



July - August 2010

CDBG E-Newsletter



BI-MONTHLY UPDATE FOR PARTICIPATING AGENCIES FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION — CDBG DIVISION



CDBG PARTNER - FOOTHILL UNITY CENTER FEATURED ON POPULAR TELEVISION SHOW

The Foothill Unity Center has been providing help to low-income families and the homeless in the San Gabriel Valley for more than 30 years. Working with a small staff and a dedicated corps of volunteers, the non-profit, nondenominational organization distributed more than four (4) million pounds of food to nearly 3,974 very low-income families last year. To highlight its outstanding years of community service, the Foothill Unity Center was featured on the Fox Television Special *Idol Gives Back*.

Idol Gives Back is the brainchild of *American Idol* creator Simon Fuller, as a way for those behind *American Idol* to raise money to help children and their families in need throughout the U.S. and the world. In 2008, the show's producers and the Fox Broadcasting Company established the *Idol Gives Back Foundation* to further Mr. Fuller's goal. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$140 million.

This year, the Special followed *American Idol* star Ellen DeGeneres and actor David Arquette, *Chair of the Feeding America Entertainment Council* as they paid a visit to the Foothill Unity Center on April 19, 2010. They found the Center to be busy as usual as clients arrived to pick-up food or receive health care services, food stamps, flu shots, or

other needed services. While the Center's primary focus is providing food, it also offers clothing, referrals, job assistance, motel vouchers, health services, and much more. Thanks to grant monies such as those from the Los Angeles County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provided by Supervisor Michael Antonovich and local donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses, 94.9% of funds go directly to client services.

The *American Idol* Special helped raise awareness and funds for the hundreds of U.S. and international charities, such as, *Feeding America*, the nation's leading domestic hunger relief charity. Foothill Unity Center is just one (1) of the many charities that receive food from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, a *Feeding America* organization.

The Foothill Unity Center's success has designated it as a leader in the effort to assist the needy and establishes it as a role model for other organizations wishing to join the fight against poverty.

The CDBG Division would like to congratulate the Foothill Unity Center for this well-deserved recognition by the *Idol Gives Back Foundation*.

For more information on the Foothill Unity Center, please visit www.foothillunitycenter.org.



Above, Foothill Unity Center's Executive Director, Joan Whitenack, American Idol star Ellen DeGeneres, and actor David Arquette tour the Center's warehouse.



Above, Foothill Unity Center staff, volunteers, and Program participants pose for a photograph at the Center's warehouse with Ellen DeGeneres and David Arquette.



IN RECOGNITION

As we begin this new Fiscal Year (FY), the CDBG Division would like to recognize a few agencies that went above and beyond their goals during FY 2009-2010. With limited resources, but efficient service delivery strategies, the following agencies accomplished more than originally projected, allowing for a higher level of much-needed services to the residents of Los Angeles County. We would like to thank them for submitting their projects and photographs and encourage other agencies to do the same in the future.

NEIGHBORS ACTING TOGETHER HELPING ALL (N.A.T.H.A.) N.A.T.H.A. PROGRAM

With CDBG and other leverage funding, N.A.T.H.A. has continued to operate its Community Resource Center in the unincorporated Altadena area of the Fifth Supervisorial District. Providing a computer lab and tutoring to eligible low-to moderate-income youth, the Center has become an invaluable educational resource for the community. During FY 2009-2010, the Center responded to resident needs and provided service to 19 youth - nine (9) more than originally planned. Meeting four (4) times a week, the Center logged in an impressive 2,880 client visits for the program year!



Youth studying at N.A.T.H.A.'s Community Resource Center.

CITY OF LAWNSDALE SENIOR ACTIVITIES PROJECT



City of Lawndale senior residents participate in a program-sponsored line dancing event.

The City of Lawndale's Senior Activities Program, based at the City's Senior Center, provides hot lunches, five (5) local excursions, and recreation/fitness classes for senior citizen City residents (55 years of age and older). Originally expecting to serve only 100 seniors, the Program found room to help an additional 50 residents, surpassing its original goal. One-hundred fifty participants made FY 2009-2010 one (1) of the most successful years for the City's CDBG-funded Program.

CITY OF MONROVIA NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION PROGRAM

In the City of Monrovia, more than 400 youth participated in the City's Neighborhood Recreation Program. In addition to sports, arts/crafts, and field trips, the youth learned about neighborhood pride, safety, and citizenship topics. The Program was originally projected to benefit only 300 local youth from low- to moderate-income households. The outstanding resourcefulness of the City's staff, allowed more youth to participate in FY 2009-2010 than in any of the Program's previous years.



City of Monrovia youth participate in an outdoor arts/crafts project.

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 2010

Beginning of FY 2010-2011 1st

Independence Day Observed
CDC Offices Closed 5th

Deadline: 4th Quarter FY 2009-2010 Web-Based QPRs due from all agencies 8th

Deadline: FY 2009-2010 Accomplishments Reports due thru the Online Rehab. Panel for agencies with Residential Rehab. Projects 8th

Deadline: FY 2009-2010 Accomplishments Report due thru the Public Service Module for agencies with Public Service LMC Projects 8th

AUGUST 2010

Deadline: Funding Requests for projects that expired on 6/30/2010 and **require** full supporting documentation are due before 5:00 p.m. thru the CDBG Online System 20th

Deadline: Funding Requests for projects that expired on 6/30/2010 and **do not** require full supporting documentation are due before 5:00 p.m. thru the CDBG Online System 27th