

SEPTEMBER 2010 E-NEWSLETTER

From the Director

The economists have declared that the recession is over, but it would be hard to convince the millions who are out of work and not able to find a job. One of the bright spots in this otherwise gloomy picture for the Employment and Human Services Department has been the *Subsidized Employment and Training Program* [SET]. Last October, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Department to launch the SET program in order to create job opportunities for CalWORKS parents as well as for other low-income adults and youth. The Department teamed up with the Housing Authority of Contra Costa who acted as the employer of record. We placed SET participants in over 200 worksites in both public agencies, non-profit organizations, and for-profit businesses. The SET program was funded largely by federal stimulus dollars. Federal dollars were used to subsidize the wages of SET participants for up to 6 months with the employers providing a small "in-kind" match. The results exceeded all of our expectations. In the last year, we have placed over a 1,000 adults and youth in public, non-profit, and private sector jobs. The average wage received by adult program participants was \$11.64/hour and for youth \$8.25 an hour. Worksites were spread evenly across East, Central, and West County and placements spanned a diverse array of occupational categories. A breakdown of the types of jobs created is shown below:

- Office/Admin Support 28%
- Food Preparation 2%
- Sales/Retail 10%
- Health Care 2%
- Maintenance/Repair 20%
- Community/Social Svc 38%

Not only did the SET program provide adults and youth with valuable work experience at a time when jobs are hard to come by, but a number of employers were so happy with the performance of

their new employees that they chose to hire them permanently after the subsidy period was over. In many ways, the SET program has successfully achieved one of the original goals of the CalWORKS program to help families achieve economic stability through employment. Unfortunately, Congress has not yet taken action to extend the funding for the program. It is our hope that the success of the SET program in creating jobs and improving family self-sufficiency will prove persuasive in the Congressional deliberations.

Joe Valentine, EHSD Director

1st Annual Walk for Fall Prevention

Please join us on Saturday, September 25th, at 500 Ellinwood Way in Pleasant Hill for the **1st Annual Walk for Fall Prevention**. This is a fun, non-competitive event for all ages and abilities to promote fall prevention awareness in Contra Costa County. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:15 a.m. There will be free coffee, bagels, fruit, yogurt and water; free lip balm and sunscreen; exercise instruction in Tai Chi, belly dancing, aerobics, Cane do and more!

Registration fees are \$10 for those age 60 and over, and \$25 for those younger than 60. If you prefer to register on line, you can click on www.fallpreventionwalk.org to do so.



Joe Valentine, Director

40 Douglas Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 ★ Phone: (925) 313-1579 ★ Fax: (925) 313-1575 ★ [Contact Us](#)