



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment

RANCHO HOUSING ALLIANCE
GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES



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CALIFORNIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$225,000 TO ECVSCC TASK FORCE TO CURB ILLEGAL DUMPING

DACE, in its capacity as fiscal sponsor of the Eastern Coachella Valley Social Change Collaborative (ECVSCC), was granted \$225,000 in December to implement a three-year dumping and burning education and abatement program spearheaded by the ECVSCC's Oasis Dumping and Burning Task Force.

The grant funds, provided by The California Wellness Foundation, will enable task force members to develop educational materials relevant to the affected communities (Oasis, Mecca, Thermal, North Shore and the Torres Martinez Tribal Reservation), as well as broadcast the dangers of hazardous waste disposal — from incineration of garbage to the discard of electrical appliances — on vacant lands.

Chiefly, the funds will target youth populations in the program area, supplementing the current health curricula that is offered at the elementary and junior high school levels.

Agencies involved with the task force include Poder Popular, Riverside County Code Enforcement, and Loma Linda University's School of Public Health.

SLOGANS SELECTED FOR BLYTHE/PALO VERDE VALLEY BRANDING EFFORT

The Palo Verde Valley Economic Development Partnership (PVVEDP) has identified the winners of its 2007 slogan contest. They are: "The East Coast of California" — submitted by Kevin Eoff; "Small Town, Big Adventure" — submitted by Jason Bram; and, "The Doorway to Adventure" — submitted by Jason Bram.

These slogans will be used by the PVVEDP in a forthcoming marketing and branding campaign that will highlight the natural features and overall allure of the Palo Verde Valley.

Mr. Bram and Mr. Eoff are both instructors at Palo Verde College. They will be awarded \$200 in gift certificates from local merchants.

SPIRIT OF GIVING

DACE/RANCHO employees and families celebrated 2007 with tamales, refreshments and live entertainment at its annual Christmas party, held at the DACE Resource Center on Dec. 19th (top right).

Local dignitaries — including Coachella Mayor Eddie Garcia and Asst. City Manager Steve Brown (below right) — joined the holiday cast of characters, with Mayor Garcia belting out a rousing karaoke rendition of 'Jingle Bell Rock.'

For the children, prizes were offered for the best Christmas tree drawing.

Also present were members of the DACE/RANCHO Executive Board, which convened earlier in the day.



Wishing you and yours a safe and pleasant new year, from all of us at DACE/RANCHO.