



Yolo County Children's Alliance and Child Abuse Prevention Council

Thousands of people in Yolo County are on edge hoping the recession will end before they lose their jobs or homes. Hundreds of children are going without some of the most basic comforts because their parents haven't been able to make ends meet. They are in need of food, diapers, health insurance and shelter. Sometimes the stress is too much and a home becomes violent.

Those are the challenges facing the Yolo County Children's Alliance and Child Abuse Prevention Council (YCCA). The Children's Alliance is a children's collaborative working to improve the well-being of children, youth and families in all the communities of Yolo County.

"They say the recession has ended --- but not in Yolo County!" says YCCA Executive Director Katie Villegas. "We still have many children and families experiencing tremendous stress, which unfortunately can result in uncontrolled anger directed at defenseless children"

To address these needs YCCA has applied for grants from organizations such as First 5 Yolo, and has asked for community support from individual and business contributions made through United Way California Capitol Region and the Woodland United Way.

Yolo County Supervisor Don Saylor, chairman of the YCCA, said, "We work tirelessly to help Yolo County children and their families during these tough times. Sometimes that means food, sometimes health insurance for the kids and sometimes its intervention to prevent child abuse."

Programs and services of the Children's Alliance include:

- Providing free fresh fruit and vegetables each week in West Sacramento;
- Partnering with the Treasure Box in West Sacramento to provide \$100 worth of food for \$32;
- Providing counseling support to pregnant women and families with newborns, along with home visits through the Step-by-Step / Paso a Paso program;
- Distributing essential items for children such as clothing, diapers, shoes, jackets and safety standard cribs;
- Partnering with new and teen parent groups to present our child safety program, Baby Steps, which includes a great video presentation about dealing with crying babies and the stress of having a newborn.
- Helping families to enroll and retain their children in free or low-cost health insurance programs;
- Helping qualified families to enroll in Food Stamps;
- Helping qualified families to access tax refunds and Earned Income Tax Credits.

So far during 2011, the Children's Alliance has helped families apply for and receive more than \$100,000 in refunds and tax credits they might not otherwise have gotten.

To learn more about the Yolo County Children's Alliance and Child Abuse Prevention Council call 530-979-6555 or visit www.yolokids.org. Contributions through United Way are always greatly appreciated!

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