



**For Immediate Release:
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FUNDRAISER SET TO RAISE MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND MINI-GRANTS TO BENEFIT LOW-INCOME CEDC RESIDENTS

Ventura, CA – The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) will host a fundraiser to benefit the Rodney Fernandez Community Building Fund (RFCBF) on Saturday, August 25 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Arroyo Verde Park (5000 Foothill Road, Ventura). Tickets to the lunch/fundraiser are \$30 each, and proceeds will go toward recognizing this year's scholarship and mini-grant recipients, and to raise funds for next year's awards.

The RFCBF gives scholarships and mini-grants to Ventura County residents living at CEDC properties who exemplify leadership within their community. The RFCBF honors Rodney Fernandez's legacy of improving the lives of thousands by using a community building approach to developing quality homes and communities for low-income individuals and families. Rodney Fernandez is CEDC's co-founding Executive Director who recently retired after 30 years of service. The RFCBF will continue his work and strong belief in cultivating the leadership capacity of Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation's residents to improve, not only their own lives, but also their communities and beyond.

The RFCBF's first annual scholarships totaled \$6,500 and assisted five CEDC resident students in achieving higher education. Four of the students are working on their undergraduate degrees at four-year universities and one student is working on her master's degree.

Our mini-grant program funded six community building projects totaling \$3,625. Projects included expanding community gardens at Paseo Santa Clara/Del Rio Family Apartments in Oxnard, Montgomery Oaks in Ojai, and planting a new community garden at Rodney Fernandez Gardens in Santa Paula. Other projects included funding a Fillmore Central Station youth resident's stipend to work as a volunteer coordinator at the City of Fillmore to plan community improvement activities and cultural events, and also funded a group of youth and adults for a field trip to the Social Public Art Resource Center's Great Wall of Los Angeles to further inspire their own intergenerational art mural

project that is under way at Villa Cesar Chavez Farmworker Family Apartments in South Oxnard.

One scholarship awardee is Angelica Amezcua who recently earned her B.A. degree at California State University Northridge (CSUN), graduating Magna Cum Laude and with other academic honors. Angelica began her first term in the Chicano/a Studies Master's Program at CSUN this year. Angelica's family lives at CEDC's Central Station Apartments in Fillmore. She ultimately plans to obtain a Ph.D. and become a professor and an activist in a community that helps underrepresented students to achieve higher education goals.

Attendees at the event will include Rodney Fernandez, this year's scholarship and mini-grant winners and their families, sponsors of the event include: Toro Enterprises; Latino Town Hall of Santa Paula; Kaiser Air Conditioning and Sheet Metal; Slaughter & Reagan LLP; Channel Islands Carpet Cleaning; 4 L&L INC DBA: Four Lads And A Lass Landscaping; WM Surveys, Incorporated, and other friends of the scholarship fund.

Lunch will be provided by Garden Market in Santa Paula and Sabor Restaurant in Oxnard. Albertsons (on Telegraph in Ventura) is donating a cake and cookies to celebrate the achievements of this year's scholarship and mini-grant recipients.

To purchase a ticket, sponsor, donate raffle prizes or for more information or questions, please contact Rena Sepulveda at 805.672.2597 or at rsepulveda@cabrilloedc.org.

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 1,634 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental homes, manages 823 affordable rental units, and has assisted more than 400 families into home ownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 235 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC's 31st year of operation.

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