

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Helping People. Changing Lives.
CommUnifySB.org



CommUnify
A Community Action Agency.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Before COVID-19 became a household term, few of us could have imagined the challenges our community would face in 2020. Despite 2020's tumultuous beginning, CAC remains committed to meeting the growing needs of Santa Barbara County. This is possible, in part, because of our ongoing commitment to excellence and self-reflection in previous years. Indeed, 2019 proved to be an important time in CAC's development, a year filled with strategic planning, quality improvement initiatives, and the implementation of new services aimed at supporting residents and their families on their journey to self-sufficiency.

In 2019, after being known as the Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County for 53 years, we also made the bold decision to embrace a new name that we believe represents who we are and what we value. **CommUnify** is not just a name, but the embodiment of CAC's commitment to working in partnership with the entire community to find innovative solutions that help Santa Barbara County residents live healthy, resilient and financially secure lives.

We could not have known how significant the decisions we made in 2019 would become in early 2020. The 5-year strategic goals we set in 2019 are focused on financial empowerment, mental/behavioral health, child/youth safety, health and nutrition, and affordable housing. As I write this, however, our Leadership Team is hard at work fine-tuning these goals to address emerging needs related to the COVID crisis. We will soon reveal our revised goals which are focused on supporting the long-term recovery of our disadvantaged community in a post-COVID world.

Moving forward, **CommUnify** not only represents a new name, but also a renewed commitment to engaging people from all walks of life in our mission of promoting stability and independence for low-income residents. We have set a large table and there will be room for everyone. I look forward to working together in the difficult days ahead to make this vision a reality. Together, we all rise!

Patricia Keelean



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It turns out that 2019 was a year of preparation for Community Action Commission – preparation for 2020. For example, because CAC possesses the needed abilities and infrastructure, seniors continue to receive nutritious meals, and 2-1-1 continues to provide critical information to those who need it in these anxious and confusing times. These types of services don't just spring up overnight when necessary. They take years to develop, improve and refine. The services CAC offers are always needed, but especially in times of crisis. However, we're talking about 2020, let's reflect on 2019.

2019 was a year of growth, maturation and evolution for CAC. Our CEO continues to inspire and motivate with her leadership, planning and forethought. Pat continues to put in place policies and processes that well serve the delivery of CAC's mission, while also ensuring that the revenues CAC receives are well spent. Pat has also put together a first-rate management team to assist her in moving the organization forward.

As Board chair since 2014, I'm confident in saying that our 2019 Board of Directors is easily the most diverse, talented and committed group I've had the pleasure to serve with. Representatives from the low-income sector, local elected officials, health care, and others are actively working to take CAC from where it is today to where it needs to be in the future.

The future is what CAC was considering in 2019 when it embarked upon a long overdue rebranding of the agency. With this annual report you are getting a first look as CAC becomes **CommUnify**, and presents its new identity to our community.

2019 was a year of thoughtful rebuilding and laying the groundwork for what is clearly an unprecedented 2020... and a challenging new decade. **CommUnify** is ready to meet that challenge.

Robert S. Freeman

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

CommUnify (formerly Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County or CAC) creates opportunities for families and individuals to achieve stability through its 22 health and human service programs, including **Head Start, Senior Nutrition, Weatherization and Energy Assistance, Family & Youth Services, and 2-1-1 Santa Barbara County.**

12,130

total individuals
served by CommUnify



135,459

meals provided to
seniors



221,865

meals provided to
children ages 0-5



4,736

calls & texts answered
by the 2-1-1 helpline



5,576

youth participated in
Youth Services programs



1,452

families received assistance
with their energy bills



1,519

children prepared
for kindergarten



1,320

children received
dental care



333

unsafe appliances
were replaced with
energy-efficient units



HEAD START

works in partnership with families and the community to provide education and services that support healthy development, self-sufficiency and enhance the quality of life for children and families.



MARIA G. GARCIA, FORMER PROGRAM PARTICIPANT AND AGENCY EMPLOYEE, WITH HER CHILDREN

Though she grew up in California's Santa Ynez Valley, at 25 years of age, Maria G. Garcia found herself married, pregnant and living in Mexico. That is when the organized mother-to-be started preparing for her first baby's arrival. Maria had heard about Head Start from a friend whose relative worked at the early education center in Lompoc. She went online to learn more, and a year later – when Maria returned to the United States with her daughter Ashley – she was ready. She applied and was accepted into the Early Head Start program on Chestnut in Lompoc.

"A former employer – a medical practice in Lompoc where I had been the office receptionist – offered me a job again, which I needed now as a single mom. Head Start provided affordable child care which I also needed, though I was concerned that my two-year-old daughter wouldn't be ready for preschool at such an early age. To my surprise she loved it and loved her teachers. There was no separation anxiety! She seemed to really enjoy the other kids and her time there."

Maria soon gave birth to a second child, a son Yoshua, who she enrolled in Early Head Start when he was a year and half. "He had a harder time adapting to school and became very attached to Teacher Evelia," said Maria. "Both of my children grew close to their teachers, especially Teacher Lupe and Teacher See. The Head Start faculty and staff open doors and nurture children so that they learn to adapt well in school and in life."

During the family's time at Head Start, Maria was also learning – how to be a better parent and get involved in her children's education. She joined the parent committee, starting as

Vice President for Maple Center during her daughter's first year. Maria actively participated in fundraisers and other activities to help support the center, and volunteered in the classroom, usually reading to the preschoolers before breakfast (and before her own work day began.) During parent meetings with guest speakers, Maria would generously translate for Spanish-speaking parents. When her second child started at Head Start, Maria became President of the parent committee, and continued to be actively involved until both of her kids graduated from the program.

It is no surprise then that CAC's Children's Services Department (that operates the Head Start program) offered Maria employment when it had an administrative position open up in its Lompoc office. Familiar with the agency, its programs and people, Maria also exhibited strong organizational skills, a "can-do" spirit, and had excellent prior work experience.

"Head Start is not just for children," said Lorraine Newman, Children's Services Program Director. "It serves two generations: children and parents/guardians. We help parents to be the primary teacher of their child by providing parenting education, community resources, and financial literacy. Maria is a terrific example of our program's vision – children and families navigating through life successfully."

"The program not only showed me the importance of being involved in the day-to-day of my children's education, but it also allowed me to grow as a person and parent," said Maria. "I was able to take care of myself and get back into the workplace. I was able to set goals and stick to them."

Maria's family benefited from other Children's

Services programs as well. Daughter Ashley was referred to speech therapy where she successfully corrected a problem with the pronunciation of certain sounds. Yoshua participated in the Family Wellness program and has developed into a healthy, socially-adept first grader. At Head Start, Maria learned how to parent each of her children – sometimes splitting her time between both of them to understand their individual needs. Maria reports that both children, now 8 and 6 years old, thrive in elementary school.

"This preschool program allowed my family to become self-sufficient, and grow as individuals," continued Maria. "Today I'm happy and grateful to have the opportunity to also work for the agency. Head Start and Children's Services has been a tremendous blessing in my life and in the life of my kids."

"The Head Start faculty and staff open doors and nurture children so that they learn to adapt well in school and in life."

Maria G. Garcia



LOS COMPADRES

helps youth focus on their strengths, understand the consequences of their choices, prevent teen pregnancy, and avoid substance abuse and violence.



JOSE VILLALPANDO, PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

At first glance, he appears to be your classic California teenager: large energy drink in hand, sporting a t-shirt with the image of rapper 50 Cent, and looking warily at the stranger conducting this interview. When asked to describe himself, he answers with few words. “Young man. Responsible.” As we talked, it became clear that Jose Villalpando is indeed those things – and much more.

We learn that Jose has grown up in Lompoc with his dad, mom, three siblings and a pet dog named Blaze. He likes some sports – soccer and spikeball – but doesn’t consider himself an athlete. Like many males his age, Jose enjoys staying up late playing the video game Grand Theft Auto. This particular game makes sense when later Jose reveals how much he likes cars, trucks, and mechanics including “speed.”

He shares that one day he might like to move to Texas and open his own auto shop, specializing in trucks. When asked “why Texas?”, Jose explains that he has researched truck ownership in the United States, and the statistics show that Texas has the most trucks per person than any other state. This proactive research is impressive for a 15-year-old who admits to being “lazy on school”.

On the subject of school, Jose seems tentative. At 14 and in his first year of high school, he was kicked out for fighting and placed on probation – unfortunately not an unusual occurrence for a young man growing up in “gang territory.” At his probation hearing, Jose learns about Los Compadres, and how the program for at-risk youth could help him with school, and with meeting his probation requirements. He was immediately receptive to the help. Jose has admitted that, without this

intervention, he was certainly headed toward gang life.

At his first Los Compadres appointment, Jose meets Joshua Hurst, program mentor and community educator. This meeting was “pretty good, not too many questions, smooth,” says Jose. Consequently, he didn’t mind returning weekly for the first month. “Josh is a cool guy, very respectful, and he does a lot for you.”

Joshua tells us that, initially, he listens to “his guys” and their complaints. Then together they figure out how to manage those stresses, often related to parental control and school structure. “Sometimes it’s just learning to make small adjustments, like telling your mom where you are going at night, so she worries less.” These initial appointments, where Jose and Josh talked a lot about responsibility and respect for others, later turned into “hanging out” and group activities.

Jose smiles broadly and becomes animated when talking about Los Compadres excursions with other program participants. “There have been wonderful hikes,” relayed Jose, “and fishing trips.” His handsome face lights up with the joy he clearly experiences in the natural world, whether it’s at the ocean or in the mountains. We spoke about his love of fishing – usually off the Santa Barbara pier – and his early memories of fishing with his family “every day after preschool.” “The coolest trip ever” was going out on a fishing boat with friends, catching prized halibut.

“The Big Guy, however, is bad luck when it comes to fish,” laughs Jose, referring to his mentor Joshua. “Sometimes he just takes a walk while we are fishing, so as not to ruin

our catch.” Warming up to the interview, Jose shares that he has made good friends in the program, and that Los Compadres “honestly, has helped me out a lot.” He is thinking about college but for right now is most enthusiastic about cars and driving. “I already know a lot of the driving rules,” he says confidently.

“My first impression of Jose was that he was spunky,” says Joshua. “Of course, guys his age don’t relate to that word, so I’ll say that Jose set himself apart with his positive energy and participation. These days he often takes the leader/teacher role in our group outings. Jose is the one who patiently teaches the new guys how to fish.”

Jose has successfully completed probation, getting his grades up at Bob Forinash Community Day School, and is now ready to enter 10th grade at Lompoc High School. He sometimes helps out his dad whose job is in construction, acknowledging that the work is hard.

Yes, Jose is as self-described: a responsible young man. But he is also a proud son and brother, a fun-loving friend, a nature lover, a leader/teacher who is mechanically-inclined... and quite possibly a future Texas business owner!

But for now, and with the support of Los Compadres, Jose Villalpando is definitely owning his future.

“Jose set himself apart with his positive energy and participation. These days he often takes the leader/teacher role in our group outings.”
Joshua Hurst, Mentor

SENIOR HOME REPAIR

The Senior Home Repair program installs health and safety features at no-cost to assist Santa Barbara County seniors in maintaining their goal of independent living.

“My 88-year-old mother fell and broke her hip while visiting us,” said Suzanne Bingham of Santa Ynez. So was the inauspicious beginning of four generations of a family coming together to help and support one another, especially its senior member Rosanna Rugland. After the accident, Suzanne and her husband made the thoughtful decision that Rosanna should come live with them in their home. But preparations needed to be made for the octogenarian to settle safely and comfortably in her new abode.

Granddaughter Julia, an ER nurse at Cottage Hospital, first told her family about the Senior Home Repair program at CommUnify (formerly Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County). The county program assists the elderly in having continued quality of life at home by installing safety features like grab bars and handrails that help prevent slips and falls. The agency also offers the installation of carbon monoxide and smoke detector alarms.

Suzanne called to request grab bar installation in the bathroom of her home that her mother would be using. A Senior Home Repair technician came out right away to install the safety measure at no-cost. “Such fast service,” said Suzanne. “Physical therapists that came to the house to help mom recover from her fall also endorsed the services of Senior Home Repair.”

Suzanne tells us that her family first came to Santa Barbara County in the 1960’s from New York. Her father was a rocket scientist at Vandenberg Air Force Base, and mother Rosanna was a homemaker with two children. After seven decades in the area, the extended family would certainly be deemed “locals.”



ROSANNA RUGLAND, PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, WITH DAUGHTER SUZANNE

CommUnify’s Senior Home Repair program is pleased to have played a small but important part in this successful senior living story.

As Rosanna became more comfortable in her new home, she began to thrive in the warm and lively family environment. Besides living with her daughter and son-in-law, Rosanna’s grandkids and great grandkids all reside nearby and are frequent visitors. “Mom keeps saying how wonderful it is to be around her whole family,” said Suzanne. “She looks and feels better. Mom never used to eat – now that’s what she lives for,” her daughter said laughingly.

The old adage “home is where the heart is” certainly rings true for Rosanna Rugland and the multi-generation family who lovingly surround her.

“Physical therapists that came to the house to help mom recover from her fall also endorsed the services of Senior Home Repair.”

Suzanne Bingham



SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

Every weekday hundreds of seniors gather at 14 community meal centers from Guadalupe to Carpinteria, where they are welcomed by site hosts to enjoy a nutritious lunch served hot at-table. In addition, the Senior Nutrition Program has a home delivery initiative that serves a daily meal to housebound residents.



VOLUNTEERS BLANCA MARDUENO, LUPE PADILLA, MARGARET SERRANO, AND CHICKI SATOW

In 1990, Blanca Mardueno became disabled at her workplace. She was grateful to receive disability benefits but she didn't want to just sit at home, so she decided to "give back" by volunteering to help seniors in her community. "I love to care for people," she says. Thirty years later and now a senior herself, Blanca, along with three other dedicated volunteers, serve a daily meal to seniors at the Veterans Memorial Building in Carpinteria.

Blanca speaks lovingly of her three longtime co-workers – Chicki Satow, Margaret Serrano and Lupe Padilla – and the bond they have formed over decades of volunteer service to the Senior Nutrition Program. "I love them like family." Monday through Friday, "The Golden Girls" arrive to the kitchen at the local veterans' hall to set-up prepared healthy meals and serve them to the program participants at-table. Like the popular TV show from the 1980s, these four women have developed close relationships with each other, and with many of the regular noontime diners, eating together and socializing. If there is a birthday, they have a cake with candles. If it is a holiday, they celebrate with special décor and music – even handing out presents at Christmas.

"We enjoy ourselves," says Chicki, pronounced "cheeky" and derived from her Japanese name of Chieko meaning "blessed with wisdom". "Both volunteers and seniors get to know each other. It is a good way to meet other people from the community," says the 86-year-old. "And the food is good," adds Blanca. "Meals often include locally grown veggies."

The ever-youthful Chicki began volunteering for Senior Nutrition after she retired from a food service job with the Carpinteria Unified School District in 1997. "I needed to do something,"

she says. Margaret and Lupe each arrived as volunteer meal servers about a decade ago. Lupe, a Carpinteria resident since 1955, heard about the need for lunchtime help during the weekly bingo event at the veterans' hall, as did Margaret who is a Santa Barbara native, moving to Carpinteria to care for her mother in 2000.

Now all well over 70 years of age, The Golden Girls have seen quite a few changes in the senior meal program throughout the past few decades. One favorite volunteer from the past, now in a rest home, recently turned 100 years old. "She used to tell us stories about her life during World War II," says Blanca. Fewer married couples are attending the noon lunch, as spouses grow old together and one becomes ill or dies. "These daily get-togethers help the loneliness," says Chicki.

Unexpected changes started early in 2020. Beloved site host and manager Geraldine Ortega had to take a leave of absence after a decade of service at the Carpinteria program. "The Golden Girls jumped in and filled the gap left by Geri's departure," said Patty Lopez, Senior Services South Coast Coordinator. "I couldn't be more grateful for the extra help and knowledge these ladies provided in feeding our seniors."

Then, in March, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, necessarily closing the at-table meal service in Carpinteria and all the community sites throughout the county. The Golden Girls are now each sequestering at home like most residents over 65. "I hope I can go back. I miss it," says Chicki.

At 75, Blanca is now participating in the home-delivered meal initiative. This time she is a client instead of a volunteer. "I feel bad

taking these meals – maybe someone else needs it more than me," she says. But program managers assured her that she qualified, and that there was enough food to go around to all seniors in need. "Blanca has been a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of the Senior Nutrition Program for thirty years," said Senior Services' Patty Lopez. "We are honored to serve her and all Golden Girls, along with the other senior members of the community."



Since the COVID-19 health crisis began, requests for senior meals have increased by more than 50%.

2-1-1 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

is a helpline, connecting people to health and human services, disaster relief and public information.

Who better to help tell the story of the 2-1-1 Santa Barbara County helpline than a local expert on emergency response. Michael Peterson is Co-Chair of the Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (VOAD) whose mission is to comprehensively organize and assist the local community in helping individuals recover from disaster events.

Michael's involvement with VOAD during the 2017/18 Thomas Fire and Montecito debris flow disasters informed his strong opinion about the county helpline. Since that time, "I'm on a quest to refocus the role of 2-1-1 in what we are calling 'recovery preparedness,'" says Michael. "Our community responded spectacularly to the debris flow. We saw a lot of love, but there was also a lot of chaos." This point-of-view set the stage for much of the emergency recovery work that was accomplished by 2-1-1 and other service agencies in 2018 and 2019. It's work that continues in 2020 in the face of a new challenge – the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2-1-1 program coordinates directly with the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Santa Barbara County Public Health and other local organizations and agencies to gather, update and house resources and contact information that is then used by accredited call center specialists in their response to calls and texts from the public.

Michael tells us that he first became acquainted with the 2-1-1 helpline several years ago through his wife, who was involved with CALM, a local agency (and 2-1-1 resource) that specializes in the prevention and treatment of childhood trauma. But it was in his role chairing the Community Long Term Recovery Group – after the twin disasters – that prompt-

MICHAEL PETERSON, CO-CHAIR OF SANTA BARBARA VOAD

ed the vision of 2-1-1 as the "centralized hub for information, resources and case management. We need 2-1-1 as the nerve center of a ready disaster-recovery preparedness system."

Michael Peterson is uniquely qualified for his volunteer position at VOAD. He had a long career as an information systems architect and serial entrepreneur. He also spent 13 years as a first responder and leader of the local Search & Rescue team throughout the 1980s. He now serves in Public Affairs for the Santa Barbara area of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Along with Elisa Pardo, the 2-1-1 Santa Barbara County Manager, the VOAD team of community partners are implementing an initiative named The Disaster Recovery Information Exchange (DRIE). In order to improve emergency recovery and reduce duplication of services, DRIE will allow partners to share a single intake process where client demographic information, status changes, and case management information can be communicated across agencies and clients directly. DRIE will enhance and amplify the current 2-1-1 system, supporting its mandate to provide personalized information services to all residents in-need, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and at no cost to the caller.

"Typically, the 2-1-1 helpline responds to callers looking for mental health and addiction services, housing, or legal assistance," says Elisa. "But when a disaster hits, there is a surge of callers seeking incident-related information such as evacuations, road closures and shelters. Working with VOAD and other community partners to create this new information system will allow 2-1-1 Santa Barbara County to further its goal of helping residents during any crisis – personal or public

– including times of disaster."

During the Thomas Fire and Montecito flood/debris flow incident, calls to 2-1-1 increased by 1000% for disaster-related aid and information. Since the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, helpline calls have increased by 800%. 2-1-1 Santa Barbara County is now the main phone line for COVID-19 information and resources. CommUnify (formerly Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County) has operated the 2-1-1 helpline since 2014.

"Every county needs a robust operating system for continued emergency preparedness and recovery," says VOAD's Michael Peterson. "2-1-1 Santa Barbara County is eminently positioned to be that system."

"We want the public to know about and make use of this valuable community service but we also want them to know that in a life-threatening emergency, always dial 911."

Elisa Pardo

Santa Barbara County
2-1-1
Get Connected. Get Answers.

CommUnify

A Community Action Agency.

Creating Opportunities for Santa Barbara County Families to Become Self-Sufficient. Since 1967.



DEBBIE RAMIREZ & SONS

Private Banking Officer Debbie Ramirez recently had the opportunity to help select a local non-profit to receive a substantial donation. As a member of an employee-led philanthropic committee at her workplace, Debbie immediately knew where her company's financial contribution should go, and set about making that case to her co-workers.

It was her own story with a certain non-profit that convinced her fellow employees to make a \$2,500 donation to CommUnify (formerly Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County). It is this same personal success story, humbly-told, that brought Debbie to the agency's attention again – 33 years after she first arrived at the doors of "CAC".

Debbie Ramirez grew up in Goleta, where she and her older sister were raised by a single mom. Attending public schools, Debbie initially enjoyed classroom learning but in her teenage years became distracted, finding friends and outside activities more interesting. Without support at home for pursuing an education, Debbie was easily side-tracked and lost interest in high school. She became a new mother at the tender age of fifteen, followed by a second baby when she was seventeen, and dropped out of Santa Barbara High School after her junior year.

When Debbie's oldest son was 3 years old, a friend told her about daycare at the CAC Children's Services Center in Goleta. With two young children and a pressing need for employment, Debbie enrolled Joseph in Head Start, the core program there, and found a babysitter for 1-year-old Anthony. This paved the way for Debbie to secure her first real job.

"At the age of 18, I was given an opportunity at a local bank to take an entry level job in their

credit card department," Debbie told us. "I worked for a few different banks before joining a local credit union. I didn't have my high school diploma when I first applied but they hired me on as a temporary employee, suggesting I work on obtaining my GED. I went back to school to prepare for the test. To my surprise, I passed, and was then hired as a permanent employee."

As Debbie developed in the workplace, her two young sons were also exploring new territory. Joseph took to the preschool program right away, thriving in this nurturing learning environment that prepares children for kindergarten. After Joseph graduated from Head Start – Debbie well remembers the "cap and gown" ceremony for the matriculating five-year-olds – his younger brother began the same program.

Anthony, however, was more sensitive and cried when his mom left him on his first day. "The Head Start teachers were so kind, comforting Anthony until he started to feel more secure there. One teacher in particular was such a help to Anthony. They became very close. Anthony stayed in touch with Loretta for years after he was out of preschool. She would attend his birthday parties."

The family's positive preschool experience allowed Debbie to pursue her banking career. She was happily employed at Kinecta Federal Credit Union for 11 years.

"One day, I met a gal who worked for Northern Trust. She thought I'd be a good fit there and told me about a job opening. I applied, was hired and began in their banking department. But I soon missed the lending side of the business. Northern Trust happened to have an opening coming up in their lending department

and they encouraged me to apply. I did and that is where I am, 18 years later."

Debbie Ramirez is the Senior Account Manager for Northern Trust, a 130-year-old financial institution that provides asset servicing, investment management and wealth management services for institutions, high-net-worth individuals and families. Headquartered in Chicago, the bank has 22 offices throughout the United States, including Santa Barbara. Here, Debbie manages the administration of the bank's loan portfolio.

"The most rewarding part of my day is connecting with my clients. Whether it is meeting with them to prepare loan documents or simply servicing loan requests, it is a pleasure to assist our clients with their credit objectives.

Debbie's sons are now grown with children of their own. Both live and work in Santa Barbara – Joseph, 36, at the Ridley-Tree Cancer Center, and Anthony, 34, self-employed in the medical fitness/kinesiology field. On a recent visit to the Goleta preschool with her two adult sons, Debbie reminisced. "Over three decades ago, Head Start gave my boys the social skills they needed, and at the same time, they were learning so much. They both have wonderful memories of the place."

Grateful to CommUnify for the support they offer families like her own, Debbie has not only championed a \$2,500 gift to the agency but has joined its fundraising event committee.

"The program served me well during a critical time in my life, and my children's lives. It's a pleasure to give back to this vital community non-profit."

DATE & VENUE CHANGE

Two unique events for your convenience and entertainment –
join us for both!

Wednesday, October 14 in Goleta

Nostalgic Movie Night at West Wind Drive-In

& Saturday, October 17 in Santa Maria

Alfresco Picnic with Music at Allan Hancock College

**CommUnify's
15th Annual Champions Awards**

Honoring Rona Barrett, Jim Glines and The Towbes Group

Please mark your calendars. Invitation to follow.

CommUnify is one of the non-profits in the region that has been able to keep its senior services going during the coronavirus outbreak. We not only have continued but expanded our daily delivery of a nutritious meal and safety-check for seniors in the community.

**If you would like to support
the immediate needs of this program,**
please contact Linda Rosso at lrosso@CommUnifySB.org
or call 805 964-8857 ext. #1105

**DIAMOND
\$100,000
SPONSOR**



2019 CHAMPIONS DINNER



L to R: CommUnify Board Chair Bob Freeman and CEO Pat Keelean greet tribal leader Raul Armenta representing the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians who were honored as 2019 Community Champions.



L to R: Dr. Kevin Walthers, President of Allan Hancock College with CommUnify Board Member Guy Walker



L to R: Artist Yuliya Lennon during her live painting demonstration, with Community Bank of Santa Maria's Jim Glines who served as the event's auctioneer.

2019 CHAMPIONS DINNER

Each year, CommUnify recognizes local organizations or individuals who have helped improve the lives of children, youth, families, and seniors in the county. For 2019, the agency selected the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians for the Champions award.

Tribal leader Raul Armenta accepted the Champions award on behalf of the Santa Ynez Chumash. Armenta is Vice Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians' Business Committee, and is responsible for establishing policies and overseeing the legal and business affairs of the tribe, while providing for the economic well-being of its members. Armenta grew up in Lompoc, spending summers and weekends visiting his grandparents and other relatives on the Santa Ynez Reservation.

The 14th annual Champions event was held at the Hotel Corque in Solvang. Previous years' Champions in attendance included Dr. Kevin Walthers of Allan Hancock College, Bob Freeman for CenCal Health, and Flo Furuike. Other notables supporting the event were County Supervisor Joan Hartmann, County Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso, Chairman of Community Bank of Santa Maria Jim Glines, Kelly and Eric Onnen of Santa Barbara AirBus, and Santa Barbara Foundation's Jackie Carrera.

2019 Champions Dinner sponsors were CenCal Health, the Kei Lin Foundation and BB&H Benefit Designs. CenCal Health was a \$100,000 Diamond Sponsor. For every dollar raised, CenCal Health matched the amount up to an additional \$100,000 contribution. The 2019 event raised over \$350,000 in support of the agency's Senior Nutrition Program.

ORGANIZATIONS

Allan Hancock College
Area Agency on Aging
 Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
 Bank of the Sierra
 BB & H Benefit Designs
 Biltmore Four Seasons
 Blenders In The Grass
 Buellton Library
CenCal Health
 Charles Walker DDS
 Child Educational Center
 CHP
 City of Carpinteria
 City of Santa Barbara
 Community Bank
 of Santa Maria
 Community West Bank
 Cottage Health
 County of Santa Barbara
 Protective Pay Trust Fund
 C/O of Client
 County of Santa Barbara/Care
 of Vincent Kowalski
 Crown Point Winery
 Deckers
 Dignity Health
 Enterprise
 Enterprise Holdings
 Foundation
 Fidelity Charitable
 First 5 Santa Barbara County
 Gap Foundation
 C/O Cyber Grants
 Goleta Neighborhood
 Dental Clinic
 HUB International
 Idea Engineering
 Jack Sawaske Landscape
 Lakeshore Learning Materials
 Lincoln Financial Foundation
 Mai Dental Care
 Marian Medical Center
**Mark & Dorothy Smith
 Family Foundation**
 Mechanics Bank
 Mercedes L. Gutierrez Fund
 Montecito Bank & Trust
 Network for Good
 Nipomo Pumpkin Patch
 North County Rape Crisis
 North County Rape Crisis &
 Child Protection Center
 Oliver Packaging
 Pacifica Suites
 Rabobank, N.A.
 Ruby's Mexican Restaurant
 Santa Barbara Airbus
 Santa Barbara City College
 Foundation
 Santa Barbara County
 Education Office

Santa Barbara County's
 United Way
Santa Barbara Foundation
 Santa Barbara Zoological
 Foundation
 Santa Maria Kiwanis for Kids,
 Inc.
 Santa Maria Public Airport
 District
 Santa Ynez Band of Chumash
 Indians Fund
 Schwab Charitable
 Sharon Kennedy Estate
 Management
 Smart & Final Charitable
 Foundation
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 The Kei Lin Foundation
 The Towbes Group Inc.
 Toyota of Santa Barbara
 Union Bank
 United Way Capital Region
**Walter & Holly Thomson
 Foundation**
Weingart Foundation
 Yardi Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

Terri Allison
 J. Jesus Alvarado
 Joann Anderson
 Nuvia Andrade
 Arthur Andrade
 Henry Arakaki
 Raul Armenta
 Yolanda Aumentado
 Janette Avina
 Deborah Babineau
 Olga Bacolot
 Roger Bailey Hand
 Rebecca Beeckman
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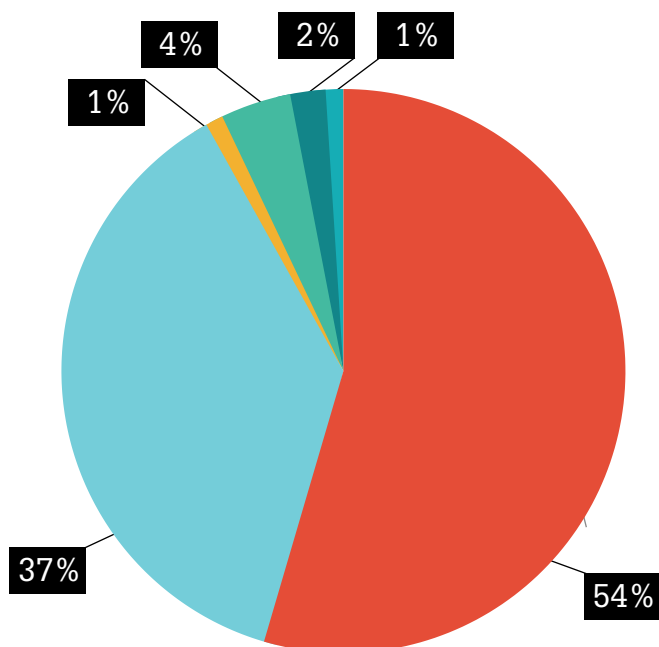
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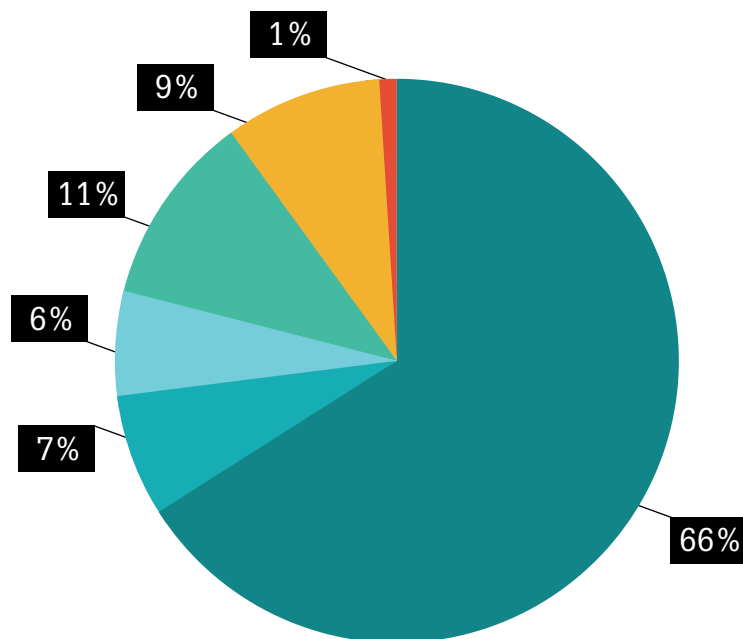


FINANCIALS



SOURCES OF FUNDS

- Federal Grants
- State & Local Grants
- Program Income
- In-Kind Donations
- Public Support
- Other



USES OF FUNDS

- Children's Services
- Family & Youth Services
- Senior Nutrition
- Community Services
- Fundraising
- Management and General

REVENUE

Federal Grants	\$ 13,068,352
State & Local Grants	\$ 8,990,915
Program Income	\$ 228,353
Donations (including In-Kind)	\$ 1,082,421
Public Support	\$ 569,063
Other	\$ 205,788
Total	\$ 24,144,892

EXPENSES

Program Services:	\$ 16,045,509
Children's Services	\$ 1,761,691
Senior Nutrition	\$ 1,346,086
Family & Youth Services	\$ 2,790,699
Community Services	\$ 2,299,216
Management and General	\$ 205,019
Fundraising	
Total	\$ 24,448,220

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Director of Children's Services

Seth Miller
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Director of Development

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Director of Human Services

Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County is now



CommUnify

A Community Action Agency.

Why CommUnify?

According to the Los Angeles Times, “some political scientists, historians and experts believe that the COVID-19 era could shift the national discourse...and ultimately lead to an expanded social safety net that more closely resembles those in other affluent nations. The health, economic and inequality crises currently plaguing the U.S. could well prove the most consequential since two previous eras of deep transformation in the U.S., namely the 1930s and the 1960s.”

Because of the work we do in this community, we already had a clear understanding of these crises. Our agency has spent the past two years reimagining and retooling a master plan to address this transformational new era. With these enhanced plans, comes a new name and a refreshed identity that more concisely defines our commitment to seeing the whole community come together in partnership to address the inequalities.

A History of Change

Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County (CAC) was founded in 1964 out of a powerful social movement created by the advocacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created a network of national and locally-focused Community Action organizations that connect millions of children and families to greater opportunity. In 1967, the Santa Barbara County agency was incorporated as a private non-profit organization, and began providing Head Start education services for preschool children. In

1969, it started a job-training initiative, then later began providing hot lunches to seniors. CAC gradually expanded its services and reach into the community with

- high-quality care and learning experiences for children ages 0-5, including Head Start
- job training, education, and mentoring for teens and young adults
- leadership, involvement, and educational opportunities for parents
- healthy daily meals for children and seniors
- improvements that make homes warmer, safer and more energy-efficient
- a free, confidential community helpline (2-1-1) operating 24/7, in multiple languages

Many highly successful local programs – including the Friendship Center and Easy Lift – had their beginnings at CAC, then moved into their own right within the community.

What Now?

In many ways, **CommUnify** is going back to its roots.

Although we've made progress in the fight against poverty, Santa Barbara County has one of the highest rates in the state, primarily due to the lack of affordable housing. With a poverty rate at approximately 21.1% of the population – often “working poor” – there's still plenty to do.

CommUnify's refreshed strategic plan addresses contemporary social issues that disproportionately impact low-income individuals and families such as social inequities, voter engagement, climate change and the “digital divide.”

Our new plan deals with the technology that didn't exist in 1964 when the agency was founded. The “digital divide” in education means that students without access to computers and an internet connection are at a critical disadvantage. During the pandemic, we have seen that technology at home is crucial to public health, yet we know that many families cannot afford an internet plan.

Yes, there is much to do.

America was built on the promise that every family should have an opportunity for success.

Heading into this new decade and new era, **CommUnify** will continue to uphold yet also expand that promise – by providing the services and support that empowers **sustainable independence for all residents** of Santa Barbara County.

Creating Opportunities for Santa Barbara County Families to Become Self-Sufficient.
Since 1967.

**Central Administration
and South County Office**

5638 Hollister Avenue, Suite 230
Goleta, CA 93117
805 964-8857
FAX 805 683-5872

North County Office

201 West Chapel Street
Santa Maria, CA 93458
805 922-2243
FAX 805 349-8165

Mid-County Office

120 West Chestnut Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436
805 740-4555
FAX 805 740-4558

CommUnifySB.org

Children's Services

Head Start: Preschool Program
Early Head Start: Infants &
Toddlers Program
California State Preschool Program
Children's Waiting Room (Courthouse)

Senior Services

Senior Nutrition Program
Healthy at Home/Healthy Table
Wellness Checks

Community Services

Energy/Weatherization Services
Utility Assistance Program
Senior Home Repair Program
Family Self-Sufficiency Program
Economic Empowerment/Financial
Literacy Program
2-1-1 Santa Barbara County

Family & Youth Services

California Student Opportunity
& Access Program (CalSOAP)
Adolescent Family Life Planning (AFLP)
California Personal Responsibility
Education Program (CA PREP)
Information & Education Program (I&E)
Family Wellness
New Heights, Full Service Partnership for
Transition Aged Youth (FSP-TAY)
Enhanced Family Reunification Program
Los Compadres Youth Mentoring Program
South Coast Youth Safety Partnership



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