

## Effective Partnerships

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors is committed to building strong relationships with local, regional and federal partners. To best serve the community, Stanislaus County departments have found innovative ways to utilize partnerships to leverage resources and expand services to the public.



The goals and measures for this Board of Supervisors priority were developed by a cross-functional group of departments who have a primary role in supporting the other six Board of Supervisors priorities. This broad-based team provides an organizational perspective for the goals and measures. The Effective Partnerships team is comprised of the Auditor-Controller, Chief Executive Office – Office of Emergency Services, Child Support Services, Community Services Agency, Environmental Resources, Library and Park and Recreation. All Departments are key partners in meeting the expected outcomes of the Effective Partnerships priority.

The primary focus of this priority team is the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors' Effective Partnership Recognition. The first annual Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Effective Partnership Award was presented at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on September 29, 2009. Since that time, the recognition award has been presented to six departmental partnerships:

- ◆ The Parks Department's Empire Regional Water Safety Training Center
- ◆ Children and Families Commission's Family Resource Center/Child Abuse Prevention Project
- ◆ The Department of Environmental Resources' Stanislaus County Food Processing By-Product Use program
- ◆ The Chief Executive Office Employee Mentor program
- ◆ Child Support Services Probation project
- ◆ The Latino Emergency Council

Although Stanislaus County continues to experience unprecedented reductions in funding and staffing resources, the needs of the community have not diminished. County departments continue to find innovative ways to use partnerships to leverage resources to maintain services to the public.

*"We should never forget the value of a shared vision – to strive to be the best in all that we do. By coming together we will accomplish much. By working together we will thrive as an organization and as a community."*

*Richard W. Robinson, CEO Stanislaus County*

## **“Effective Partnerships for a Stronger Community”**

Andrew Carnegie once said that *“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”*

Each year, the Board of Supervisors recognizes two outstanding departmental partnerships. This year the Stanislaus County Effective Partnership Recognition Committee, comprised of Supervisor Dick Monteith, Keyes Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) member Jeff Reed and Jessica Smart from the City of Modesto proudly announce the partnerships chosen to receive the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors’ Effective Partnership Recognition. The Department of Child Support Services/Probation Project has been chosen in the inter-governmental partnership category and the Latino Emergency Council (LEC) has been chosen in the category recognizing partnerships with non-governmental agencies/organizations.

The Department of Child Support Services (SCDCSS) and the Probation Department created a unique partnership to promote awareness of the child support process and increase the collection of child support from individuals on probation. This partnership is the first of its kind in California and has been effective in engaging an otherwise marginalized population in both their probation and child support responsibilities. The success of this partnership is demonstrated by the increased child support collections of over \$32,000 from 269 direct payments made by individuals towards their child support obligations. In addition, 212 of those cases received a payment for the first time. Since the inception of this partnership, it has been showcased at the state level and several local child support agencies have benchmarked the partnership and plan to implement similar programs in their Counties.

The Latino Emergency Council (LEC) was created in the fall of 2005 to formalize a communications channel with leadership of the Latino community and the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services in the event of a disaster situation. The LEC has assisted in emergency response for the County Office of Emergency Services during the H1N1 Swine Flu outbreak, multiple heat emergencies, West Nile virus and cold weather issues. Members have also assisted in disaster exercises, community emergency preparedness events and multiple community events around the County. LEC members created a partnership for the Homeland Security Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) and have been responsible for recruiting more than 125 members of the Latino community for the 25-hour program. Individual LEC members have distributed more than 10,000 pieces of emergency preparedness literature to the Latino community in an effort to build self-sufficiency in the event of a health hazard or other emergency situations. The Latino Emergency Council is an outstanding example of a community based, grass roots effort to educate and empower the community.

The names of this year’s winning partnerships will join previous winners on the plaque located in the Board Chambers foyer and will serve as a longstanding testament to the outstanding efforts of Stanislaus County employees and their partners.