



Contact:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Young Leaders Society of Santa Barbara County Springs into Action, Volunteers Help Diabetes Resource Center to Implement Gardening Program at Franklin School

On Saturday, March 21, 2009, volunteers from *Young Leaders Society of Santa Barbara County* combined forces with the staff of **Diabetes Resource Center** to build vegetable beds and flower beds in an effort to implement the organic gardening program at **Franklin Elementary School**.

“Franklin School has the highest obesity rate of any school in the Santa Barbara Public School District,” states Priscilla Hernandez of the Diabetes Resource Center, “more than 55% of the school’s children are obese and many are morbidly obese. Our organic gardening program exposes kids to fruits and vegetables they’d normally not eat, and they have a tendency to eat the produce because they have grown it themselves.”

Diabetes Resource Center staff posted the volunteer opportunity and Young Leaders Society sprung into action to fulfill one of their goals which is giving back to their community. They saw this as a great volunteer opportunity to introduce their unique group to Santa Barbara County before their official launch and networking event on April 6, 2009 at Arnoldi’s Café.

Young Leaders Society is a new group formed by United Way of Santa Barbara County and local business volunteers. The Society is geared towards young motivated professionals who want to get involved in their community and gain professional development through a variety of volunteer opportunities, networking events, and leadership training.

For more information on Young Leaders Society, attend our launch event on Monday, April 6 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, generously sponsored by Arnoldi’s Café, or call 805-965-8594. Media advisory attached.

Photo captions:

1. Left to Right: Casey Kilgore, Principal of Franklin School, with YLS volunteers Yesenia Placencia with daughters, Genevieve Lund, and Eric Bravo with Priscilla Hernandez, Director of DRC Childhood Obesity Program.
2. After the work was complete – 6 new vegetable garden beds and 3 new flower beds (far back).
3. Left to Right: DRC staff Joseph Figueroa and Garden Educator Eva Hall, YLS Volunteers Jennifer Muench, Eric Bravo and Genevieve Lund, with Andre Vallejo, DRC Site Manager.

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Event Information

- What: Learn about a unique philanthropic group - Young Leaders Society of Santa Barbara County! From professional development events to volunteer opportunities, this unique society will help you grow both professionally and personally.
- Speaker: Randy Weiss, VP Corporate & Community Relations, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, who will share his unique views on life, leadership and community.
- Date: Monday, April 6, 2009
- Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Location: Arnoldi's Café
600 Olive St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- Who: Young leaders of Santa Barbara County who are motivated by making a difference in our community.
- RSVP: By April 1st to Juli Askew jaskew@unitedwaysb.org
- Cost: Appetizers, patio and Bocce Ball sponsored by Arnoldi's Café
No-host Bar
- Info: Phone: 805.965-8594
E-mail: jaskew@unitedwaysb.org
Web: <http://www.unitedwaysb.org/youngleaders.htm>

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