



AGENDA REPORT
SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Meeting Date: June 19, 2012

Agenda Item 13
Approvals:
 City Manager _____
 Dept. Head _____
 Attorney _____
 Finance _____

Department: Community Development
Prepared By: Patricia Pinto, Human Affairs Committee Chair

Subject: ***HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012***

Summary: BACKGROUND
 The Human Relations Committee was established in 1988 for the purpose of surveying San Clemente’s human and social needs and making recommendations to the City Council. In 1992, the Committee’s name was changed to the Human Affairs Committee (HAC). The committee and Housing staff coordinated over seventy-five forums from 1992 to 2008. Since 2006 Orange County Human Relations has worked with the HAC and community stakeholders, which eventually helped to organize the San Clemente Collaborative (SCC) for the purpose of engaging residents to improve access to social services in town.

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

In order to become more proficient in the area of human needs, seven members and City staff have spent more time in the community working at the grass-roots level in underserved areas like Vista Los Mares and the Las Palmas area. Two HAC members participated in an 8-week *Leadership Plenty* class; this training is based on the Pew Foundation for Civic Change model. In 2011 fifteen Las Palmas parents attended the Parent Leadership Institute and now 25% of them are participating in the school PTA. Last year many of these parent leaders participated in the monthly SCC Meetings. This was an excellent opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and network. On May 10, 2012, the Las Palmas Leadership Group was recognized by the Orange County Human Relations for making positive changes through community leadership. Isobel Pelham and Joan Thompson, both current members of the HAC, were honored for their outstanding volunteerism and efforts to create an inclusive environment for Spanish speaking residents.



Photo of Las Palmas Leadership Group

In addition to the above, the HAC in partnership with the San Clemente Collaborative (SCC) have had many notable highlights this past year:

1. Successful adoption of San Clemente HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Resolution by the City and its community partners; a resolution was approved and the SC Collaborative's Health sub-committee and the HAC advocated for a Health and Wellness Element in the City's updated General Plan.
2. *Diverse Community Leader Award* for the Las Palmas Leadership Group's (LPLG) civic engagement support and dedication to the underserved community.
3. San Clemente Health Needs Assessment Report completed and sponsored by Mission Hospital. "Play More, Eat Better" neighborhood outreach and healthy living education along with childhood obesity initiatives. In addition, a grassroots organization called the *San Clemente Community Market* is in the process of founding an organic, locally grown community-owned market. It's based on the cooperative model; it will support our local farmers, the profit will stay here in the community, and it will provide low cost organic foods to San Clemente residents.
4. Successful *Fighters For the World Tutoring Fundraiser* which raised funds for an educational and recreational pilot program in Los Molinos. This important project was a collaboration with Los Molinos business owners and currently serves Central San Clemente middle school students who did not have a safe place to go to right afterschool.
5. Cinco De Mayo Bower's Museum Art Exhibit and Annual Youth School Art contest which served over 100 San Clemente students.
6. Provide a HAC Leadership Award to a high school senior once a year or as deemed appropriate. Mr. Haben Tewodros Mekonnen is this year's recipient for his dedication to intercultural programs and afterschool math tutorial sessions.
7. Submit an Annual Report to Council concerning human needs in San Clemente.

SAN CLEMENTE COLLABORATIVE AND COMMUNITY-WIDE RESOURCES

The Human Affairs committee member's are the social services' eyes and ears of the Community Development Department and the City Council. Since all of the seven members participate in monthly sub-committee meetings, there is a wealth of information that pertains to San Clemente's human needs and gaps in local social services.

Last Fall the Community Resource Center (CRC) based at San Clemente Presbyterian Church opened its doors. The CRC is a central hub for non-profit groups delivering free or affordable services including education, mental health, and social welfare. The CRC provides free rental space to the Public Law Center twice a month for their legal clinics. They provide health classes, community forums, and mental health services which is available to all residents.

www.crcsc.org

In 2012, iHOPE opened its homeless day resource doors in Central San Clemente. This center features a computer lab with wireless internet access, on-site counseling and case management to assist the homeless with food, clothing, and medical referrals. According to the 2011 Health Needs Assessment report, the main reasons given for respondents' experience with

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homelessness included mental health issues, family issues or lack of money (Professional Research Consultants, Inc. Report pg 172). Since unemployment and mental health feeds into so many other personal problems facing individuals and families, preventing homelessness has been identified as a definite community priority in the Community Health Report. On a positive note, the report marks a significant decrease over four years time in chronic depression from 26.5% in 2008 of San Clemente respondents saying they were depressed to 17.9% in 2011. The homeless day resource center's are making a huge difference in meeting the needs of the underserved populations.

www.ihopeoc.org

Last month, the Family Assistance Ministries (FAM) relocated to a much larger warehouse in the Rancho San Clemente Business Park. They recently out grew their office space and have continued to grow in terms of volunteer recruitment and expanding services. Impressed with Illumination Foundation's Workforce Development model program, FAM partnered up with their job trainers and established a San Clemente employment development program which provides weekly case management job services to clients. FAM has literally become a one stop service center for South County clients along with providing a well stocked food pantry, organizing community events that support the underserved, and managing a women and children's transitional homeless shelter in the Vista Los Mares neighborhood.

www.family-assistance.org

This past year has been an eye opening and positive experience for me as the Human Affairs Committee Chair person. The Human Affairs Committee endeavors to provide support to the residents of San Clemente so that they may enjoy the quality of life described in the City's Mission statement. On behalf of the other committee members, Vice-Chair Kay Childs, Joan Thompson, Isobel Pelham, Carol Stiff, Nancy Sutherland, and Robert Wright, we extend thanks for your support and the opportunity to serve our wonderful city. In addition, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the City Council for your support of our efforts and the increased financial support of the Fy12-13 Social Services Grant Program.

Recommended

Action: STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council receive and file the annual report.

Fiscal Impact: none

Notification: Human Affairs Committee