by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), is a beacon of change in healthcare. Its mission is to enhance the well-being of Medi-Cal beneficiaries by meeting them where they are, tackling social drivers of health, and dismantling barriers to accessing care. With a focus on coordination and equity, CalAIM offers a comprehensive range of services addressing physical, behavioral, developmental, and long-term care needs. This initiative champions prevention and whole-person care, extending services and support beyond traditional healthcare settings and into communities across Orange County and California. Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life and health outcomes of our most vulnerable population.

On January 1st, 2022, CAP OC took on the role of a community support agency. We quickly became influential partners in providing services that address the social determinants of health. These services, known as “community supports,” offer alternative and cost-effective solutions to traditional healthcare services. Within this framework, CAP OC is at the forefront of providing six out of the 14 community supports. Catering to a diverse range of needs, each contributes to a more holistic and empowered approach to healthcare:

Housing Navigation: Guiding individuals through tenant screening, housing assessment, securing housing, and providing necessary resources to meet immediate needs.

Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services: Ensuring secure and stable tenancy while offering training in

independent living skills, financial literacy, and fostering positive relationships with landlords.

Housing Deposits: Assisting with securing essential, one-time services to establish basic household stability, including security deposits, utilities coverage, and necessary health-related services.

Day Habilitation: Equipping individuals with skills for successful community integration, including building interpersonal relationships, daily living skills, and using public transportation.

Asthma Remediation: Pioneering asthma and home modifications to improve respiratory health.

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations: Creating home modifications for enhanced accessibility.

The collaboration’s impact has been significant and far-reaching. In 2022, we successfully served 49 members through housing navigation and sustainability programs, culminating in the housing of 16 members. The momentum continued into 2023, with 40 members served and nine members housed through housing navigation alone.

Looking ahead, CAP OC’s aims to expand their reach even further by introducing Enhanced Care Management in 2024. This is a Medi-Cal managed care benefit that comprehensively addresses high-need individuals’ clinical and non-clinical needs through coordinated services and comprehensive care management.

We express our deepest gratitude to Cal Optima for this transformative opportunity. The dedication of our program team stands as a testament to our commitment in creating healthier, empowered communities throughout Orange County. Together, CAP OC and Cal Optima forge a path toward community stability, wellbeing, and a brighter future for all.



NURTURING SKILLS FOR TOMORROW: EMPOWERING THROUGH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As a part of CAP OC’s youth and family development department, the Empowered2Work Workforce Development program stands tall to fortify individuals across multiple generations in their journey to finding employment. This visionary initiative is meticulously crafted not only to empower individuals in their pursuit of securing a sustainable wage but also as a way to ignite lasting change by providing essential skills to prosper.

The Empowered2Work program addresses three main pillars: Comprehensive training in both interpersonal and hard skills, personalized one-on-one coaching, and a network of supportive services. This holistic approach recognizes that sustainable employment requires more than getting hired. Therefore, CAP OC’s staff works hard to address barriers such as childcare, transportation, and housing-insecurity by facilitating referrals to community resources, thoughtfully tailored to the unique needs of each participant.

Participants are equipped with invaluable skills necessary for securing and retaining employment, including adept job-seeking strategies, the artistry of crafting compelling resumes and persuasive cover letters, and the

mastery of interviewing. The program’s emphasis on interpersonal skills, including stress management, time management, constructive criticism, and the cultivation of emotional intelligence, ensures that participants are equipped with job-specific competencies and the ability to forge meaningful workplace relationships. They gain profound insights into their own needs to emerge with assurance and confidence in their ability to progress in their careers and achieve their goals.

Our participant Jessica* after completing Empowered2Work and working closely with Kendra Rode Workforce Development Coordinator, was delighted when she became employed at Disneyland Resort. Jessica now works on Main Street as a retail professional and rotates from store to store. She loves her job and is very grateful for CAP OC’s program and the training she received at DLR. She’s always dreamed of going to Disneyland but couldn’t afford tickets. Now, she gets to experience the magic almost every day!

If you or anyone you know can benefit from this life-changing service please reach out to Kendra Rode, Workforce Development Coordinator at krode@capoc.org.

**pseudonym used*

YOUR 2023 IMPACT SO FAR!



BACKPACKS 4 SUCESS
2,006 BACKPACKS
DISTRIBUTED



DIAPER BANK
4.2 MILLION
DIAPERS
DISTRIBUTED



OC FOOD BANK
17.6 MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED



**ENERGY & ENVIORNMENTAL
SERVICES**
8,990 GAS, WATER, AND
ELECTRIC BILLS PAID

IMPACTING INFANTS AND FAMILIES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH OUR DIAPER BANK

In 2020, a transformative initiative was introduced: The Orange County Diaper Bank. With unwavering determination, it set out to alleviate diaper scarcity, becoming a beacon of support for vulnerable families in our community.

The Diaper Bank distributes diapers to the community through a partner-agency model. Currently, CAP OC collaborates with 84 partner-agencies across Orange County. This network of dedicated organizations is working together to ensure that diapers reach families in need. To cater to the diverse needs of our community, each partner has its own model for distributing diapers, ranging from once-a-month drive-through options to ongoing walk-in distributions.

At the heart of our diaper distribution efforts is our trusty stork-themed delivery truck, fondly known as Tom Tom. This charming vehicle is a testament to the dedication of individuals like Senator Tom Umberg and former Assemblymember Tom Daly, who played instrumental roles in securing the funding necessary to establish and operate the Diaper Bank and who inspired the name Tom Tom.

In August 2023, with the continued support and generosity of Senator Umberg and Assemblymember Daly, we proudly unveiled our newest addition, Tom Tom II!

The Orange County Diaper Bank is an integral part of CAP OC's broader mission to eradicate poverty. It extends a compassionate hand to low-income families with infants and toddlers, by relieving families of the financial burden associated with diapers. The OC Diaper Bank allows those we serve to redirect their limited resources toward vital necessities such as food, housing, and utilities. This reallocation of resources fosters a profound transformation in their lives, providing hope where there was once hardship.

We extend our gratitude to our valued community partners and donors such as Lennar, HomeAid, and Orange County Headstart. Your commitment is pivotal in driving tangible, positive change within our community. Together, through donations and advocacy, we can ensure that this vital resource continues to make a significant and lasting impact on families in need.



HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, HELP SPREAD SOME HOPE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF SOMEONE IN NEED. HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:



ADOPT A FAMILY:

HELP PROVIDE NEW CLOTHES, TOYS, GIFTS OR CERTIFICATES TO HELP A FAMILY'S HOLIDAY SHINE A BIT BRIGHTER THIS YEAR.



VIRTUAL & PHYSICAL

FOOD DRIVES:

HELP FAMILIES BY SUPPLYING THEM WITH GOODS TO CREATE A HOLIDAY FEAST TO FILL THEIR BELLIES AND LIFT THEIR SPIRITS.



STOCK GIFTS:

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING. MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT'S IMPACT BY TRANSFERING APPRECIATED STOCK.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND MORE INFO AT
WWW.CAPOC.ORG/HOPE

CELEBRATING AND PRESERVING OUR PLANET: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EARTH DAY

The Giving Farm that is located at Westminster High School was filled with energy on April 22 as the department of Energy and Environmental Services and the OC Food Bank came together to host a remarkable Earth Day event.

The day kicked off with a delightful breakfast, setting the tone for an inspiring gathering. With our community partner, PIMCO, we set out to focus on fostering awareness and appreciation for our planet, the event offered a range of engaging activities for all attendees of all ages, including fun, educational, and captivating craft sessions.

A highlight of the day was an immersive tour of the Giving Farm, where participants had the chance to witness the meaningful work taking place. Dr. Christina Frieder Senior Scientist in the Biochemistry Department at Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, said “As a supporter, seeing the farm in growth and witnessing experiential learning in action gives me hope that feeding Orange County can be accomplished with

sustainable urban agricultural systems that provide fresh, nourishing foods.”

Earth Day serves as a powerful platform for sharing vital information about sustainable practices. By showcasing programs like weatherization and energy conservation, the event underlined the practical steps being taken to mitigate environmental challenges. Weatherization, for instance, not only enhances energy efficiency but also plays a pivotal role in reducing carbon emissions, which is crucial for combatting climate change. These important changes also reduce utility bills and help those we serve save money.

CAP OC’s Earth Day event exemplified the synergy between environmental consciousness and community engagement. By celebrating Earth Day, we raise awareness and also foster a sense of responsibility and unity. It’s a day that reminds us that by coming together, we can make a tangible difference in the world and ensure a healthier, more sustainable future.



DID YOU KNOW THAT WEATHERIZATION (WX) . . .

I. SPURS LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH:

For every \$1 invested in WX, \$2.51 is returned to the household and society in the form of benefits

II. CREATES JOBS:

Over 90% of the materials used to weatherize homes are made in the U.S., creating thousands of manufacturing jobs

III. SAVES WATER:

An average weatherized home saves 8,030 gallons of water every year

IV. REDUCES GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS:

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) led to a 7,382,000 metric ton carbon reduction in 2010 alone

V. DECREASES ENERGY BURDEN:

The WAP decreases national energy consumption by the equivalent of 24.1 million barrels of oil annually



ELEVATING OUR YOUTH: THE IMPACT OF YOUTH PROGRAMMING

In the realm of aspirations and potential, CAP OC's Youth Services emerges as a radiant beacon, guiding the path for youth ages 5-18. Our programs serve the local communities surrounding our three centers in Anaheim, Orange, and Santa Ana. At our core, we empower youth to not only believe in themselves but to recognize their boundless potential for something greater. Our mission is founded upon four pillars of youth empowerment, each a potent tool in creating a pathway out of limitations:

Education & Career Development:

We provide after-school homework assistance, reading, and math tutoring, cultivating a love for learning that will shape their future. Through career development programs, we prepare our young adults with the tools necessary to pursue their aspirations.

Mindfulness & Emotional Wellness:

We equip our youth with the tools of mindfulness and emotional resilience to teach them not only to survive but to thrive in the face of adversity.

Equity & Inclusion:

We are committed to eradicating systemic inequalities by creating an inclusive, equitable space where every child can thrive, irrespective of their background.

Prevention, Empowerment, & Civic Engagement:

We empower our young adults with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate life's challenges, including substance use prevention. Through civic engagement, we inspire them to be active participants in shaping a more just society.



By fostering a space where youth can explore, learn, and flourish, we plant seeds of change that ripple through generations, ensuring racial equity, social justice, and a sense of empowerment to achieve individual goals. CAP OC Youth Services stands as a force of equity, an embodiment of hope, and a commitment to a future where every young person, regardless of their background, has the chance to thrive. Through the support of partners and donors, CAP OC's dedicated staff continues to empower Orange County's vulnerable youth and helps them find their unique paths to success and happiness.



CORPORATE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Grateful for our incredible community partner Pernod Ricard for their invaluable help during their nationwide day of service. Earlier this Summer the group spent their day out at our Giving Farm and made a profound impact on our mission to combat food insecurity in Orange County. They did an exceptional job assisting our master gardeners with the Pollinator Garden and Giving Orchard. They planted, pruned, and mulched all while learning about sustainable agriculture. Thank you for embodying the spirit of service and compassion that lies at the heart of our Giving Farm.

Be a part of change – your group is invited to volunteer at our Giving Farm and contribute to fighting food insecurity in our community. Contact Brandon Ruiz (714) 897-6670 ext. 3493 to schedule your visit today.

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUSED SUPPORT: RESOURCE CENTERS FORTIFY OUR COMMUNITIES

Community Action Partnership of Orange County operates two Family Resource Centers and a Community Center dedicated to stabilizing families, empowering youth, enriching the lives of seniors, and ensuring that individuals have their needs met. Complimentary, but reflective of the neighborhoods and communities they reside in, our centers represent the heartbeat of our poverty alleviation with programs that are specifically designed for the needs of each neighborhood. “The CAP OC Centers are where the magic happens. It’s here where we are able to work directly with families and individuals to ensure that they have the resources they need to thrive,” said President & CEO Gregory C. Scott.



ANAHEIM INDEPENDENCIA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center (AIFRC) is located within the La Colonia neighborhood of unincorporated Anaheim. Its roots represent the rich agricultural community that banded together to help bring resources to a largely Hispanic community. While the center offers an array of family strengthening services, its La Colonia Market is at the heart of the center. This robust food pantry allows low-income families to shop, at no-cost, for nutrient-rich items such as milk, eggs, meat, and canned goods.

EL MODENA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

El Modena Family Resource Center (EMFRC) is in an economically challenged neighborhood in Orange. Like the AIFRC, EMFRC provides family stabilization and support to the local community. In addition and as part of its youth services program, EMFRC offers Gensei-ryu one of the three original karate styles of Okinawa, Japan. Students, ages 8-18 attend two-hour classes teaching the fundamentals of this traditional art form. The program was started in 2013 with 25 students, and today that number has grown to 40! In addition to attending competitive tournaments throughout the year, this unique program, taught by certified volunteers, is instrumental in helping youth gain self-confidence and leadership skills.



SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER

For more than 50 years, the Southwest Community Center (SWCC) located just east of Downtown Santa Ana, has been a beacon of hope for unhoused individuals and the most vulnerable among us. Hot meals are provided daily, and participants have access to the food pantry where they are able to take food with them, as the majority of those served at SWCC do not have kitchens, pantries or full refrigerators. Not only does the SWCC help with food-insecurity, but the staff also works diligently to help people served utilize CAP OC programs such as, rental and utility assistance and workforce development. We also ensure that they are connected to other local, social service agencies to meet all needs and address all barriers.





CHAMPIONING CHANGE: NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

Members of Community Action Partnership of Orange County’s leadership team recently took part in the National Annual Community Action Conference, Reimagining the Future: Advancing Equity and Sustaining Innovation on August 23 – August 25.

The event brought together 1,500 Community Action Agency (CAA) professionals to learn, share tools, strategies, and celebrate our collective impact. On August 24, Mark Lowry Director of the OC Food Bank, was presented the National Advocacy Award at the gala celebration. For over 35 years, Lowry has steadfastly addressed food-insecurity and has advocated for substantial change for the fight against hunger that continues to impact families in and around our communities.

CAP OC was also honored to conduct two workshops focused on our innovative work in Orange County. The first, “Leveraging Weatherization Assessments with Prescriptive Medicaid Funding Streams for Healthy Homes” was a detailed look at our partnership with Cal Optima Health, a Public

Agency that works to provide asthma remediation and environmental accessibility adaptation services paired with our weatherization services. Attendees learned how community-based organizations can access medicare to help vulnerable communities.

The second workshop, “Utilizing ROMA (Results Oriented Management and Accounting) principles to create a Community Needs Assessment that guides a Strategic Plan” showcased best practices through an interactive platform on how to utilize innovative strategies with a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to drive a strategic plan. Attendees learned CAP OC’s best practices for a CNA, which is conducted every two years, and identifies priorities for the communities we serve.

CAAs were formed in the 1960’s thanks to the advocacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Lyndon Johnson. With more than 1,000 CAAs throughout the US, our collective goal is to embody our nation’s spirit of hope, change people’s lives, and improve communities.



MEET OUR NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ALAN SILKES

CAP OC was proud to welcome Alan Silkes as its new Chief Financial Officer in July 2023. Silkes brings a wealth of experience as a senior financial and operational executive working in both the nonprofit and private sectors. An analytical professional, Silkes is skilled in assessing deficiencies and providing business solutions to increase organization-wide effectiveness. He has led and managed multiple accounting departments to ensure all procedures are efficient, transparent, and operating utilizing best financial practices. With a background in both business and psychology, Silkes is a collaborative communicator continually focused on building relationships and promoting synergy across business lines to drive positive change. For the past eight years he has been committed to working in the nonprofit sector due to his passion for helping people and making the world a better place.



FOR OTHER WAYS
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CAP OC
SCAN THE QR CODE TO
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GIVING GUIDE A - Z!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Contributions listed are from **April 1st, 2023 – August 31st, 2023**

and are \$250 and above. The Philanthropy department has done our best to assure accuracy. If you have questions or concerns, please contact LMaze@capoc.org.

Thank you for your incredible support of Community Action Partnership of Orange County!

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We seek to **end and prevent poverty** by stabilizing, sustaining and empowering people with the resources they need **when they need them**. By forging strategic partnerships, we form a powerful force to improve our community.

vision

We see generations of healthy communities where **poverty ceases to exist**.

HELP US TO END POVERTY IN ORANGE COUNTY. VISIT [CAPOC.ORG](http://CAPOC.org) TODAY AND HELP WHERE YOU CAN.