Synergy: (sin’ar.je) n. 1. a combined and correlated force; 2. united for action.

CCAEJ Year in Review 2009-
Building Community,
Confronting Critical Health Issues,
Investing in the Future.

Look What You’ve Done!

David Negrete foreground- children enjoying the Splash Pad at the Glen Avon Heritage Park’s Grand Opening.
On Saturday, July 18, 2009, many of you joined the Glen Avon community families in celebrating the Grand Opening of our park. Thousands of people showed up to enjoy the music, admire the classic cars, eat lots of food and play on the park equipment. The squeals of delight could be heard throughout the 13-acres as the children ran and splashed through the Water play Splash Pad.

Your financial support has left a legacy of caring that will last for years to come. You’ve made it possible to bring a lot of happiness and joy to the children and families of our community. And the fun hasn’t stopped all summer.

Open from 8 am to 8 pm the park has proven to be a center for community activity, hosting birthday parties, soccer games, basketball games, daily walks and hikes.

Local Hot Rods drew crowds of admirers.

Children (of all ages) play in Splash Pad.

Even a broken leg couldn’t keep Penny from the festivities. Dan Rodriguez, J’ARPD, assists Penny in cutting the Ribbon.
Jan Misquez Memorial Fellowship
Continuing Her Leadership Legacy

March 2nd would have marked the 49th birthday of our dear friend and colleague - Jan Misquez. At the end of 2009, our hearts were broken when we lost this courageous warrior to a long and painful battle with cancer. Jan had a heart of gold, a smile that would brighten any room and was a friend to everyone she met. And she had the courage, tenacity and persistence to create change.

Jan served on the Board of Directors for CCAEJ and was hired as a Campaign Director to head our San Bernardino office. Jan was a staple of San Bernardino activism fighting to move OmniTrans LNG refueling station out of the residential neighborhood; fuel in Rialto’s drinking water; planting trees; and confronting the BNSF railroad and its pollution. She helped to develop our SALTA program to educate and raise awareness to the environmental health issues facing her community. Jan was a member of the San Bernardino Police Commission and ran for City Council when she saw the Westside was being ignored. Her passion, drive and kindness inspired us all. She played a leadership role on statewide issues through the Modesto Avila Coalition, THE Impact Project and the California Environmental Justice Alliance and became a close friend to Senator Nell Soto. She will be missed by so many that have been touched by her bright smile and warm heart and remembered for her love of music and spur of the moment funky dance routines.

In honor of Jan and the legacy of community organizing she leaves for the Westside of the City of San Bernardino, and as a tribute to the work to which she committed her life, CCAEJ has established a Jan Misquez Memorial Fellowship. Through the fellowship we will provide new opportunities for leadership in communities like the Westside for years to come. The Jan Misquez Fellowship will allow someone from an EJ community to work with CCAEJ for one year to learn new skills, participate in special training and develop their talents in order to become an effective community organizer. Each year a new fellow will be selected increasing the number of trained community organizers for the Westside and the Inland Valleys.

You can be a part of this opportunity to help build people power and honor Jan's life by donating to her Fellowship Program. Make your check or credit card donation to:

Jan Misquez Memorial Fellowship Fund, c/o CCAEJ PO Box 33124, Riverside, CA 92519.
Your donations make a real difference in people’s lives. With your support, Inland County residents were successful in forming a Task Force of local, state and federal agencies to address the myriad of pollution sources operating in communities from Mira Loma to Colton and on the Westside of the City of San Bernardino. Joining forces through the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice they demanded action on the extreme levels of pollution facing their families every day.

The Task Force came together following a tour of the area where local residents from Mira Loma, Colton, and the Westside of the City of San Bernardino explained their issues, told how they were affected and offered solutions through a Platform for Action developed by the community residents.

In one stop in Mira Loma, they heard from residents in Mira Loma Village, a housing tract with 101 homes on Etiwanda. Agency staff were appalled at the number of warehouses surrounding these homes. More than 800 trucks an hour pass within 20 feet of these homes. Everyone was in tears as one father in Mira Loma described his pain in watching his 15-year-old daughter die of lung cancer. “Instead of planning my daughter’s Quinceañera, I was planning her funeral.”

Despite their heavy pollution burden, the county has proposed 6 new warehouses directly next to homes at their fence line, and another 11 warehouses across the street at the Space Center. Mira Loma is known to have the highest levels of particulate pollution in the nation and children in this community, according to USC’s Children’s Health Study have the weakest lung capacity and slowest lung growth of all children studied in southern California due to particulate pollution.

The participants engaged in a full day discussion of the problems and how the various agencies could help in addressing them and left with a strong commitment to take action to solve this horrendous condition.
Three Major Studies Underway

In 2008, a report was released by California Air Resources Board documenting the extremely high health risk posed by this facility. According to the Health Risk Assessment, the San Bernardino BNSF railyard poses a \textit{3,300 in a million cancer risk}, more than 3 times higher than any other railyard and 330 times higher than allowed under the Clean Air Act. As one resident said, "If they know they are polluting and they're hurting people, they should do something"

These alarming statistics have prompted three major studies to be undertaken in the community. CCAEJ is a partner in each of these studies providing a link between the researchers and the community.

**UCLA** – Under a grant from South Coast AQMD, Dr. John Froines will look at the compounds connected to the particle pollution and match them to known health effects.

**Loma Linda University Study**— Loma Linda is conducting a review of medical records to determine the types of illnesses currently showing up in the community.

**The Delta Group/UC Davis** – Under the direction of Dr. Thomas Cahill researchers are studying the speciation of the particles. Much like DNA they can ascertain the actual source of each particle.

In addition to the BNSF site, issues arose concerning illegal business operations like an auto body shop, OmniTrans refueling operation, Robertson’s Cement operation in the Lytle Creek Wash. Agency Staff were astonished that the cement facility had no fencing to keep children and students at the adjacent Arroyo High School away from the dangerous equipment.

**Community’s Platform for Action for BNSF Railyard**—
- Convert all equipment to the newest and cleanest available as soon as possible.
- Install hood technology to capture emissions from idling locomotives.
- Allow only new trucks, utilizing the cleanest alternative fuels to service the railyard.
- Convert all off road equipment to cleaner alternative fuel machinery.
- Provide funds to residents, schools and businesses within a mile radius of the facility to retrofit, upgrade or repair their homes, campuses and businesses in order to reduce exposures – adding heating/air conditioning units with filters or filters on existing units; dual pane windows; stucco to outside surfaces, etc
- Provide a 1000 foot buffer zone. Priority would be to move the railyard away from homes, rather than disrupt families or relocate homes. Relocation will only be done on a voluntary basis.
- Establish a health clinic in the community to provide health services and monitoring for local families exposed to BNSF pollution.
- Make available the Breath Mobile from South Coast Air Quality Management District to monitor children’s lung function.
- Establish truck routes that reduce exposure to diesel emissions emanating from the vehicles.
- Explore the feasibility of moving the entry gate away from the park, Child care center, homes, and schools.
Charmed by this spunky 2 year old pulling her backpack behind her, DTSC staff were horrified to find that instead of her backpack being stuffed with toys and books, Marissa’s carried her air compressor nebulizer, necessary for her to breathe. Vowing that no child should have to live this way, DTSC staff dedicated this report to little Marissa.

Want To Do More?
Here’s how you can help.

- Continuing your financial support.
  - Make sure your membership dues are up to date.
  - Give an extra donation (tax deductible no time better than before the end of the year).
  - Tell your friends about the great work CCAEJ is doing and get them to join.

- Sustainability Committee - Become a member.
  - CCAEJ’s Board is forming a Committee to outline a plan for the long term sustainability of CCAEJ – they are exploring establishing an Endowment, Major Donors and Planned Giving program.

- Board Member – CCAEJ currently has openings for positions on our Board of Directors – if you are interested give us a call for more information.

Board of Directors:

- Maggie Hawkins, President
  Program Manager/Master of Public Health Program, Claremont Graduate University School of Community & Global Health
- Nancy White, President Elect
  Retired, School Teacher, President SB Community Action Partnership
  San Bernardino First Five Commissioner
- Irma Pithey, Secretary
  Owner Interpreter 4U, providing translation services.
  Member American Translator Association
- Teresa Flores Lopez, Financial Officer
  Resident, San Bernardino Westside
- Wendy Eads, Parliamentarian
  Retired School Teacher, Ordained Minister
- Jean Kayano – Administrative Officer, Knotts Family Institute
- Gwen Knotts – Executive Director Knotts Family Institute


This important report is dedicated to Marissa (pictured on right) a 2 year old San Bernardino resident with asthma. DTSC staff met her while touring conditions on the Westside of San Bernardino.
CCAEN’s strength and focus comes from its members and supporters – individuals who contribute their energy and time to help us achieve environmental justice in the Riverside and San Bernardino area. We are deeply indebted to you who have helped to make 2009 such a successful year, especially our SALTA graduates, Community Action Team (CAT) members and our Neighborhood Assessment Teams (A-Teams).

Penny Newman

RIVERSIDE


SAN BERNARDINO

A-Team - María Hernandez, Maria Birrueta, Jose Velazco.

CAT Team - Rudi Flores, Ericka Flores, Juan Carlos Aispuro, Josefina González, Marilyn Alcantar, Jose L. Velasco, Consuelo de la Cruz, Teresa Flores Lopez, Maria G. Hernandez, Miguel Hernandez, Marcia Reyes, Estela Hernandez, Juanita Costilla, Lorena García, Estela García, Rebeca Ulloa, Candelario Cortez, Rebeca Hernandez, Alicia Hernandez, Ramón Hernandez, Maria Teresa Birrueta, Beverly Kitchen.
We are also grateful for the continued support by the following funders who have demonstrated their confidence in our work through their generous financial support.

**Foundations:**
The California Endowment  
The California Wellness Foundation  
The James Irvine Foundation  
The Wm. & Flora Hewlett Foundation  
The New World Foundation  
University of Southern California  
The Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock  
The Annenberg Foundation  
Roth Family Foundation  
California Breathing  
The Women’s Foundation

**Government:**
Public Health Institute  
National Institute of Health (NIH)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
San Bernardino Dept. of Public Health  
Murray Hayden Urban Parks Grant  
AQMD – BP Settlement Grant (UCLA)

**Partnerships:**
THE Impact Project  
California Environmental Justice Alliance  
San Bernardino Green  
Labor/Community Network Alliance

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**Special Thanks to our 2009 Individual Donors**

**Toxic Avengers**  
Kathy Phelan  
Ken Kammeyer  
Jan & Penny Newman  
Gideon Kracov  
Sybl Acree  
UFCW Local 1167  
Ed Begley, Jr.  
Total Telco  
Larry Robinson  
Unique Mailing Store

**Super Supporters**  
Deenaz Coachbuilder  
Tim Christianson  
Rosa Martinez  
Nellie Proctor  
Eddie Dee Smith Center  
Sam Daniel  
David Derkacz  
Jean Danielson  
Corey Briggs  
Dorothy Brown

**Booster**  
Kelly Dodd  
Bob & Mary Green  
Margaret Hawkins  
Jim & Bev Huber  
D.J. Masker  
Michael Nimkoff  
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Parker  
Ellen Reese  
J. Scott Rodriguez  
Stephen Rusher  
Stan & Christine Smith  
Olivia Torres  
Rick Worthington  
Ralph & Iola Smith  
John Cornwell  
George Hague  
Charlie & Hazel White  
Betty Stinson  
Mary Lou Morales  
Patricia Butler  
Ken Cheuvront  
Catherine Barrett-Fischer  
Jack & Victoria Fuller  
Janette Pratini  
Henry & Rosemarie Sartar  
Dina Stallings  
Bernard & Carolyn Van Aaist  
Nancy White  
Teresa Flores Lopez  
Surekha Acharya  
Wendy Eads  
Maria Birrueta  
Rudi Flores  
Paul Kissick  
Tulia Lopez  
Josita McGuire

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**CCAEJ Recognized with National Environmental Justice Achievement Award**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented the 2009 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to CCAEJ and its partners in the Clean Trucks Program, a coalition of 21 groups working to reduce pollution levels at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.
2009 Statement of Activities

Operating Support and Revenue

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grant Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants and Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$16,412</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
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Expenses

<table>
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<th>Expense</th>
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<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$198,759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,362,434</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income

- Foundation Grants $825,600 (57%)
- Government Grants-Contracts, $607,418 (42%)
- Membership $16,412 (1%)

Expenses

- Fundraising $28,925 (2%)
- Management and General $198,759 (15%)
- Program, $1,134,750 (83%)

Graphs show the distribution of income and expenses over the years.
On November 14, 2009, more than 70 University students came together to better understand environmental justice and strategize on how they as students can help communities facing these extraordinary pollution challenges. Planned and executed by student interns working at CCAEJ, the day provided a tour of the Stringfellow Acid Pits; warehouses in Mira Loma and the notorious BNSF railyard in the Westside neighborhood of San Bernardino. They heard from local residents on the impacts to their families health and quality of life. After lunch the students broke into small groups and outlined a plan of action to add support for these neighborhoods.

One of the suggestions was to hold a Faculty Summit to draw their professors into the discussion.
Green Zones
For Environmental & Economic Sustainability
A project of the California Environmental Justice Alliance

Communities of color, low-income and immigrant communities have long struggled with a toxics crisis that has been exacerbated by discriminatory land use practices that diminish health, safety and quality of life. Residential communities have been opened up for industrial development near new freeway development while truck routes are targeted to low-income communities.

For the past few years, CCAEJ has been part of The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), a statewide coalition comprised of six extraordinary base-building environmental justice organizations with strong community roots in critical urban and rural regions of California. They are: the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN); the Center for Community Action & Environmental Justice (CCAEJ); the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE), Communities for a Better Environment (CBE); the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC); and People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER).

CEJA is advancing a new concept to address the ongoing environmental and economic inequities that exist in our communities. We define “Green Zones” as neighborhoods or clusters of neighborhoods currently suffering from environmental pollution, lack of economic opportunity and services and threatened by displacement and gentrification. This strategic approach strives to direct significant public investments to these areas and stimulate private investment in new “green” technologies, jobs and industry development.

CEJA, composed of six grassroots organizations with remarkable achievements on the local level, is now combining forces to advance this concept at a state and federal level as a way to demonstrate the paradigmatic shift that we believe must occur for communities to become healthy, sustainable neighborhoods.

CEJA is partnering with scientists Jim Sadd (Occidental College), Rachel Morello-Frosch, (UC Santa Cruz) and Manuel Pastor (USC) who have developed a methodology called the Environmental Justice Screening Method (EJSM), designed to identify and map cumulative impacts and social vulnerabilities at the neighborhood-level using a set of indicators. The selection of indicators is based on: hazard proximity and land use; health risk and exposure; and social and health vulnerabilities. The EJSM combines land use and census data and evaluates proximity to air pollution hazards. The results are expressed as a cumulative impacts (CI) "score" applied to specific locations, such as census tracts or other geographic units. CEJA member organizations will involve our leaders and community residents in ground-truthing the data - i.e., taking the data to the streets to validate it and enhance it. Community leaders will learn more about their neighborhoods and contribute significantly to the research.

CEJA proposes that these communities could then become eligible for Green Zone designation. If such a designation were to be established at the state and federal levels, community alliances with established and broad based memberships could apply for designation. The first step would require a clear community visioning process with documented, authentic community participation.

Green Zone Communities would be ‘first in line’ for benefits that would include:
- Increased regulatory attention to reduce the existing pollution burden.
- Priority in compliance and enforcement of environmental regulations.
- Job training.
- Significant resources for educational, health, alternative-energy and energy-efficiency resources.
- A moratorium on building new polluting sites or expansion of existing sites.

A ‘Green Zone’ approach will advance a paradigm shift for bringing justice to our communities. Through a focus on the whole community with tangible resources and benefits, environmental justice communities will be able to correct the mistakes of the past and achieve the health and quality of life residents demand and deserve.
In recent months it’s become very obvious that the Inland Valleys of Riverside and San Bernardino need to get our act together if we are to confront the pressing air quality issues facing us all. The last straw for me was reading in a report where we were described as “suburban Los Angeles”.

Thanks to your help, CCAEJ has begun the formation of an Inland regional coalition to focus on clean air in our lifetime. I Breathe, I Care, I CAN! is the call to action for us all.

Individuals, neighborhoods, schools, groups, churches, businesses, serious about cleaning up the air are invited to join us in this effort. Give us a call if you’re interested in joining the network. Now is the time for action!!!

CCAEJ plans to kick off the network with a Clean Air Summit after the first of the year.

We’ll have health researchers with the latest information on how our dirty air affects our health; scientists that can explain what we can do to protect ourselves; and policy makers on efforts to reform the laws so companies can’t continue to pollute in search of their profits.

It’s time to put the Inland Valleys on the map stop being the black hole between LA and San Diego – stop being the dumping ground for everything LA, Orange County and San Diego doesn’t want.

It’s time that the Inland Valleys live up to its full potential: one where residents health comes first; community sustainability is considered; and the good quality of life is available for all our neighborhoods.

Let’s get the bad stuff out – bring the good stuff in and build our communities to be safe, healthy and prosperous places for us to live, work, learn and play.