

El Centro de Accion Social, Inc

April 30, 2008

Dear El Centro Friend,



Your help is needed now more than ever. State budget cuts are undermining our childrens' futures and crippling public schools and community organizations!

One of our programs with a documented significant and positive impact on over 200 children a year – the Summer School in the Park – is at risk of being canceled!

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That means 200 Kinder – 12th grade youth will not receive math, science and language arts instruction that can make the difference between failing a grade or moving on to a brighter future. And they won't receive the program's free breakfast and lunch when they "hang" at the corner instead of learning to read, write and do math.

Board of Directors Those 200 children and youth need you. Become a sponsor and help us raise the \$90,000 that will ensure that our kids receive the academic, cultural and esteem-building programs they and their parents have come to treasure.

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Save our 2008 Summer School in the Park!

Summer School in the Park has touched the lives of thousands of children. It is a five-week program that focuses on essential academic subjects such as math, science and language arts. The program, held at El Centro's headquarters in Central Park has documented as much as a 40 point improvement in math and reading assessments (from 44% comprehension to 80%) and a 95% increase in knowledge of A-G requirements. Working with assessment tools provided by PUSD, El Centro found that all students who completed the program in 2007 significantly improved their test scores in reading fluency, vocabulary and math.

In addition, students are introduced to a community of concerned adults; the Armory Center for the Arts collaborates during Summer School in the Park; the Occidental College Theater department presents a play for the Summer School in the Park; the Pasadena Library provides a librarian who reads and plays a guitar for the younger children in the Summer School in the Park; the Pasadena Fire and Police both bring equipment and make presentations during the Summer School in the Park. We also partner with the City of Pasadena's Rose Program.

This summer is critical! Summer School in the Park offers an unparalleled opportunity to reach a broad, multi-ethnic group of youth with a special focus on anti-violence strategies and anti-gang programs. Let them meet positive role models and hear success stories that they can make their own. Summer School in the Park students will become "Peace Ambassadors" in their communities as they become engaged in an advocacy campaign to reduce violence within their communities. Without El Centro, they are on their own.

Instead, students learn about Pasadena and Los Angeles history through field trips, learn to put their neighborhood in context and see that they have alternatives. They are introduced to Pasadena Community College and begin to understand their options.

Summer School in the Park truly needs your support. Participants are recommended by the school district and parents who trust our program. Many of our students return every Summer to our program.

With your help, we can move these youth toward success by helping them to learn more academic skills and personal improvement skills during the Summer.

Please make a donation or sponsor the El Centro 2008 Summer School in the Park program. The kids will directly benefit from your help.

Become an official sponsor of Summer School in the Park. Your sponsorship of \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 will make a significant contribution to paying for our teachers, teacher assistants, field trips, and school supplies.

Sincerely,

Randy Jurado Ertll
Executive Director