

Summer 2017

# COMMUNITY BENEFIT BULLETIN

A quarterly update from the Department of Community Benefit

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In this issue, take a walk in someone else's shoes, and discover how diversity makes a difference.

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS WALK A MILE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

Every year, the Community Benefit Advisory Council members take a day to "Walk a Mile in the Shoes" of our latest grantees. They do this not only to check on the status of the projects they voted to fund, but also to understand the environment where the programs are being delivered. In the process, the CBAC member discovers something more important than he or she ever imagined.

Peggy Diamond, director of the Duarte Senior Center, conducted her site visit with Western University - Healthy Living and Active Living in Pomona, California, healthy eating workshops for young children and their parents. What makes this program so special is that the curriculum and activities for the intervention are created collaboratively between Western University nursing students and their community health promoters, making the content specific to learners' culture, linguistic needs and styles. These workshops focus on family-based education for healthy eating, exercise, cooking, shopping, reading labels, simple at-home gardening, diabetes, obesity and other healthy eating and active living strategies. Diamond's site visit task was to observe whether or not this type of learning was happening and look for areas of possible improvement. What she actually discovered was something even she could not anticipate — a child living in a food insecure environment.

In Diamond's description of her site visit, she shares:



"The kids drew pictures of what they ate for dinner the night before. The little girl next to me had drawn strawberries on her plate and I told her she did a great job drawing the strawberries but did she have anything else to eat so she could add to her drawing of what she ate for dinner. I asked her if maybe she had pasta or a taco or something else and she said no. I was surprised that was all she had. When Ivy, who is in charge, came by, she asked the little girl the same question and the reply was the same. That was what she ate for dinner."

When Diamond was asked if she were to do this site visit again, would she change anything or ask new questions, she stated, "I did not ask the little girl what other family members had eaten

for dinner. My hope is that there was more to eat for this family than just strawberries or that this little girl did not like what they were having and chose to only eat the strawberries."

The incredible members of the Community Benefit Advisory Council are dedicated stakeholders who live in the San Gabriel Valley. They provide their expertise and knowledge to City of Hope as we design and deliver programs and services to our local vulnerable community. These site visits also provide them with an opportunity to learn more about the needs of children and their families. In turn, they help to guide City of Hope in ongoing compassionate care, inside and outside our institution.

## DIVERSITY RESOURCE GROUPS — OPEN DOORS TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

America is such a diverse country, with a multitude of distinct cultures and languages. When working on addressing significant health issues, we cannot rely on broad strokes of cultural relatability — especially when cultural shifts are based on your ZIP code, the side of the street you live on or even the church you belong to. This is the case here in the San Gabriel Valley, City of Hope's primary service area. For this, the Human Resources-sponsored diversity resource groups are an incredible asset that can help us reach out into the community and demonstrate a level of cultural competency to help us share information that can help everyone in the San Gabriel Valley live a good quality of life.

It is important to share some of the contributions that the diversity resource groups have played in helping City of Hope meet its community benefit goals.

- 1. Pride in the City** - helped the Community Benefit Advisory Council identify a new council member who would shine a light on the needs of the local LGBTQ community.
- 2. Connecting People of African American Descent** - have attended and provided a great presence to the prostate cancer prevention and awareness programs in our local black churches.

- 3. Pinoy's for Hope** - teamed up with the Asian American Community group and provided a 36 minute film screening of "Be About It," a documentary on hepatitis B, its effects on the Asian population and how it leads to liver cancer. Afterward, they secured Eduard Siccione, M.D., to provide a formal talk on cancer prevention across all areas.
- 4. All Groups** - attended our most recent Community Benefit Hub meeting and will continue to explore opportunities where we can continue infuse cultural sensitivity across the institution and back into our very diverse communities.

Thank you, diversity resource groups, for your passion and compassion to serve outside of your regular work day. If you are interested in learning about how you can continue to serve City of Hope as we reach high and address the root causes of poor health in our communities, please contact **Nancy Clifton-Hawkins** at [nchawkins@coh.org](mailto:nchawkins@coh.org).

To deepen understanding about Community Benefit activities here at City of Hope, send us a note: [CommunityBenefit@coh.org](mailto:CommunityBenefit@coh.org). We would love to hear from you!

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