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CEDC TO HOST ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE CESAR CHAVEZ DAY ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Ventura, CA—The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) will host the Fourth Annual Cesar Chavez Day of Learning and Service at its Villa Cesar Chavez Farmworker Family Apartments located at 381 E. Hueneme Road in Oxnard on Saturday, March 28, to commemorate the birthday of legendary labor leader Cesar Chavez. The event, which is open to the public, will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will end at 10:00 p.m.

In addition to CEDC, the other hosts of this year's event will be California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI), Arts for Actions (<http://arts4action.wordpress.com/>), the resident council at Villa Cesar Chavez, and other local organizations. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the history and legacy of Cesar Chavez and farmworkers who harvest the local produce that graces our tables. The event also provides an opportunity for youth and children to learn about the importance of engaging in their community in positive ways.

This year's educational and cultural activities include a community garden project for children ages 5-11, a financial literacy workshop for youth, a Capoeira class by Capoeira Batuque (for information, contact mike_3@hotmail.com), story time and face painting for children. A formal presentation about the history of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers' (UFW) union, started by Chavez, will be a featured activity at the event. Entertainment will be provided by the Inlakech Cultural Center including a local mariachi band and folklorico dancers. Food will also be served.

After viewing and discussing the UFW movement and the role Cesar Chavez played in the farmworker struggle, local artist Chuy Leon (<http://chuyleon.com/>) will direct an art project for youth and seniors. The art project will be a mixed-media collage that will combine historic images of the UFW movement and new images produced by youth and seniors depicting current struggles of farmworker families in Ventura County. The finished art piece will be included in a silent auction immediately before the upcoming Kris Kristofferson concert to benefit farmworkers on April 24.

On Saturday, there will also be an art exhibit by youth and local "at risk" artists who participate in the local Arts for Action's "Paint not Prison" program. The artists will display various drawings and sketches inspired during their recent lessons in fine art techniques and in their analysis of the prison system and graffiti issues. In early May, students will put their new art skills into practice by designing and painting a community mural in the South Oxnard.

"It's inspiring for youth to learn what differences people like their parents and grandparents made in this region and in the country, and it calls on youth to create positive change in their communities for the next generations," says Priscila Cisneros, Community Building Manager

for CEDC. “It is meaningful and eye opening to know how many people were inspired by Cesar Chavez to take action to change the conditions in which they worked and lived, so farmworkers and their families would be treated with dignity and respect.”

CEDC is a private non-profit community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,000 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental housing, manages 440 affordable rental units, and has helped more than 450 families into homeownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 220 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC’s 28th year of operation.

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