

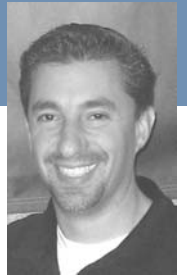
Voices for just COMMUNITIES CENTRAL COAST

FALL/WINTER 2007

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Changing lives. Transforming communities. Advancing justice.

Recapping a Successful Inaugural Year FROM JARROD SCHWARTZ, JUST COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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It's hard to believe that we are about to complete our first full year as Just Communities Central Coast. Its been an exciting six years since we first opened our doors as NCCJ. In this time, we have grown from a one-person office reaching 80 people per year to a four-person office reaching over 1,000 people per year. Now we have eight formal programs as well as custom designed trainings and consultations with schools, nonprofits, community groups, and government agencies throughout the tri-counties.

As we enter the last several months of 2007, I am excited to report that 2007 saw not only a successful transition from NCCJ to Just Communities, but also our most successful year yet as an organization. A few of the accomplishments highlighted in this newsletter include:

- The expansion of our *Institutes for Equity in Education*, which was named "the nation's most promising strategy for addressing racial and ethnic achievement gaps" by the Institute for Democratic Renewal, and *IEE* is poised for further expansion throughout Southern California.
- The expansion of our work in the healthcare sector by assisting five Ventura-based non-profit care providers develop culturally proficient care to Latinos and other patients of color.

This critical work would not have been possible without the incredible support and dedication of our program graduates, volunteers and donors. And, with your continued support, we are looking at an even stronger year in 2008. *Thank you!*

Jarrod Schwartz is the founding Executive Director for NCCJ Central Coast and Just Communities.

About JUST COMMUNITIES

Vision

JUST COMMUNITIES envisions an equitable and inclusive Central Coast where all people are connected, respected and valued.

Mission

JUST COMMUNITIES advances justice by building leadership, fostering change, and dismantling all forms of prejudice, discrimination and oppression.

Thank You, *CommUnity Leadership Institute* Sponsors!

YOUR GIFTS GO A LONG WAY TO SUPPORT THE CLI & CLI CAN DO YOUTH PROGRAMS

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To **DONATE** to *Just Communities*, visit www.justcommunitiescc.org/donate or call 805.966.2063. Checks made out to **PHFE—Just Communities** can be mailed to our office.

Calendar Updates

QUESTIONS? CONTACT 805.966.2063

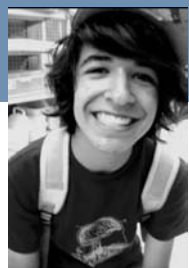
2007

- Nov. 6 IEE Alumni Network Meeting*
3rd Fl. Conference Rm.
- Nov. 17 Dismantling Racism Workshop
UCSB MultiCultural Center
- Dec. 4 IEE Alumni Network Meeting
- Dec. 8 CLI CAN DO Follow-up Meeting (SB)

2008

- January CLI Winter Reunion
- January Dismantling Classism Workshop
Santa Maria
- Jan. 15 IEE Alumni Network Meeting
- Jan./Feb. Just Communities Open House
- Feb. 9 CLI CAN DO Follow-up Meeting (SM)
- Feb. 19 IEE Alumni Network Meeting
- March Dismantling Sexism Workshop
Santa Maria
- Apr. 12 CLI CAN DO Follow-up Meeting (SB)

* Location remains the same for event.



Central Coast Youth Promote Social Justice COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI) GRADUATES LEAD THE WAY

I've always looked up to my older brother, Harrison. I respect his actions and his commitment to social justice, and there was a point when I thought, "I could never do so many things as he did." It wasn't until I went to CLI that I felt inspired to step out of his shadow and into my own shoes.

For one week at CLI, all walls—along the lines of race, gender, class, and other identities—were abolished, creating an atmosphere that I have never been in. Being in that space opened my eyes to the experiences of other people in a profound way, and it inspired me to try to make the world a similar place. I wanted to make a difference.

That is where CAN DO Leadership Team comes in. I joined CLI's *Change Agent Network for Dismantling Oppression (CAN DO)*, which is a year-round youth-led initiative that teaches skills to use in schools to promote social justice.

I know past CLI graduates, such as Harrison, have accomplished a lot to promote social justice in their own communities. For example, most of the Gay Straight Alliance clubs and social justice clubs in Central Coast high schools were started by CLI grads. I believe going to CLI or a program like CLI should be mandatory for every high school student in order to graduate. If this occurred, we would be living in a better world today.

Max Nalevansky, is a Junior at Santa Barbara High School. Max is a CLI Graduate, Class of 2007, is the Co-Coordinator for the CLI CAN DO Leadership Team, and volunteers regularly at the Just Communities office.

Members of the Leadership Team include Brett Cockrum (Santa Maria), Esther Flores (Santa Barbara), Omar Gonzalez (Santa Barbara), Angelica Hernandez (Goleta), Jillian Keller (Santa Ynez), Lydia Nelson (Paso Robles), Aly Putney (Santa Maria), Seth Watterson (Oxnard) and Ana Alicia Zepeda (Reseda)

Dismantling the Racial Achievement Gap

JUST COMMUNITIES EXPANDS THE INSTITUTE FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Education is the cornerstone to the success of each person, yet too often the educational system is set up to the disadvantage of students of color.

The *Institute for Equity in Education (IEE)* is a program designed to directly address the troublesome issue of the racial achievement gap, and it is part of a larger strategy designed to transform Central Coast schools into models of equity and inclusion.

IEE began as a partnership with the Santa Barbara School Districts. In January 2007, IEE was adopted by the Institute for Democratic Renewal/

Project Change as the centerpiece for their new Educational Equity Network—a national initiative to close the academic achievement gaps in our schools through race-conscious approaches. The *Institute* is now offered twice per year in California's Central Coast, once per year with the Long Beach Unified School District, and will expand to the San Diego Unified School District in early 2008. Year-round follow-up sessions have also been added in order to continue the learning and momentum of change developed at the Institute. Next summer, IEE will further expand from a 3.5 day Institute to a 4.5 day program.

Since its inception in 2005, exactly 100 teachers, counselors, administrators, and school personnel have graduated from the program.



IEE participants **Abe Jahadmy, Barbara Keyani, and Kelly Thrasher** review an exercise with **Phil Hunsberger**, IEE Senior Faculty member from St. Louis, Missouri.

Community Spotlight

NEWS ABOUT JUST COMMUNITY'S
VOLUNTEERS, GRADUATES, & STAFF

October— Jack Rivas, Just Communities Board Chair, and Kayla Barnes, CLI Youth Leader, discuss the subject of youth violence in a TV interview for *Community Matters*.

September— CLI Graduate Amy Chong examines socio-economic disparities in an article titled *Class Differences*, featured in the *Santa Barbara Independent's* "Senior File."

August— Former Development Associate, Vanessa Solis, is awarded a CalSWEC's Title IV E Fellowship to pursue her Masters in Social Welfare at San Francisco State University. • Former volunteers, Carol & Dick Grier make news in Salt Spring Island, British Columbia after mobilizing their community to combat a string of homophobic hate crimes directed towards their neighbors.

July— CLI Graduates & Youth Leaders, Miriam Alvarez-Pintor and Hazel Putney, are honored at PUEBLO's 3rd Annual Plaza del PUEBLO for their contributions as PUEBLO Youth Committee Chairs.

April— Advisory Board member Art Hicks receives a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his service as a Tuskegee Airman.

Inaugural Conference Launches National Network A HOPEFUL FUTURE FOR THE NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR JUST COMMUNITIES

Our Inaugural Conference for the National Federation for Just Communities took place this past September in New Brunswick, New Jersey. It was the culmination of several months of visioning and groundwork, and it launched the new NFJC into existence with Just Communities Central Coast serving as a founding member organization. To sum it up in a few words: it was a resounding success.

One of the highlights of the event was the work put in to the creation of our strategic plan for the next four years. This key plan will go along way in ensuring that NFJC will serve as a true resource for member organizations such as Just Communities Central Coast. Ultimately, we will see the development of a vital network for like-minded organizations working across America to bring the values of diversity, inclusion, and social justice to our communities, schools, workplaces, and institutions.



Attendees of the NFJC Inaugural Leadership Conference gathered in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Jack Rivas, is the Board Chair for Just Communities Central Coast and is a Board Member for NFJC. Jack also serves on the Just Communities Development Committee, a Faculty Member for the Institute for Equity in Education, and was a CLI Youth Ally volunteer. Jack works at UCSB as an Academic Advisor.

Addressing Healthcare Inequity in Ventura County BUILDING MORE INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

This past Spring, Just Communities was hired by the Ventura County Community Foundation to work with five Ventura-based healthcare providers as part of VCCF's *Culture, Collaboration, & Capacity* initiative. This came about after a 2006 report commissioned by VCCF detailed the "status, barriers, and gaps in health care services that affect Latinos in Ventura County."

As part of this collaboration, Just Communities delivered the *Cultural Competence, Awareness, Respect and Equity (CARE)* program, which provides healthcare professionals with tools and information they need in order to reduce the bias, prejudice, and institutional inequities that serve as barriers to providing culturally respectful treatment to all patients. Another strategy towards cultural competence was to strengthen effective board leadership and focus through the *Beyond Names & Numbers* program, which promotes the creation of diverse and inclusive boards more capable of effectively leading their agencies to respond to the needs of all constituents. Just Communities continues to work with the VCCF and continues to serve as facilitator, coach, and resource to the community.

FACTS ABOUT HEALTHCARE INEQUITY

"A large body of published research reveals that racial and ethnic minorities experience a lower quality of health services and are less likely to receive even routine medical procedures than are White Americans."

—Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, Institute of Medicine, 2002

SOLUTIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Just Communities works with practitioners, providers, and policymakers to ensure that all people have access to the highest quality, culturally proficient care and treatment.

Your Just Communities BOARD & STAFF ROSTER

Board Chair

Jack Rivas - Santa Barbara

Treasurer

Antoin Dghlawi - Lompoc

Secretary

Sally Mueller - Ventura

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Kate Adams - Santa Maria

Angela Caballero de Cordero - Santa Maria

Angelica Hernandez - Goleta

Max Matthies - Santa Barbara

Steven Nalevansky - Montecito

Michaela Simpson - Santa Barbara

Kelly Slattery - Montecito

Tara Uliasz - Santa Barbara

Frann Wageneck - Ojai

Elena Yee - Santa Barbara

Marina Zamarron - Ventura

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Alan Ewalt - Montecito

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Art Hicks - Lompoc

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Dean Palius - Solvang

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Kimberly Rosa - Santa Maria

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Rosie Samler - Santa Barbara

Helene Schneider - Santa Barbara

Guy Walker - Santa Ynez

Susan Weber - Santa Ynez

Jane Weblemoe - Agoura Hills

Reynaldo Ybarra - Goleta

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Just Communities Central Coast advances justice by building leadership, fostering change, and dismantling all forms of prejudice, discrimination and oppression. Just Communities envisions an equitable and inclusive Central Coast where all people are connected, respected and valued. Just Communities was established in 2001 as the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of California's Central Coast.

Changing lives. Transforming communities. Advancing justice.

Meet Our New Staff

RAQUEL BERNALDO & CARMELA GALVEZ



Raquel Bernaldo was hired in June 2007 as the new Project Coordinator for Just Communities. Raquel assists with the planning, implementation and follow-up of key programmatic, fund development and administrative projects and tasks. Raquel is also a member of the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training Internship Class of 2008. Raquel has been connected to Just Communities in various volunteer capacities

since 2001. Most notably, she has served as a former founding board member, a *CommUnity Leadership Institute* Co-Director, and as a Faculty Member and Administrator for the *Institute for Equity in Education*.

Raquel holds a double major in English and Sociology from UC Riverside. At UCR, Raquel served as Student Chair of the UC LGBTIA Association and Co-Chair of the Western Regional LGBTIA Conference.

Raquel was born in Santa Monica and grew up in Ojai, California. She is the second of four children in her family.

Carmela Galvez was hired in August 2007 as the new Development Director. Carmela develops strategies for resource growth, serves as a liaison to supporters, and communicates the vision and the vital work of Just Communities. Carmela has prior experience in fundraising and program coordination with local community-based organizations.



Carmela holds a B.A. in Political Science from UCSB as well as Project Management Professional Certification from UCSB Extension. She serves as a board officer for League of Women Voters Santa Barbara (LWVSB) and she is a member of the LWVSB Study Committee on Immigration. Carmela also served as a consultant for PUEBLO and the Pueblo Education Fund, and she Co-Chaired PUEBLO's 3rd Annual Dinner.

Carmela was born in the Philippines and has resided in Japan, the Phoenix metropolitan area, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Carmela believes deeply in the dignity of every person, the personal responsibility to act, and the ever present hope that change is possible.