Bus. (213) 738-2770
Fax (213) 386-3995
allnew399@aol.com
http://dcss.co.la.ca.us/CAA/CAA.htm

MIKE A. GIPSON
Chairman
COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD

County of Los Angeles
Community & Senior Services

3175 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90020

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CSS BOS DEPUTIES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD (CAB)
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

A Conversation with America
National Poverty Kick-Off Tour and Rally

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTIONS.....Mike A. Gipson, Chairman
-CAB Members

II. BACKGROUND
a. National Community Action Partnership
b. National Poverty Kick-Off Tour and Rally

III. STATUS REPORT
-Event Planning Committee

IV. PROCLAMATIONS
a. Month of May: Community Action Month
b. Statement of Support

V. CLOSING

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD (CAB)
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

A Conversation with America
National Poverty Kick-Off Tour and Rally

TENTATIVE PROGRAM OUTLINE

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2003
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting

1. Introductions: National President to the Board of Supervisors
2. Tour: Media ride-alone to two CSBG Program sites
3. Welcome Reception: Los Angeles City Hall Towers

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2003
Los Angeles City Council Meeting

1. Press Conference – Mayor's Office
2. Introductions to the City Council
3. Photo Opts
4. Rally: Steps of City Hall
   -Program for Rally (To be completed)

In 2003, the National Office of the Community Action Partnership will make poverty the focus issue facing community action and our nation.

Recently, the author of a book entitled "Growing Up Empty" suggested that poverty and homelessness is hidden in America. Tucked away in the shadows of American cities are millions of people representing various cultures and races who are unfed, unclothed, and unable to free themselves from the clutches of poverty. The task and challenge of community action is to reveal their faces and stories.

This year the National Office annual tour is entitled; A Conversation with America National Poverty Tour.

This tour will be like no other in community action history. The National Office plans to identify four of the poorest cities in the country to be visited by the national president for an overnight stay in a local impoverished community. The rationale behind this historic endeavor is:

- To provide the National Office with first hand knowledge about the looks and feel of poverty.
- To help put a human face on poverty and reveal in word and film the weight and worry of living in poverty.
- To attempt to bring national focus to the realization of people living in poverty in the midst of plenty.
- To capture a documentary on poverty for the National Office to use for program development and training.
- To rally the community action network and keep it focused with laser-like precision on fighting poverty.
- To document the need for continued or additional support from federal agencies to combat poverty.
- To express and explain how significant community action is in terms of fighting poverty in America.
- To demonstrate to political and corporate leaders the need for funding to eradicate poverty.
- To link impoverished families with a local community action agency that will assist them.

> Derrick Len Span
> National President
> Community Action Partnership, National Office
> 1100 17th Street, NW
> Suite 500
> Washington, DC 20036

Ending Poverty in America
National Tour
Kick-Off Rally

May 14, 2003 - City Hall, Los Angeles, CA

- May is Community Action Month. Derrick Span of the National Community Action Partnership will be touring the country to draw attention to Community Action's work. Derrick will kick-off his national tour at this major rally in Los Angeles.

- CAA's in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino are organizing this event. Labor groups, hundreds of community-based organizations, faith-based groups, and elected officials will be there. Up to 5,000 people are expected to attend.

- Bring your board, staff and clients to this Rally to End Poverty in America on the steps of City Hall.

More information to follow

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD
3175 West Sixth Street / Los Angeles, California 90020-1798
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ROBERT RYANS, Director
Community & Senior Services

MIKE J.EARLEY, Executive Director
Community Action Agency

MIKE A. GIPSON, Chairman
Community Action Board

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YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
DON KNABE
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

February 6, 2003

Honorable Gloria Molina
Supervisor First District
Board of Supervisors
856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Molina:

ENDING POVERTY IN AMERICA – NATIONAL KICK-OFF TOUR AND RALLY

This is to notify you that May is Community Action Month. On Wednesday, May 14, 2003, the City and County of Los Angeles will join with Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties and the Cities of Long Beach and Pasadena in hosting a rally focused on efforts to eliminate poverty in our communities. The rally, which is scheduled to occur on the steps of LA City Hall starting at 11:30 a.m., will help advertise the Community Action Partnership (CAP) and introduce the new National President of the CAP, Mr. Derrick Len Span.

Poverty is still with us and is very complex. Poverty is as threatening to the internal security of this nation as any external threat. There are solutions to poverty and a major contributor to the solutions is the CAP. The CAP consists of cities, counties and non-profit organizations in our community who are serving and assisting families and individuals in their fight to eliminate poverty and become self sufficient.

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. CAP cares about the entire community and is dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. The May 14th Rally will be a collaborative effort involving all sectors concerned about poverty such as business, labor, the faith-based community, senior citizens, education, and government. **Your support and presence is needed and vital to the success of this event.**

As the event planning activities progresses, I will keep you informed. Your office may contact me at (213) 368-6235 or Ms. Gwen Johnson, CAB Coordinator at (213) 738-2682 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Mike A. Gipson, Chairman
Community Action Board
gj

c Ms. Louisa Ollague, Legislative Deputy

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January 29, 2003

Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Second District
Board of Supervisors
866 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Brathwaite Burke:

ENDING POVERTY IN AMERICA – NATIONAL KICK-OFF TOUR AND RALLY

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Sincerely,

Mike A. Gipson, Chairman
Community Action Board
gj

c Sr. Deputy Del Huff
Deputy Julia Orozco

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February 6, 2003

Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Third District
Board of Supervisors
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Yaroslavsky:

ENDING POVERTY IN AMERICA – NATIONAL KICK-OFF TOUR AND RALLY

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Sincerely,

Mike A. Gipson, Chairman
Community Action Board
gj

c Ms. Adinah Solomon, Deputy

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ROBERT RYANS, Director
Community & Senior Services

MIKE J.EARLEY, Executive Director
Community Action Agency

MIKE A. GIPSON, Chairman
Community Action Board

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February 6, 2003

Honorable Don Knabe
Supervisor Fourth District
Board of Supervisors
822 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

ENDING POVERTY IN AMERICA – NATIONAL KICK-OFF TOUR AND RALLY

This is to notify you that May is Community Action Month. On Wednesday, May 14, 2003, the City and County of Los Angeles will join with Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties and the Cities of Long Beach and Pasadena in hosting a rally focused on efforts to eliminate poverty in our communities. The rally, which is scheduled to occur on the steps of LA City Hall starting at 11:30 a.m., will help advertise the Community Action Partnership (CAP) and introduce the new National President of the CAP, Mr. Derrick Len Span.

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Sincerely,

Mike A. Gipson

Mike A. Gipson, Chairman
Community Action Board
gj

c Ms. Linda Tarnoff, Deputy

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ROBERT RYANS, Director
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MIKE J.EARLEY, Executive Director
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MIKE A. GIPSON, Chairman
Community Action Board

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

February 6, 2003

Honorable Michael Antonovich
Supervisor Fifth District
Board of Supervisors
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

ENDING POVERTY IN AMERICA – NATIONAL KICK-OFF TOUR AND RALLY

This is to notify you that May is Community Action Month. On Wednesday, May 14, 2003, the City and County of Los Angeles will join with Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties and the Cities of Long Beach and Pasadena in hosting a rally focused on efforts to eliminate poverty in our communities. The rally, which is scheduled to occur on the steps of LA City Hall starting at 11:30 a.m., will help advertise the Community Action Partnership (CAP) and introduce the new National President of the CAP, Mr. Derrick Len Span.

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Sincerely,

Mike A. Gipson

Mike A. Gipson, Chairman
Community Action Board
gj

c Ms. Raine Ritchey Deputy
Ms. Jennifer Plaisted

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What is a Community Action Agency?

Community Action Agencies are private nonprofit or public organizations that were created by the federal government in 1964 to combat poverty in geographically designated areas. Status as a Community Action Agency is the result of an explicit designation by local or state government. A Community Action Agency has a tripartite board structure that is designated to promote the participation of the entire community in the reduction or elimination of poverty. Community Action Agencies seek to involve the community, including elected public officials, private sector representatives, and especially low-income residents in assessing local needs and attacking the causes and conditions of poverty.

Purpose and Mission

In order to reduce poverty in its community, a Community Action Agency works to better focus available local, state, private, and federal resources to assist low-income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Structure

A Community Action Agency:

- has received designation as a Community Action Agency either from the local government under the provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, or from the state under the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1981, as amended;
- is recognized as an eligible entity as defined in the CSBG Act and can receive funding from the state under the Community Services Block Grant;
- has a governing board consisting of at least one-third democratically selected representatives of low-income people, one-third local public officials or their designees, and the remainder representatives of business, industry, labor, religious, social welfare, and other private groups in the community; and
- belongs to a national network of similar agencies, the majority of which received their initial designation, federal recognition and funding under the amended Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Mission

A Community Action Agency carries out its mission through a variety of means including:

- community-wide assessments of needs and strengths
- comprehensive anti-poverty plans and strategies
- provision of a broad range of direct services
- mobilization of financial and non-financial resources
- advocacy on behalf of low-income people
- partnerships with other community-based organizations to eliminate poverty. A Community Action Agency involves the low-income population it serves in the planning, administering and evaluating of its programs.

Why Community Action Agencies Are Unique

Most poverty-related organizations focus on a specific area of need, such as job training, health care, housing, or economic development. Community Action Agencies reach out to low-income people in their communities, address their multiple needs through a comprehensive approach, develop partnerships with other community organizations, involve low-income clients in the agency's operations, and administer a full range of coordinated programs designed to have a measurable impact on poverty.

Community Action Agencies: a profile

The Community Action network

Community Action Agencies are nonprofit public and private organizations created to fight poverty at the local level. The CAA network was established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which was signed by President Lyndon Johnson and declared an "unconditional War on Poverty."

Today, Community Action Agencies can be found in 96 percent of the cities and counties in the United States, including the Trust Territories. There are nearly 1,000 local CAAs, connected by a national network that includes a national association, regional and state CAA associations, a national lobbying organization, and a national association of Community Service Block Grant administrators.

Community Action professionals have nearly 40 years of experience in mobilizing and targeting scarce resources to best meet the needs of the low-income community. CAA staff work closely and with great success in both the public and private domain, leveraging support from diverse sectors of the community.

Community Action Agencies are a primary source of support for the 32.9 million people living in poverty in the United States.

The majority of CAA clients are extremely poor. Nearly 40 percent of the families served have incomes below 75 percent of the federal poverty threshold — $11,265 for a family of three in 2002 (the average family size for the client population).

CAA professionals expertly coordinate and integrate an array of services at the federal, state, and local levels. CAA staff, board members, and volunteers use innovative solutions to help people achieve self-sufficiency.

A Community Action Agency is governed by a uniquely structured volunteer board of directors: at least one-third is comprised of representatives from the low-income community; up to one-third is from the private sector; and one-third is local, elected public officials.

In this way, the CAA integrates diverse groups to find the most effective solutions to the problems facing those in need.

CAAs vary widely in staff and budget size, number of programs, and complexity. They benefit greatly from the use of volunteers. Volunteers annually contribute about 30 million hours of service to CAAs — the equivalent of nearly 13,000 full-time employees.

Recent surveys provide some general information about CAAs. CAAs, as a network, serve:

- about 10 million individuals a year
- more than 4 million families per year
- 2.8 million children in poverty
- over 2 million adult clients with low education levels, and other sub-populations with typically high poverty rates, such as the elderly living alone.

In addition:

- 10 percent of CAAs serve urban areas,
- 54 percent of CAAs serve rural areas
- 36 percent of CAAs serve both urban and rural communities.
- The service area of the average CAA is comprised of approximately 300,000 people, of which approximately 37,600 are low-income people.
- The CAA network uses the Community Services Block Grant as core operational funding.
- More than $523.7 million in federal and state CSBG appropriations was used to support CAA activities in 2000.
- Every year, CAAs leverage nearly $7 billion in additional resources from federal, state, local, and private sources to fight poverty and change the lives of low-income individuals, families, and communities.

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May is National Community Action Month!

National Community Action Month — showcasing how we help people, change lives, and live the Promise

Helping People. Changing Lives.

Turning hope into reality.

Making America a better place to live.

This is what CAAs do all year for low-income people.

But May, National Community Action Month (NCAM), is when we really shine the spotlight on Community Action as the nation's preeminent poverty-fighting network.

Be creative and have fun!

Host one of the events below or create your own!

- News conference
- Community festival or celebration
- Awards luncheon or banquet
- Local TV or radio appearances
- Event with local elected officials/business leaders
- Job/health fair

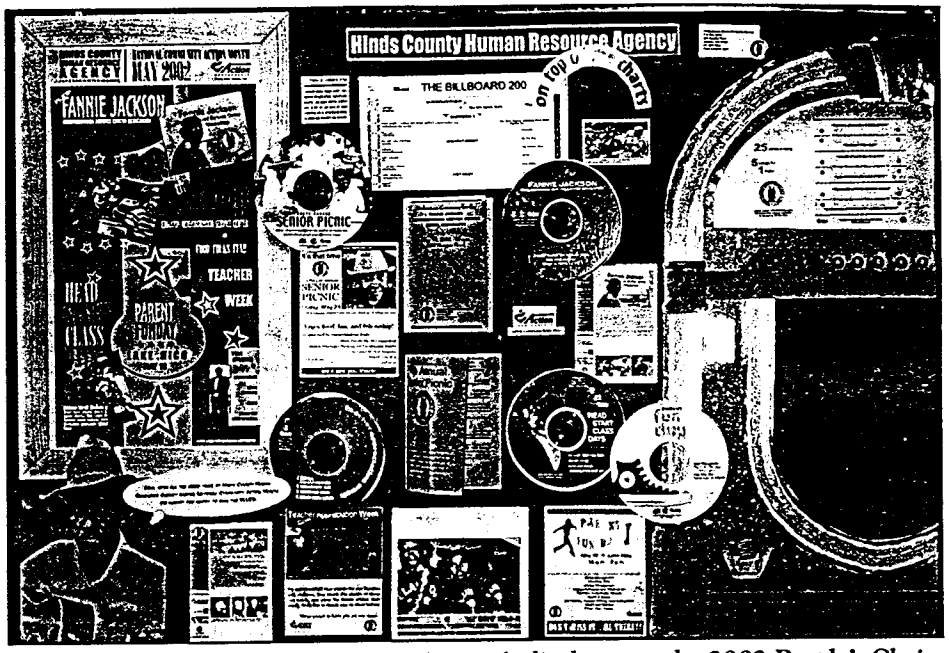
Throughout May, CAAs celebrate their success stories by hosting open houses, town hall meetings, award ceremonies, and job fairs.

They invite political and community leaders to address local poverty-related concerns. They publish editorials highlighting their agencies' services. And they honor the outstanding program participants, volunteers, and staff who are the backbone of Community Action.

To help you prepare, the Partnership publishes the *NCAM Planning Guide* filled with sample news releases, invitation letters, planning tips, and suggested events. Also included are strategies for promoting your activities and obtaining media coverage.

Whatever you do, don't forget to save photos, newspaper articles, proclamations, and programs from your events to place on your NCAM storyboard to display at the 2003 Annual Convention in Anaheim, California (August 26-29).

In addition to a winner from each region, awards are given to the Best State Association, Best of Show, and the popular "People's Choice."



Hinds County Human Resource Agency's display won the 2002 People's Choice Storyboard Award at last year's Annual Conference

Community Action of Nebraska won the award for Best of Show and Best State Association at last year's Conference

Time to renew and rededicate

Derrick Len Span
National President

Last year was an exciting one for the Community Action Partnership. Although I have been here only since June, a great many changes have taken place in that brief time and we have firmly set our course for this year.

A ten-city tour

Soon after my arrival as the National President, I embarked on a "Ten-City Tour." It was an opportunity to visit with many of you in your own neighborhoods as well as at local, state, and regional Community Action conferences and board meetings.

Whenever possible, I took the time to tour your Head Start centers, job training programs, and housing facilities. And I met with your state and local media outlets in an effort to give visibility and emphasis to the issues we face each and every day.

These trips have allowed me to see firsthand how creative and passionate this network truly is. Your innovative programs and services and your dedication to the mission and promise of Community Action are why Community Action works.

Changes at the National Office

At the national office, we are also working toward a new level of creativity and visibility. We are very proud now to officially call ourselves the Community Action Partnership, following the historic vote by the membership to change our name in September 2002.

Our branding initiative enters Phase 2 this year, with our brand culturalization program to train Community Action members to live the Community Action Promise.

New issues in the 21st Century

We have not and will not abandon the core issues of Community Action and the poor people that we serve: housing, jobs, basic needs, etc., but we must continue to evolve and be "perpetually relevant" as we face some very different issues in the 21st Century.

Community Land Security, America's first community-based anti-terrorism program is an example. It is a program that involves training, education, and outreach and will help keep low-income communities safe by linking them to national homeland security efforts and local government offices. We launched the first program in September in Middlesex County, New Jersey, and have plans to roll the program out nationwide.

We are also developing a Community Land Security training and technical assistance manual and plan to offer related training in our training center. The program has already received national attention in *The Washington Post* and on *BET Nightly News.*

Community Action for youth

As you know, we have an outstanding Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) program in place, which recognizes the achievements and leadership qualities of professionals in our network. Now it is time to start training, cultivating, and teaching the future leaders of Community Action.

So this year, we will introduce the Youth Community Action Partnership (YCAP) initiative, a youth auxiliary to local CAAs. Through YCAP, CAAs will work with young people interested in community service careers. It will involve mentoring, support, and group activities to ensure that young adults are groomed to become successful Community Action leaders.

Focusing America on poverty

I plan to visit more of the most vulnerable, at-risk communities in the country. We will continue to focus our attention — and raise the visibility of — poverty across America.

The 2003 Poverty Tour kicks off May 14 — during National Community Action Month — in Los Angeles.

The Community Action Partnership accomplished a great deal last year and we will continue to reach out, lead, and listen to you this year.

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