



Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center

A place to grow, learn and thrive

Un lugar para crecer, aprender y prosperar

P.O. Box 5 / 4689 Highway 166, New Cuyama, CA 93254 / ph 661-766-2369 / fax 661-766-2375 / office@cvfrc.org

Back to School with New Backpacks!

Once again this year the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center distributed backpacks filled with school supplies to help get the school year off to a great start. After a flurry of shopping and preparation, on August 16 the CVFRC was a hub of excitement as 58 children and their families picked up their new backpacks. Each backpack was customized for each student, containing the supplies required for his or her grade level. To make the day complete, volunteers helped with haircuts and members of our Cuyama Future Leaders sold refreshments as a fundraiser for future events. Our thanks to the generous donations from our community partners who help

to make this program possible:
Bolthouse Farms,
Duncan Family
Farms, E & B
Natural Resources,
The Exchange
Club, Grimmway
Farms, Santa
Barbara Pistachios
and the Santa
Maria Board of
Realtors.



661-766-2369 (phone)
660-766-2375 (fax)
office@cvfrc.org
P.O. Box 5 4689 Highway 166
New Cuyama, CA 93254
Hours M-F:
9:00am -1:00pm,
1:30pm – 4:00pm

Staff

Lynn Carlisle, Executive Director
lynn@cvfrc.org
Martha Yopez Program Coordinator
m.yopez@sbcsocialserv.org
Alexy Angeles Family Advocate
alex@cvfrc.org

Board of Directors

“Biff” Charlton
Louise Draucker
Kim Eichert
Francesca Perez
Jose Valenzuela
Letetia Valenzuela

Mission

The Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center seeks to strengthen the Cuyama Valley community by **convening** community members, **coordinating** a local response to local need, and **creating** family, strengthening and community, empowering opportunities.

Coming Up This Fall @ the CVFRC

PIQE Training This fall, in collaboration with Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), the CVFRC will offer a 9-week program for parents of students in 8th – 12th grade. Sessions will begin on **Thursday, September 25**. If interested, please call the CVFRC (661-766-2369) or email office@cvfrc.org for information.

Ready for School Our Ready for School program will begin again this fall for children aged 0-3 and their parents. If you'd like to be part of the fun and informative program, please call the CVFRC at 661-2369 or send an email to office@cvfrc.org.

Cuyama Valley Health Fair Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 11** (10am to 2pm) when the Cuyama Valley Health Fair will again take place in Richardson Park. Health screenings, flu shots, dental screenings and great information on healthy living for you and your family.

Cuyama Future Leaders Summer Clean-up

You may have noticed that several of the yards of your neighbors are a little tidier this summer. That's because members of our Cuyama Future Leaders were part of a CVFRC program that helps seniors clean up their yards. With the help of Damian Medina, Jessica Kelp, and Jose Busio, the group tackled accumulated vegetation, trash and debris at 18 homes in the Valley. Notes from appreciative seniors have praised the team's work: "The service is a godsend. It is giving the kids a chance to give back to the community and also to keep them out of trouble." And, "I really appreciate the great job the kids did with the clean-up. It looks wonderful and all the leaves and trash were neatly bagged." David Sonsini, Engineer/Fire Inspector at the Santa Barbara County Fire Department in Cuyama notes: "It's a great service for the community. It's reducing the fire hazard, particularly for our elderly or disabled residents who would have the most difficulty getting out of their homes in the event of a fire." Homeowners are responsible for reducing fire hazards and debris and are billed if the Fire Department has to take action to clean up a property. Thanks to our Cuyama Future Leaders for helping make Cuyama a more beautiful, safer community!



Mature Adults

Our Mature Adults program has continued through the summer, enhanced by the culinary skills of our Cuyama Future Leaders group at the June and August gatherings. At the June meeting, several CFL members planned, cooked and served a delicious luau-themed meal to our Mature Adults group followed by a presentation on important changes to the Medicare program. The next Mature Adults luncheon will take place at the CVFRC on Monday, September 8 at noon. The November luncheon will include a special observance for Veterans Day. Contact the CVFRC for more details.



Summer in Cuyuma!

Our Summer Youth Program was a huge success this summer! For 10 fun-filled weeks, the CVFRC and the Cuyama Recreation District provided games, sport and themed activities—even lunch!—for kids aged 5-13. From cooking to crafts, members of the Cuyama community pitched in to help including Louise Draucker, who led a fun magnet-making craft activity, or NAME NAME, who shared her cupcake-making skills with the kids. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this a great summer for our youth.



Reading Buddies Get Started at the CVFRC

Every Friday afternoon throughout the summer, the CVFRC has been a great place for....reading! We've begun a new program called Reading Buddies that teams an older student (or willing adult) with a younger student to help with reading. Armed with a list of books from the Accelerated Reader program, Reading Buddies is a fun way to encourage our kids to spend a little more time with reading. Our goal is to continue the program through the school year and perhaps help send more Cuyama students to the Battle of the Books competition in Santa Barbara in 2015!



more photos from the Summer Youth Program...



Cuyama Summit

On June 12, the new CVFRC building was filled to capacity, with 70 people attending the Cuyama Valley Summit. While we were not able to invite every stakeholder in the Valley, and not everyone invited was able to join us, we were fortunate to have good representation from our residents, organizations, County government—even our teens. Among the groups, businesses, growers, and members of the educational community represented were: the 4H Club, Apache Canyon Ranch, Blue Sky Sustainability Center, Bolthouse Farms, Cuyama Buckhorn, Community Action Commission/Head Start, Cuyama Christian Academy, Cuyama Future Leaders, Cuyama Health Clinic, Cuyama Valley Conservancy, Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, Cuyama Valley Unified School District, Duncan Family Farms, E&B Natural Resources, Exchange Club, First Solar, Fund for Santa Barbara, McCune Foundation, Orfaea Foundation, Quail Springs, Russell Ranch, Sagebrush Annie's, Santa Barbara Foundation, Santa Barbara Pistachios, and UC Cooperative Extension.

Representatives of several Santa Barbara County departments and special districts and state agencies were also in attendance, including: the Agriculture Commission, the Air Pollution Control District, Animal Services, the Department of Social Services, the Santa Barbara County Fire Chief and New Cuyama Fire Station, Public Works/Roads & Transportation, Public Works/Water Agency, the Sheriff's Department, the Santa Maria Public Library, the Cuyama Valley Recreational District, the Cuyama Community Services District, the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Social Services and the Employment Development

Department. And of course, Cathy Fisher the Santa Barbara County Agriculture Commissioner and Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor. (Our apologies if we've missed anyone!)

Attendees expressed their main concerns ("what keeps you up at night") and aspirations ("what you hope for") for the Cuyama Valley. Consistent themes emerged, including (in no particular order):

- water quality, availability, sustainability, funding and cost
- the pool
- economic development and jobs
- empowering all residents
- more community-wide events
- highway safety
- more opportunities for youth
- road safety and condition of streets
- more parks
- government and agency regulations (in some cases too many and in others not enough)
- healthy food
- transportation
- oil production industry sustainability and jobs
- effects of climate change
- adequate affordable housing.

And of course, many attendees also praised the Cuyama Valley as a great place to live! Several attendees have agreed to work on the formation of a Cuyama Community Association. Given the list of topics above, this group will have its hands full getting organized and tackling some of these issues. It is a great beginning to what can be an effective and productive process for many years to come.

Cuyama Food Distribution Schedule

On the first and fourth Wednesdays of every month, the CVFRC distributes boxes of food, courtesy of Catholic Charities, to those families who are registered with us. Contact the CVFRC office for information.

On the third Wednesday of every month, the CVFRC distributes food from the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, at Richardson Park. Numbers are handed out beginning at 10am; food distribution begins at noon.



Important Dates for September – October 2014

SEPTEMBER

- September 1 Closed for Labor Day holiday
- September 8, 11:30am Mature Adults Luncheon
Location: CVFRC
- September 17, 10am numbers handed out; noon food distribution, Food Truck distribution
Location: Richardson Park
- September 22, 5:00pm Cuyama Future Leaders
Location: CVFRC
- September 25, 6:00pm First session: PIQE for parents of students in 8th – 12th grade Continues for 9 weeks through November 20
Location: CVFRC

September 30, 10:30am Family Gathering
Location: CVFRC

OCTOBER

- October 13, 11:30am Mature Adults Luncheon
Location: CVFRC
- October 11, 10:00am – 2:00pm Health Fair
Location: Richardson Park
- October 15, 10am numbers handed out; noon food distribution, Food Truck distribution
Location: Richardson Park
- October 27, 5:00pm Cuyama Future Leaders Location: CVFRC
- October 28, 10:30am Family Gathering Location: CVFRC