



# Visions & Voices

Community Resource Center is committed to breaking the cycle of family violence and reducing hunger and homelessness in our community

March 2009

## Great Gardens! Great Plants! Great Cause!

**CRC Garden Tour & Plant Sale - SATURDAY, April 18th**

Bargain hunters and gardening enthusiasts are all abuzz as CRC's Garden Tour & Plant Sale date nears. Long-time CRC Board Member and world-famous plant guru, Evelyn Weidner, started the annual event eight years ago as a way both to expose the public to beautiful gardens in North County and to support Community Resource Center. Ecke Ranch came on board a few years ago with a plant sale that gives all proceeds to CRC. Only the CRC Garden Tour includes exclusive admission to Ecke Ranch for the plant sale, and tickets go quickly now that word has spread about the bargains. Last year's CRC Gala Honorees, Peder & Julie Norby, have opened up their acclaimed energy-saving home in Carlsbad for the tour, which also includes stops in Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, and Encinitas.



Tickets are going fast - HURRY! *See back page for order information*

## Supporters Come Through as Challenges Hit

**Amid Economic Chaos Last September, CRC Gala Raises Vital Funds**

As the first of a series of economic challenges began to darken our doors last year, CRC supporters still came together to make the 2008 Gala honoring Peder Norby one of the most successful fundraising events in our history. Moonlight on the Promenade brought in funds essential to continuing CRC programs into 2009, a year that will literally determine the fate of many non-profits nationwide. On September 27, 2008, over 300 guests filled the ballroom in support of CRC and to toast Peder and his wife, Julie, for their ability to create partnerships that enhance the community. The event raised over \$175,000 for programs that provide safety, stability, and a path to self-sufficiency to more than 10,000 people in North County every year.

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## Community Saves Holiday Baskets — Over 5,200 Served Despite Shortfall

Holiday Baskets 2008 saw record need and an accompanying record slow in donations last December. As the largest distribution of its kind in the county, Holiday Baskets continued to coordinate donations beyond traditional deadline dates so that essentials like food, blankets, baby items, and jackets could be provided to up to 1,200 households in need. The focus on the economy and a pivotal presidential campaign took attention away from many charity programs over the holidays, but midnight-hour donations from local individuals and groups allowed CRC to serve every registered family. In the end a record number of adults, children, and infants—over 5,200 total—were helped by the program. Including those on the waiting list, well over 1,200 families were able to participate last December. Over 1,500 volunteers logged in thousands of hours at the fairgrounds for sorting, packing, and distribution.



*CRC Volunteers, John & Pam Economides pose with two children in the Holiday Baskets program*

# Community Spotlight — Local Groups Making a Difference



Nielsen Claritas of San Diego took on a Fall Spruce-up Project last October and gave Carol's House residents something to smile about. Two teams from Nielsen Claritas completed an extreme makeover of one of our Transitional Housing units, added new plants and flowers to the Carol's House courtyard, and even built a new sandbox for the little ones at the Therapeutic Children's Center. For the displaced women and children who live at Carol's House, the feeling of home that resulted brought immeasurable cheer. Thank you!

Please email photos and news about your great work to [scolby@crcnc.org](mailto:scolby@crcnc.org)

## *More Service Project Thanks Fall/Winter 2008 — Highlights*

Blue Thong Society - Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Carol's House

Newcomers - Transitional Housing Makeover

White Construction, Inc. - Facility Upgrades

Solana Beach Presbyterian - Solana Beach Thrift Store facelift and painting of the new Client Center and Therapeutic Children's Center

Del Mar/Solana Beach Rotary - Painting of the new Encinitas Thrift Store

We also want to thank the volunteers who organized hundreds of Holiday Baskets drives!

These are just a few highlights—we wish we could list every group and volunteer! Thank you all very much!

*Thank You for Your Support!  
See more highlights and Donor Acknowledgments  
in our upcoming Annual Report!*

## Message from the Executive Director — *Our Survival Plan Has Always Been In Place*

Armed with a diverse funding base, which includes sales proceeds from four thriving thrift stores, CRC is poised to deal with the economic challenges facing the nation

*and our community.* Responsible spending and smart financial planning have been a hallmark of the organization, not a new core philosophy we are scrambling to institute. Regardless of our preparedness, however, CRC is

vulnerable to drops in funding, especially as we see stunning increases in demand for services in our own backyard. The situation is dire, but CRC can't let it become hopeless. We are the primary provider of comprehensive social services in the North County Coastal Community, and our reach extends to other pockets of the county. We serve over 10,000 people a year, and as unemployment

climbs, we expect a new category of "temporary limited-income" clients to add to those numbers. As government, corporate, and private funding sources diminish, CRC is bracing for what may prove to be one of the most challenging years in its 30-year history.

Known for our business-wise approach to social services, CRC is a trusted steward of your donations, but we recognized early last year that the economic challenges of our times would require even more proactive thinking. Belt-tightening measures already in progress include consolidating programs under one roof in Encinitas, all in a building owned by CRC thanks to a wise investment decades earlier. We have imposed hiring freezes and plan to fill gaps with volunteer

positions. We also moved our Encinitas thrift store to give it a more visible and competitive retail location off Highway 101 since thrift stores are one of the few businesses doing well in this economy.

CRC is appealing to the community to help in any way it can to ensure that the vital social services we have provided since 1979 continue to exist. Local support has been central to our success, and we need it now more than ever. *Attend our events. Volunteer. Donate. Patronize our thrift stores. Recommend CRC as a beneficiary or for a grant award.*

CRC is keeping its boat in the water, regardless of how rough the seas may be. We have seen time and again that the community that rows together, moves forward.



# Domestic Violence News - Another Success Story

Julie contacted CRC after experiencing severe psychological abuse from her husband of 5 years. This was Julie's first relationship, and she had many fears about leaving. She had never lived on her own and was facing many new challenges. With her 8-month-old son, Julie entered Carol's House, our emergency Domestic Violence shelter.

Although employed when she arrived, it was unsafe for her to continue working, so Julie had to quit her job. After entering Carol's House, Julie experienced a new level of independence. She learned about Domestic Violence for the first time through our DV education classes and also participated in Parenting and Life Skills classes offered through the program. Julie also took advantage of counseling

and case management and was able to stabilize during her time here. Through the support of our program staff, Julie applied for a National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Job Training Scholarship and was awarded \$1,000 to assist her in becoming a certified physical therapist.

Julie was also accepted into CRC's 18-month Transitional Housing program to help her continue on a path to independence. Julie is now supporting herself, providing a safe and stable environment for her son, and moving on a path to self-sufficiency.

## *The Michiel Hyder & Randy Bolt Memorial Golf Tournament*

Nearly nine years ago, the **California Department of Justice** lost one of its own, Michiel Hyder, to domestic violence. This annual charity tournament honors her and another fallen agent, Randy Bolt.



Senior Special Agent in Charge, **Gary Hudson**, an advisory board member at CRC, once again led registration and sponsorship efforts for this popular event. **CRC's Carol's House is a beneficiary**, so we want thank Gary, the organizers, and CRC supporters who participated.

We also want to express a special thank you to Michiel's family, colleagues, and friends for working so tirelessly to increase awareness about domestic violence.

## Volunteer Needs Changing With Times

Like their corporate counterparts, many non-profit charities are adapting to economic hard times by imposing hiring freezes. Because CRC serves a growing population of those hardest hit by unemployment, increasing food costs, and limited access to affordable housing, it faces a doubly difficult situation. More people are coming to our offices for help, yet we cannot hire more staff to meet this demand. Rather than severely cutting services, CRC is tapping into its access to thousands in the community who want to volunteer. Our primary



goal is to match a task with a group or individual willing and able to take on a six-month commitment or longer. At CRC, the greatest need is for skilled volunteers who can cover set shifts. Your professional experience might be perfect for a volunteer position we need to fill.

Please visit our Website for details and an application at [www.crcncc.org](http://www.crcncc.org) or call (760) 753-1156, ext. 1304

## HELP WANTED LIST

ROUTINE SKILLED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*One 2-hour shift or more per month  
Six-month commitment preferred*

- Social Services Distribution - Food & Essentials
- Clothing Donation Sorting
- Hospitality/Front Desk - Intake
- Reception - Phones
- Data Entry - Miscellaneous
- Accounting / Bookkeeping
- General Office - Filing & Mailing
- Event Preparation
- Graphics Assistant - Web & Print
- Children's Center Aide
- Thrift Store - Sales
- Thrift Store - Antique & Collectibles Specialist

### Other Volunteer Needs

- Group Service Projects - Facility Improvement
- Group Service Projects - Drives/Collections
- Teach a Life Skills Class - Financial literacy, health, cooking, basic home repairs, etc.

## Connecting People to Food

Individuals have two primary needs that must be met in order to be self-sufficient: *housing* and *food*. With that in mind, CRC has expanded its food programs to meet the varying and increasing needs in our community. Our largest food distribution program is **Holiday Baskets**, which connects over 1,200 households to more than 32 tons of food. Our distribution programs reach far beyond the media interest of Holiday Baskets, however. Food drives and distributions take place throughout the year, paralleling the ongoing needs of families and individuals who need a helping hand before and after the holidays.

Thanks to collaborations with local grocers and bakeries, the CRC Bread Room has, for decades, been distributing bread and sometimes even fresh produce that would otherwise be discarded. We augment the Bread Room with an Emergency Food Pantry that provides staple items to families and seniors who struggle to make ends meet. In addition CRC manages a USDA Commodities Program that provides a monthly allotment of frozen items, dairy products and canned goods to low-income residents in Encinitas and Carlsbad. CRC also helps qualified applicants enroll in the county-administered Food Stamp Program, a resource that many do not pursue in their times of hardship.

CRC recently partnered with Feeding America to provide clients with a source of fresh food four times per week through our social services offices in Encinitas. To more effectively connect resources like fresh staple foods to struggling households, we have converted old thrift store space into a distribution area that also houses items like baby formula, diapers, clothing, and toiletries. This new CRC Client Center is now open to clients working with CRC to become stable and more self-sufficient. The center will be staffed by volunteers and relies on donations from the community.



*Led by Claire & Tom McGreal, Organizing for America - 50th Congressional District volunteers spent Inaugural Weekend collecting and sorting food for CRC.*

### *What do we need?*

We need funding and food, but please see our Social Services WISH LISTS for more:

[www.crcncc.org](http://www.crcncc.org)

Info & Questions: (760) 230-6305

### ART N SOUL ON 101

ARTS | CRAFTS | SOCIAL CHANGE

#### Why shop at Art N Soul?

Co-owners Cindy Blumkin and Paige Perkins not only showcase creations by talented local artists, but give all the profits to charity!

CRC has been one of three non-profits selected for the 2007-2009 beneficiary period.

*Thank you to Cindy, Paige, and their participating artists for donating \$7,000 in vital support so far!*

Art N Soul on 101 - Encinitas  
633 South Coast Highway 101

## *I hope it helps . . .*

As the shortfall in donated items became more and more apparent, there was a point during the set-up stages of Holiday Baskets that organizers wondered, "How are we going to serve all of these families?" An answer came about one week before distribution began. The messenger was a young boy from a Bethlehem Lutheran Church youth group that had arrived to help decorate the Holiday Baskets distribution area.

CRC staff give guided tours to youth groups so that they understand how Holiday Baskets works and how their volunteer efforts help families in need. After the tour ended for the Bethlehem youth group, a young boy approached the CRC tour leader to ask a few questions. He then dug into his pockets, pulled out 12 cents, and whispered, "I hope it helps" as he pressed the coins into the stunned staff member's hand.

This story quickly circulated among lead volunteers and staff, and this one boy's contribution seemed to magically inspire others to do the same. In the end, we served every registered family, and were able to help even those on our waiting list. To this young supporter, and to the hundreds of young people like him who help us throughout the year, we want you to know, "Yes, absolutely, it helps."





Children are among our top volunteers, top fundraisers, and top donors. They approach their roles with great enthusiasm and add a special spark to community efforts. They also remind all of us that our *desire* to help others is even more important than the form that help takes.

At Holiday Baskets last December, young people pulled together to help make the program a success. Local schools brought in some of the largest food donations and volunteer groups. One after another, youth groups also arrived with collections of jackets, gifts, blankets, and more. And when word spread that we were still short of items, many children organized drives or fundraisers of their own.

This says a lot about their parents, teachers, and adult group leaders—thank you, too!

*Max Ecke, returning Holiday Baskets volunteer, seems to have found his niche in the food packing area. He is sitting atop some of the 1,600 food boxes packed by volunteers for Holiday Baskets last December.*



*Shayne Walton, Kelly Sakaguchi, and Jenny Taylor's 6th Grade Class at Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary pose with a check they presented to CRC. They raised \$3,215 in just two weeks last December and donated proceeds to charity. Shayne and Kelly suggested adding CRC as a beneficiary—thank you!*

## CRC English Tea Sells Out



Keynote speaker, Carol LeBeau co-presented "In Celebration of Friendship" with the creator of the piece, Susan Haber. A sell-out crowd of 250 supporters attended

what many call the best traditional English Tea in town!

We want to express a special thanks to returning event chair, Karin Kloehn, and her incredible committee: Patricia Moore, Nancy Lyon, Pat Allen, and Diane Stone. Their talent and dedication are an inspiration to all of us at CRC.

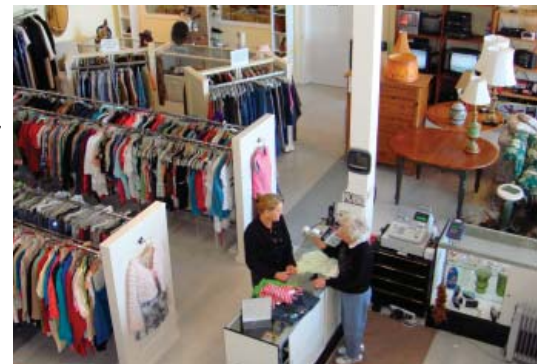
The magically talented group from Pilgrim Church, led by Pat Allen, were also back to make their locally-famous English sandwiches and brewed tea.

*See photos & more on our Website*

## Encinitas Thrift Stores Move & Improve!

Check out our new Thrift Store location at 111 C Street, just opposite the La Paloma on Highway 101 (access parking off of Second Street). After years of operating out of cramped spaces, the Encinitas clothing and furniture thrift shops were able to move to a shared retail space a few blocks north of the old location. CRC negotiated a lease with local owners in early October, and with the assistance of the Del Mar-Solana Beach Rotary, Fred Flihan and family, and a host of community volunteers, the new store opened its doors in November. The new site has its own spacious parking lot, allowing for convenient in-and-out shopping and donation drop offs.

Smart shoppers or *Recessionistas* will find fashionable clothing and other treasures at affordable prices. Locals interested in living a green lifestyle are also avid supporters of CRC's thrift stores, where clothing, furniture, housewares, and collectibles find new homes instead of adding to our landfills.



Donors and shoppers alike are helping to save vital CRC social services programs. Every sale means another person will be helped in our community. "Income from our thrift stores has become our largest source of funding," confirms CRC Executive Director, Laurin Pause. "In these tough economic times, it is important to find ways to augment declining funding to keep essential social services available in our community." CRC also operates thrift stores in Carlsbad, Solana Beach and San Marcos.

# Community Resource Center

650 Second Street • Encinitas CA 92024 • (760) 753-1156

www.crcncc.org



**Our Thrift Stores**  
Donate. Shop. Change a life.

**Encinitas Thrift Store**  
**NEW LOCATION OFF HWY 101!**  
111 "C" Street  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
Phone: (760) 753-8222

**Solana Beach Thrift Store**  
524 Stevens Avenue  
Solana Beach, CA 92075  
Phone: (858) 481-0650

**Carlsbad Thrift Store**  
3091-A Roosevelt Street  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Phone: (760) 729-5209

**San Marcos Thrift Store**  
208 S. Rancho Santa Fe Road  
San Marcos, CA 92078  
Phone: (760) 734-3872

## Important DATES - 2009

- April 18** Annual Garden Tour & Charity Plant Sale
- May 17** Bocce by the Bay Tournament
- September 26** Annual Gala - Celebrating 30 Years
- November 7** An Evening of Harmony Concert
- December 1** Holiday Baskets Sorting Begins  
*Distribution Dates: December 18, 19, 20*

Thrift Store Donations <b>(760) 753-2200</b>	Domestic Violence Hotline <b>(877) 633-1112</b>
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## CRC Garden Tour & Plant Sale

### SATURDAY - April 18, 2009

### 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.CRCNCC.ORG](http://WWW.CRCNCC.ORG) — For phone orders or info, please call (760) 230-6305  
To register by mail, please use enclosed envelope and mail this form to CRC.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Tour Passports at \$25 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend, but want to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:     Check     Credit Card

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_