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HUNGER FACTS

NEWS RELEASE



• News from the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition to help hungry people •

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COMMUNITY GARDEN RECRUITS INNER-CITY RESIDENTS, ADVOCATES, POLICE IN SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

LOS ANGELES (Westlake area)---The Burlington Ave. Community Garden, an innovative project developed by a local community group with help from inmates, AmeriCorps, area businesses, garden advocates, and police in the Westlake area, will be open to the public on **Sunday July 23 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.** The address is **415 S. Burlington**. Resident gardeners will be tending their plots and giving tours.

The garden, an assortment of vegetables, herbs and fruit trees planted on three vacant lots, is sponsored by MASH (More Advocates for Safer Homes)-L.A., a grassroots group of Westlake residents. 4Cs Reentry (Central City Community Center), a halfway house for inmates close to release, contributed much of the labor. Common Ground, a citywide group that promotes community gardens, VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and the USDA AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team, through the Interfaith Hunger Coalition, helped organize the project. AmeriCorps is President Clinton's National Service Campaign.

The garden is essential in giving the local community a chance to grow some of its own food. Studies show that inner city residents have less access to supermarkets, pay higher costs for food and have less access to fresh fruits and vegetables than those in suburban areas.

"We've enlisted a diverse population to work and contribute to the garden", said Harvey Fazio of AmeriCorps. "Local businesses donated money, police officers provide security, and we even have inmates on work furlough from the Department of Corrections work extra hours because they love it so much".

"This was a drug and crime ridden encampment for many years, but now it's a place of beauty for the soul as well as a source of food for the body", said Nola-Marie Mott of MASH. "Growing things can offer us sustenance and hope."

Other groups like L.A. Harvest and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps lent advice; support and volunteers. Neighborhood children contributed by painting the wall around the garden.

Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director

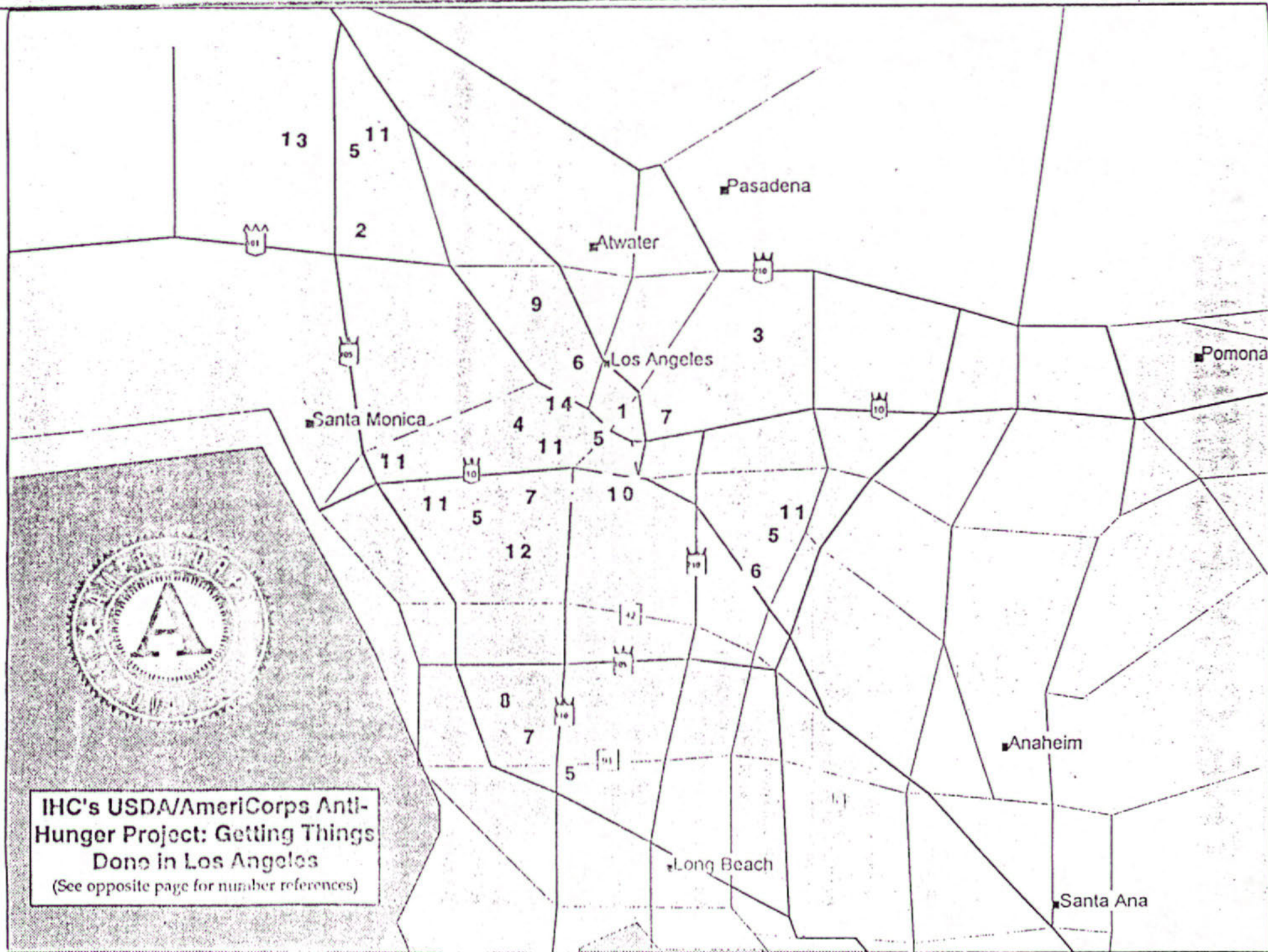
• 2449 Hyperion Avenue • Suite 100 • Los Angeles, CA 90027 • Ph. 213/913-7333 • Fax 213/913-7333 •

IHC'S USDA/AMERICORPS ANTI-HUNGER PROJECT: GETTING THINGS DONE THROUGHOUT L.A.

The Interfaith Hunger Coalition's USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Project has been active all over Los Angeles County. The map on the following page indicates where some of the various projects they have worked on are located. These include:

1. **Esperanza Elementary School Garden** successfully developed by the team.
2. An "asphalt garden" with raised beds at **Cherameya Elementary School**.
3. Organized parents to embrace the garden work of their children at **Hammell Elementary School**.
4. **Youth Anti Hunger Conference** for 1,000 high school students on April 6.
5. **Healthy Eating Is Fun** presentation to eight elementary schools. Three of them are on LAUSD's Homeless Schools roster.
6. **WIC** outreach at offices in East L.A., Boyle Heights and Downtown.
7. Homeless services including transitional housing, benefits advocacy and case management through **Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, House of Yahweh, and Downtown Women's Center**.
8. Instrumental in getting **Summer Food Program** to the city of **Inglewood** (with three sites).
9. Staffed the **1-800-EAT-N-GRO** hotline at IHC to inform parents of Summer Food Sites.
10. **Summer Food Mini-Conference** with IHC and Bread for the World.
11. **"Start Your Head"** campaign to encourage children to eat breakfast; presentations at various schools.
12. Working in development of **microenterprise** in South Central: "Sun Rais"
13. Instrumental in starting a **farmers market** in **Van Nuys** (opened April 1)
14. Community garden with a strong volunteer base at **Burlington Garden**, involving community businesses, city council members, Los Angeles Police Department, and local financial institutions

For more information on these and future projects, call (213) 913-7326. The first group of AmeriCorps members will graduate on July 27.



Item 3

Sample Evaluations:

- Healthy Eating is Fun presentations
- Youth Anti-Hunger Conference.

INTERFAITH
HUNGER
COALITION

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Publications: (213) 684-1692

We at AmeriCorp would like to say thank you for allowing us to come to your school with the "Healthy Eating is Fun" program. We would like to know what you thought of it.

1 ☒ Great

2 ___ Good

3 ___ Bad

Do you think we should have it next year?

YES ☒

NO ___

Thank You,

TERRI PIGGEE

A wonderful group of young people.
Our students enjoyed the presentation!

Please return

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1 ☒ Great

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Do you think we should have it next year?

YES ☒

NO ___

Thank You,


TERRI PIGGEE

So what did you think?

Youth Anti-Hunger Conference Evaluation Form

We at the Interfaith Hunger Coalition are so happy that you were able to participate in today's conference. To help us make next year's event even better, please answer the following questions:

Please rate the following topics on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is best):

(circle your choice)

1) Keynote speaker Jim Scheibel 1 2 3 4 5

2) Start Your Head Presentation Christy Porter 1 2 3 4 5

3) Workshop Session 1 1 2 3 4 5

Which workshop did you go to?: WHO'S HUNGRY

4) Workshop Session 2 1 2 3 4 5

Which workshop did you go to?: HOMELLE YOUTH

5) Did you feel the conference was organized well? (circle your response)

Yes, Very Well Organized / Somewhat Organized / Not Well Organized

6) How much did you learn at the conference? (circle your response)

Learned a lot Learned a Fair Amount / Learned a Little Bit / Learned Very Little

7) Would you come to the Youth Anti-Hunger Conference next year?

I Would Definitely Come / I would Probably Come / I Might Come / I would Not Come

8) How strongly would you recommend that your friends come to the YAHC next year?

Very Strongly / Somewhat Strongly / Marginally recommend / I Would Not Recommend At All

9) Please write any additional comments you have about your experience at the conference today. YOUR INPUT MEANS A LOT TO US!

AS A TEACHER SPONSOR, I WAS IMPRESSED
MOST BY THE QUALITY OF THE WORKSHOPS AND THE
VALUABLE LITERATURE FROM THE NUMEROUS BOOTHS.
OVERALL, A VERY WELL RUN CONFERENCE. THANKS FOR
PROVIDING THE BUS, FOOD, SHIRT, AND THE DIVERSITY OF
THE STUDENT POPULATION IN ATTENDANCE.

So what did you think?

Youth Anti-Hunger Conference Evaluation Form

We at the Interfaith Hunger Coalition are so happy that you were able to participate in today's conference. To help us make next year's event even better, please answer the following questions:

Please rate the following topics on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is best):

(circle your choice)

1) Keynote speaker Jim Scheibel 1 2 3 4 5

2) Start Your Head Presentation Christy Porter 1 2 3 4 5

3) Workshop Session 1 1 2 3 4 5

Which workshop did you go to?: YOUTH ANTI-HUNGER CLUBS

4) Workshop Session 2 1 2 3 4 5

Which workshop did you go to?: HOMELESS YOUTH

5) Did you feel the conference was organized well? (circle your response)

Yes, Very Well Organized / Somewhat Organized / Not Well Organized

6) How much did you learn at the conference? (circle your response)

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Very Strongly / Somewhat Strongly / Marginally recommend / I Would Not Recommend At All

9) Please write any additional comments you have about your experience at the conference today. YOUR INPUT MEANS A LOT TO US!

THANKS FOR ORGANIZING SUCH A GREAT
PROGRAM. YOU GUYS (PERSONALLY) TAUGHT
ME A LOT. HOPEFULLY WE WILL BE
ABLE TO REACH OUT AND HELP PEOPLE
IN OUR COMMUNITY.

↓ Thanks

So what did you think?

Youth Anti-Hunger Conference Evaluation Form

We at the Interfaith Hunger Coalition are so happy that you were able to participate in today's conference. To help us make next year's event even better, please answer the following questions:

Please rate the following topics on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is best):

(circle your choice)

1) Keynote speaker Jim Scheibel 1 2 3 4 5

2) Start Your Head Presentation Christy Porter 1 2 3 4 5

3) Workshop Session 1 1 2 3 4 5

Which workshop did you go to?: Next Step: College Activism

4) Workshop Session 2 1 2 3 4 5

Which workshop did you go to?: What it like to be hungry

5) Did you feel the conference was organized well? (circle your response)

Yes, Very Well Organized / Somewhat Organized / Not Well Organized

6) How much did you learn at the conference? (circle your response)

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Very Strongly / Somewhat Strongly / Marginally recommend / I Would Not Recommend At All

9) Please write any additional comments you have about your experience at the conference today. YOUR INPUT MEANS A LOT TO US!

I learned a lot here at the YAHC. I really enjoyed it. I am going to go back to my school and recommend friends to attend the convention next year. I'm also going to try to organize a Hunger Club at my school. Thanks.

Item 6

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) April
training schedule, sites, and number of people
trained.

USDA-NRCS

OR-INF-1 REV. 12/84

AmeriCorpsNEWS

Date: June 1, 1995

USDA Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Contact: Lillian Woods
202-274 6914

For Immediate Release

GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES, NATURALLY

WASHINGTON, DC -- Looking for a place to grow fresh vegetables in the Southeast Washington/Forest Height Community? Come on out to the new Southern Community Garden located at the Southern Avenue Shopping Center. Community meetings and sign-up for garden plots will be June 3, 1995 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and June 10, 1995 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the garden.

The Southern Community Garden will help improve our environment, bring unity and cooperation among community members, temporarily overcome cutbacks of welfare programs and stretch family food budgets.

Community members are welcomed and asked to join the AmeriCorps Teams June 1-2, 1995 for Community Clean up Days to remove trash, build fence, and prepare the ground. As a joint Washington area national service activity, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team, USDA/AmeriCorps Environmental Team, Environmental Protection Agency/Council of Governments AmeriCorps Team, and DC Service Corps will work in partnership with local churches, community organizers, community members, and Cooperative Extension Service to prepare the Southern Community Garden.

(more)

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7227 (voice) or (202) 720-1177 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

AmeriCorps is the new national service movement that engages thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds to help meet the education, public safety, human, and environmental needs of our nation's communities. This event shows that AmeriCorps members are part of the solution to environmental problems in Washington.

Act now to get your garden plot on June 3rd or 10th and start growing fresh vegetables.

-end-



Good News for the Capital City

Bad things tend to overshadow the good. More and more people are growing skeptical, wondering if anything truly good happens in this world, in America, and in all places, Washington, D.C. People want to know that good things do happen.

The "World" section of my daily paper reports the latest set of complex humanitarian crises on the international stage (there are currently 27 and the number is rising). Turn the page to the "National" section and read about the most recent episode of layoffs due to corporate downsizing, the latest statistics on our alarming illiteracy rate, the increasing number of violent crimes, racism, on and on it goes. I am disheartened that there seems little good to report. Reading the daily newspaper and watching the nightly news is a sobering, if not downright depressing, hobby.

Many of our problems appear out of control; we can only respond with dismay. Yet, some problems are not only manageable, some are solvable. I speak specifically of hunger. We have the resources and technology to create a hunger-free environment. Yet people go hungry in America...and that is bad news.

Of all the places in this land, Washington, D.C. ought to be free of hunger. It should be a model city, a "City on a Hill," for the nations of the world to watch with admiration and longing. Washington symbolizes the very watchwords of the American dream: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If there is any city where those words can be lived out fully by everyone it ought to be in America's leading city.

Instead, Washington, D.C. is a city divided against itself. Think of the opposite images: On one hand, there is "Washington," home to Capitol Hill, the White House, and the Supreme Court,

the center of power for our Federal Government. On the other hand, there is the "District of Columbia," known for its crime rate, illiteracy rate, and poverty rate — home to many who are alienated, dislocated, and powerless.

The economic disparity in Washington, D.C. is astounding. The greater metro area simultaneously has one of the highest income levels and one of the highest child poverty levels in the country. In 1991, residents amassed \$14.6 billion in personal income, while one in four children went hungry. The median household income is 30 percent higher in D.C. than the federal average, yet three out of four low-income households live under 50 percent of the national poverty level. The gap between the "haves" and "have nots" is explicit. Rather than the "City on the Hill," a shining beacon of hope to the world, Washington, D.C. is a city too hungry and weak. That is the bad news... Yet, good things do happen in spite of statistics.

Through a unique partnership, the Congressional Hunger Center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Corporation for National and Community Service, are attempting to address our nation's critical hunger needs at the community level. The result of this partnership is the USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team of Washington, D.C.

The D.C. Anti-Hunger Team, as it is called, is a ten-member group providing direct community service in area food banks, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters, providing nutrition education and food safety training to all people of all ages and backgrounds, and empowering communities through the promotion of sustainable agricultural efforts such as community and school gardens, farmers' markets, and gleaning.

The Team's vision is twofold. The first is to help restore Washington to its rightful place as America's leading city, to make our nation's capital known for its lack, rather than its overabundance, of hungry people. The second is to help reconcile Washington with the District by spanning the many differences, economic and otherwise, which form the gulf between the two. It is in this that the Team is most exemplary of good things that can and do happen.

The most profound way the Team bridges the gulf is in the diversity of its Members. The Team is comprised of African-Americans, Latino-Americans, and a Caucasian-American. Ages of its Members range from 18 to 38. Some Members have had extensive education, including college and international travel, while others do not have a high school diploma. The Team is comprised of people from as far from Washington, D.C. as Washington State and New Mexico, as well as those who have lived in D.C. all their lives. Some have been homeless and dependent on public assistance, while others have held successful professional jobs. Members are from the very communities they serve.

To those who want to know that good things do happen, the answer is yes. We must look a little harder, that is all. The D.C. Anti-Hunger Team demonstrates how people can overcome differences to make their community better. If such a diversified group can accomplish this, there is hope for us all — and that is good news.

Representative Tony P. Hall (Democrat of Ohio) is Chairman of the Congressional Hunger Caucus