LIVING THE MISSION IN VICTIM SERVICES
By Tina Figueroa, Victim Services Program Manager

In August of 2012 staff members from CAPMC Victim Services responded to a crisis call for a victim of domestic violence who had six children. Upon arrival, the victim was severely beaten; our advocates transported her to the hospital and then to the Martha Diaz Shelter. This victim did not have money or the knowledge of independent living skills, or any family living in California, making matters more complicated. The only support for her and her children came from our staff.

With our encouragement and assistance she was able to learn how to establish an independent life, free of violence, for her children and herself. In January, she received the exciting news that she would be picking up keys for her own apartment. Leticia Lujan spent an entire day helping this woman move furniture into her own place.

This victim came to us with nothing but a tremendous amount of fear. Today she is a survivor and a role model to other victims of domestic violence.

This is a great illustration of how we practice meeting our mission statement:

helping people, changing lives and making our community a better place to live by providing resources and services that inspire personal growth and independence.

Another family is safe and healthy because a few employees went above and beyond to help them. Special thanks to Jose Villegas, Leticia Lujan, Norma Alvarez, and Angelina Hernandez for their hard work and compassion in helping the families that we serve at CAPMC.

SPOTLIGHT ON CAPMC SERVICES:
CAPMC Victim Services Martha Diaz Battered Women's Shelter
The Martha Diaz Shelter is a safe place for battered women and children seeking shelter from an abusive relationship. It is in an undisclosed location frequently patrolled by law enforcement. Shelter services are free of charge, and we provide emergency food and clothing. Victims and their children are allowed to stay for up to 30 days.
CATCHING PEOPLE... DOING THE RIGHT THING

CYNTHIA NASH, Resident Manager, JESSE PEREZ, Accountant Program Manager, SANDRA CEVASCO, Administrative Aide, ANGELA BLOCK, Resident Aide, assisted with the homeless count.

BEATRIZ SOUZA, Associate Teacher at Mis Terosos Head Start, supported staff when the other teacher and aide were out.

VANESSA CARROLL, Center Director for Los Banos Head Start, has been willing to work at Mariposa while her site is closed.

ELIZABETH MORA, cook at Mendota Head Start, keeps her favorite book, Clifford, The Big Red Dog, under her shelf to read to the children when she gets a chance. She also helps the teachers without being told whenever they need it. She is very sociable with the parents and children, greeting them as they come to school.

CARRIE CHAPMAN, Human Resources Assistant II, has been doing an outstanding job, as noted by new employees.

SONIA TRUJILLO, Receptionist, stayed calm and professional while dealing with an unhappy customer.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

TODAY, Friday, March 22: Employee Store, 2-4 pm
Friday, March 29: Spring Holiday. CAPMC Offices Closed.
Thursday, April 11: CAPMC Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, April 19: Victim Services’ Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
Friday, April 19: CAPMC Salad Luncheon

Kids Day volunteers sold 600 papers and surpassed last year’s total by raising $1,031 with the help of: Sandra Cevasco, Carol Chavez, Leticia Murillo and Maria Solis from APP/R&R; Angie Lopez and Milly Renteria from Strengthening Families; and Joaquin Hernandez from HR. Socorro Hayden and Sonia Trujillo also sold papers in the office. Special thanks to friends and family volunteers William, Kayla, and Jacob Cavasco, Jenifer Segobia, and Irene Chavez.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Community and Family Services sold cinnamon rolls in February and contributed $430.68. The Potato Fest hosted by the Fiscal Department raised $619. So far, the agency has collected $9,890.45!

There are still more opportunities to raise even more money.

➤ An Easter basket silent auction will be held this Friday, March 22 from 10—11 am in the Conference Room at the main office.

➤ The agency salad luncheon is scheduled for Friday, April 19th at United Methodist Church from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Interesting in another fundraiser? Get together with your center or department, organize it and go for it. Our thanks to all staff members who have helped with all the successful fundraisers to date.

We are still looking for 13 volunteers for the CAPMC Relay team. Contact Tina Gomez to get registered. Thanks to Mattie Mendez, Angela Avila, Tina Gomez, Adriana Pompa, Barbara Murphy-Smith, James and Linda Chandler, Perla Erigio, Vicki Mendoza, Yesica Velasquez, and Donna Tooley for signing up for the CAPMC Relay team. Team members are encouraged to raise a minimum of $100 in donations and they’ll receive a t-shirt. Luminarias are available for $10 to honor survivors or in remembrance of someone who has passed from cancer. See one of CAPMC’s team members for the luminaria form.

The Madera Relay is May 4-5 at Lion’s Town and Country Park beginning at 9 a.m. The theme for this year’s event is Aloha Cancer, Aloha Cure. Come out and join this signature event!
Welcome to CAPMC!

New Employees & New Positions

RAUL RUIZ
Facility Maintenance Worker – Madera/Merced Migrant Head Start

CYNTHIA NASH
Shelter/Resident Support Aide—Community and Family Services

MARILU GARCIA-LEAL (PROVISIONAL)
Child Skills Instructor—Victim Services

VANESSA CERVANTES
Receptionist—Community and Family Services

SHEILA ROGERS
Van Bus Driver—Community and Family Services

Open Positions

For more information, contact the HR Department at 673-9173 or at www.maderacap.org. The following positions are open until filled:

- ADVOCATE II/III
  Fresno Migrant/Seasonal Head Start

- ADVOCATE III
  Victim Services

- ASSOCIATE TEACHER
  Madera/Merced Migrant/Seasonal Head Start
  Madera/Mariposa Regional Head Start

- CENTER DIRECTOR II
  Fresno Migrant/Seasonal Head Start

- CHILD SKILLS INSTRUCTOR
  Victim Services

- CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE TECHNICIAN
  Community and Family Services

- FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATE I
  Alternative Payment Program

- FOOD SERVICE WORKER (SUB)
  Fresno Migrant/Seasonal Head Start

- FOOD SERVICE WORKER
  Madera/Mariposa Regional Head Start

- HEALTH SERVICES CONTENT SPECIALIST
  Madera Head Start

- INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE II / JANITOR (PART-TIME)
  Fresno Migrant/Seasonal Head Start

- INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE II / JANITOR
  Madera/Merced Migrant/Seasonal Head Start

- SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER
  Madera Head Start

- VAN BUS DRIVER—CLASS B LICENSE (LONG-TERM SUB)
  Community & Family Services Department

Go to “My Statement” on www.ingretirementplans.com:

- For Personal rate of return of your account
- For your fund performance
- To sign up for E-delivery of your statement
CHOWCHILLA PARENTS GET INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILDREN’S EDUCATION
By Luisa Morales, Associate Teacher at Chowchilla Head Start

The Head Start program emphasizes the fact that parents are their children’s first and most important teachers. Each day, teachers from the Chowchilla Head Start center work to build relationships with families and encourage parent involvement by providing ways to actively participate in their child’s education. For the month of February teachers encouraged parents to participate in a play entitled, “The Three Little Pigs.” In order to be ready for the special performance scheduled for February 28, parents prepared for almost a month with the assistance of the teachers.

Below are some words from our participating parents:

- I feel real good...I like to participate and be involved in the classroom. I see my granddaughter’s progress. And it was wonderful participating in the play for my daughter and see her face so excited watching me performing as the wolf. Man it was awesome, an awesome experience! - Paul Flores
- To participate in the play, “The three Little Pigs,” I was a little nervous at first. I wasn’t sure if I would remember any of my lines. As the play started and the characters were introduced, I looked at my little boy, Adrian’s face and I wanted to cry of joy! He was so happy I was there. Immediately, I was filled with joy to see how learning could make him so happy. Thank you Chowchilla Head Start for giving me that opportunity! - Maria Casillas
- We had an excellent time role playing in the play. It was a pleasure to perform, and we are glad teachers invited us to take part in it! So, thank you! - Johnny and Joni Mato

CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH SERVICES
By Joan Holmstrom, Family Advocate at North Fork and Oakhurst Head Start

Jasna Kuvacich, Vocational & Career Specialist with Workforce Development, presented a program for the North Fork parent meeting on February 25. She brought information on their services, which include job search workshops, resume writing assistance, vocational training opportunities, assessment and career coaching, plus much more. Jasna was able to give specific information to one parent and offered more one-on-one assistance for her specific issue. It was a very informative and interactive presentation. Parents were very positive in their responses.

LIHEAP FUNDS ASSIST RESIDENTS

Community & Family Services’ LIHEAP funds became available this month, and Madera County residents lined up outside the door before 8:00 am. The reception area was buzzing with clients for many weeks while people applied for assistance. Kudos to the CFS staff for upholding CAPMC’s customer service standards while obviously tending to the needs of many.

Do you know of an Agency event that you would like to see covered in the Action Connection? Do you have input about the newsletter? Would you like to contribute an article or pictures? All submissions are welcome and appreciated!
Please contact: Kim Lopez, Madera Head Start Department at: klopez@maderacap.org Phone: (559) 675-5752 Fax: (559) 661-8459
SAFE SITES OF 2012

Safety committee wants to highlight that following sites had the best safety practices for having “zero” incidents in 2012. A plaque is prepared to recognize their safety efforts.

THIS DESERVING ACCOLADE IS DEDICATED TO THE FOLLOWING SITES FOR A SUPERIOR SAFETY RECORD

OFFICE
VSC Office – Bass Lake
Oakhurst Bus
Shunamnite Place
VSC Shelter

MADERA REGIONAL HEAD START
Cottonwood
Fairmead
Homebase
Mis Tesoros
Ruth Gonzales
Sunset
Valley West

MADERA MIGRANT HEAD START
Los Banos
Valley West (Kinder-Camp)

FRESNO MIGRANT HEAD START
Firebaugh

Safety Committee Messages:
- Poster Competition will begin this month until June 28, 2013. A flyer is going out with details.
- Certificates will be rewarded to the 14 worksites mentioned above. Congratulations!
- Follow the safety message on your paycheck envelope.
The following is a synopsis of the Action Items from the Board of Director’s Meeting on March 14, 2013. If you are interested in seeing any items in more detail, please contact Melisa DaSilva.

- **RECOMMENDATION F-1:** Information only—No action needed.
  
  **SUMMARY:** Representation from the Agencies that receive Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding are required to develop a local plan for how the agency plans to address the needs outlined in the most recent Community Needs Assessment for Madera County. The 2013-2014 Local Plan is due June 1, 2013.
  
  **DISCUSSION:** The plan is considered to be the application for the (CSBG). It contains information about our agency, our community, and how our agency is meeting the needs of our community. There are six main requirements of the report: Community Information Profile and Needs Assessment, Statewide Policy, Federal Assurances, State Assurances, Documentation of Public Hearings, and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. This agenda serves to inform the Board of Directors that CAPMC staff is in the process of conducting a Community Needs Assessment for Madera County. The results found in the Community Needs Assessment will be used to develop the Local Plan. It is our hopes that the Community Needs Assessment will be used by other agencies in Madera County for the purposes of applying for funding to serve Madera County residents. The completed Community Needs Assessment for Madera County and the 2013-2014 Local Plan will be presented to the Board of Directors at a later date.

- **RECOMMENDATION F-2:**
  
  **SUMMARY:** In June 2011, CAPMC agreed to a one-year contract with the City of Orange Cove to operate the Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center for 160 children (96 full day and 64 part day). In May 2012, the Board approved the recommendation to negotiate the contract and staff negotiated the reduction of rent and maintenance fee by 50%. The savings was absorbed by state cuts and used for program operation. The current contract is scheduled to end June 30, 2013. The November 2012 Orange Cove City Council Election resulted in the recall of two city council members and the defeat of two other members running for reelection. All four former City Council members were supportive of the contract between the City and CAPMC. Since the election, two of the current city council members are the same individuals that spoke negatively during public comment, submitted several negative letters or responded negatively to questions posed by the Reedley Exponent/Orange Cove Times staff. The negative impact resulted in threats to staff, and placed all staff on heightened alert due to vandalism of their personal property. The staff contacted local law enforcement on several occasions. The City Council recently placed the Police Chief on administrative leave and many of the offices have left the city for other employment opportunities. This latest event has placed CAPMC at high risk if a parent or guardian of an enrolled child files an allegation of abuse or molestation. The previous complaints of molestation and child abuse filed with the Orange Cove Police Department were investigated and CAPMC was cleared of any wrong doing. There were also complaints files with the State of California Community Care Licensing that were also unfounded.

  **DISCUSSION:** Staff has reflected on the past two years and there has been a tremendous improvement in providing quality services to the children and families at the Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center. Child assessments indicate that the children are developing and progressing in each indicator. Collaboration between agencies has improved services to children with disabilities, and the parents have formed a strong parent advisory group to address any concerns and share current activities. The staff worked closely with Debbie Roberts, CPIN consultant, to arrange the classroom so that children could flow freely. The February Action Connection profiled the staff working together to improve the environment for the children. Although many positive events have taken place, staff recommends that CAPMC does not enter into a new contract or submit a proposal if a RFP is released by the City of Orange Cove. To quote Russ Ryan, Agency Attorney, “If you have the opportunity to leave under your own terms, with your reputation intact, I would strongly consider it.” HR and Fresno staff are working together to identify openings for the upcoming Migrant Head Start program. Julia Lopez staff will be informed and offered open positions and hired by seniority. The Board’s decision will be shared with the City of Orange Cove by April 1st.

  **FINANCING:** The result with decrease the agency revenues by $967,203. $71,645 would be the reduction to the indirect fund.

  **BOARD ACTION:** Approved

- **RECOMMENDATION F-3:**

  **SUMMARY:** Review and approve the 2012-2013 Madera/Mariposa Regional Head Start (MMRHS) Self-Assessment Program Strengths and Exemplary Practices, a Program Improvement Plan for each area, and Corrective Plans of Action for any findings.

  **DISCUSSION:** The 2012-2013 MMRHS Self-Assessment was conducted January 22-25, with training taking place on January 18, 2013. The Central Office staff was divided into four teams with one or more person(s) being the team leader. Center staff and parents participated in the process. Each team was given three days to observe and review any documentation, files or classrooms in order to provide a report of the findings, recommendations, and strengths, and then follow up with the required Improvement Plan or Corrective Plan of Action. There were three areas identified as non-compliant during the 2012-2013 MMRHS Self-Assessment, two of which were in Child Health & Safety, and one in Management Systems.

  **DISCUSSION:** The 2013 Office of Head Start Monitoring Protocol was used to evaluate the program. The areas reviewed were: Program Governance, Management Systems, Child Health & Safety (inclusive of Nutrition and Safe Environments), Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance, Family & Community Engagement, Child Development and Education (inclusive of CLASS, and Disabilities/Mental Health).