

An Intergenerational Approach to Community Building

Overview

In partnership with the OC Community Foundation and Communities for All Ages (CFAA), a national initiative that helps communities address critical issues from a multi-generational perspective and promote the well-being of all age groups, OC Human Relations is developing a community building initiative using a life span approach. This new approach to community building opens a new spectrum of opportunities. By employing an intergenerational lens we have the potential to increase the reach and effectiveness of our work and create a successful model that engages the whole community to make the best use of resources, advocate for all age groups, create multi-generational alliances and expand engagement of all people.

San Clemente CFAA Initiative

OC Human Relations is focusing the Communities for All Ages initiative in the Los Mares and Central San Clemente neighborhoods. Over the past few years OC Human Relations has been working with city representatives, local hospitals and agencies to develop a community collaborative and a Community Building Initiative to find solutions to San Clemente's disenfranchised neighborhood's deep-seated, chronic social problems. We are also working with energetic community leaders with diverse interests, backgrounds and ages that are all interested in improving their community. Together we have had many accomplishments including:

- Developing a Homework Club at the Mary Erickson Community Room
- Creating the San Clemente Collaborative
- Creating strong and active high school and middle school leadership groups
- Advocating for mental health, youth and built environment resources and services
- Developing a strong network of diverse parent and community leaders of all ages

We are working to engage and empower a diverse team in two target neighborhoods to develop a multi-generational community project that addresses a priority need for each area.

Community Profile

The neighborhoods we are focusing on have a large, underserved and isolated low-income, mostly Latino population. Both neighborhoods are covered by a gang injunction and OC Human Relations is working closely with the GRIP collaborative led by the District Attorney's office for San Clemente. There are many challenges that have been identified including discrimination, opportunities for youth and adults and local service gaps. There are also many opportunities for multi-generational collaboration that have been identified, such as developing a tutoring program in one of the neighborhoods that incorporates support of youth, parent involvement and community engagement; a community garden to increase access to healthy foods and support education for active, healthy living of all ages; and develop a local community center that brings together all of San Clemente's strengths and assets.

Contact

- For more information contact Iliana Welty, Community Building Director at iliana@ochumanrelations.org, 714.567.5054 www.ochumanrelations.org

