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Streets Conference**

**Insert - Taco Bell  
Boycott**



## ***Faith community rally on budget justice for the poor***

**Please reserve the date:  
10 am-2pm, Wednesday, May 19, 2004  
SACRAMENTO, CA**

Projected cuts for California's 2004-2005 budget will include a possible 76 percent cut in all health and human service programs. These cuts will eliminate 100,000 children from Healthy Families, will reduce or eliminate all people with disabilities receiving In Home Supportive Services from support for independent living, will eliminate all "Stage Three" child care for those making the transition from welfare to work, will increase the numbers of hours welfare recipients must work without including training or education as part of the requirement, will eliminate \$2 billion from K-12 education funding, will eliminate many homeless programs, and will eliminate mental health regional centers.

The justification for these cuts has been so "everyone will share the pain." **But only the poor, the young, the elderly, and those with disabilities will make ALL the sacrifices in this budget crisis. We must stand for justice in this unjust decision.**

We in the faith community can be silent no longer. We will rally and visit legislators to witness for those in need. Please come and bring other clergy. Please wear robes and other visible signs of your presence. We will rally 10-noon and visit legislators 1-2 p.m.  
**PLEASE join us and let us know of your willingness to bear witness for those in need.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: (916) 442-3036. Call (916) 442-5447 for information.

## ***Southern California Legislative Briefing Day***

**A California for All People  
A Budget Issues Workshop for People of Faith**

**Featuring: Jean Ross  
Executive Director, California Budget Project**

**Senator Richard Alarcon  
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Ending Poverty**

**Elizabeth Sholes  
Public Policy Director, California Church IMPACT**

**Saturday, May 15, 2004  
8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

**First AME Church, 2270 S. Harvard Boulevard,  
Los Angeles CA 90018**

Suggested donation: \$10, but no one turned away

Co-sponsored by:

**California Church IMPACT  
Progressive Christians Uniting  
Los Angeles Council of Churches  
Southern California Ecumenical Council  
Methodist Federation for Social Action**

**Come and learn how the Governor's revised  
budget will affect all Californians**

**California  
Council of  
Churches**  
2715 K Street,  
Suite D  
Sacramento, CA  
95816

**Phone**  
(916)-442-5447

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## ***Fresno Congregation Awarded First 5 Grant to Begin Neighborhood-Based School Readiness Program***

Mt. Carmel Catholic Church has opened the door to a new model of community service and outreach. The church, which is located within one of the most economically impoverished areas of Fresno was awarded \$969,110 to start the Westside School Readiness Program. More than 43% of the neighborhood children ages 0-5 are living in poverty, with residents facing issues such as unemployment, lack of education, disempowerment, health needs, poor housing and low-performing schools. Leaders at Mt. Carmel Church were motivated to create change within their neighborhood and have developed a unique program, which blends input from the congregation, neighborhood residents, area elementary schools and other collaborators.

## ***Please Contact us...***

If your church and/or subsidiary facilities have encountered difficulties with land use issues such as denial of permits, zoning issues, overt bans on construction, or any other discrimination, large or small, please contact us. We are working with an interfaith coalition around religious land use concerns. We and our coalition partners would like to talk to you about your experiences and offer assistance wherever we can. Please contact us at cccinfo@calchurches.org with your story and your contact information. You may also call (916) 442-5447, or you may write to California Council of Churches, 2715 K Street, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95816. Thank you!

***“Many families have had positive experiences with a parish, and know it as a safe location.”***

There are eleven “school readiness” programs funded through First 5 Fresno County, however Mt. Carmel is the only church-based program. Most of the others are operated at elementary school sites. The Program will provide direct services to families that belong to the parish as well as those in the larger community. Many of the services will be offered at the church site, some on Sunday mornings in tandem with worship services! The Early Care and Education Coordinator for First 5, Anne Bouheben, is excited about this new Program. When asked about the strengths a parish-based model brings to such an endeavor, Ms. Bouheben replied, “When we think about families and what entity families would be most comfortable with – a parish fits the bill. Many families have had positive experiences with a parish, and know it as a safe location.”

The Program will give stipends to Fresno City College interns to work with families in 3 primary direct services: family intervention, kindergarten camps, and family support fairs / neighborhood block parties. Family intervention services will be provided in partnership with Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene and Carver Neighborhood Resource Center. Inter-

vention services will include parent/child interactive sessions, home visitation, GED and ESL classes, and pre-employment training. The kindergarten camps will help young children prepare for kindergarten, and will operate at 3 neighborhood elementary schools. The camps will run 3 weeks in the summer months for 4 hours each day. Finally, the parish family support fairs will provide opportunities for an early childhood educator, interns and volunteers to demonstrate developmental activities and literacy trainings to neighborhood families, with immunization services and health care applications available on site. The Program also facilitates partners in an ongoing dialogue that will lead to social action and change around issues of availability of services, living environments, housing and economic development. To learn more about this school readiness program, call Joan Schlesing at 559-896-2099. For information about the potential for funding through First 5 in your county, visit [www.cccf.ca.gov](http://www.cccf.ca.gov).

Submitted by Joan M. Schlesing, CCC's Child Care Project Coordinator, Fresno County

## ***Crisis on the Streets: Homeless Women and Children in Los Angeles***

**A summit to address one of our city's most pressing concerns**

# **SAVE THE DATE**

**May 4, 2004**

**8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Davidson Conference Center  
University of Southern California

Join service providers, policymakers, business leaders, congregations, and clergy as they address issues raised by Bring L.A. Home, the blue ribbon panel organized to end homelessness. The summit will focus on the special needs of homeless women and children and create opportunities for future collaboration. At the event the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture will release a report on the topic.

Sponsors:

**USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture  
Union Rescue Mission**

**Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness**

**California Council of Churches**

**For more information, call 213.740.8562**

**[www.usc.edu/crc](http://www.usc.edu/crc)**

## **Support our Work for Justice Today!**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for California Council of Churches

Make checks payable to the California Council of Churches (tax deductible for educational work)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for California Council IMPACT

Make checks payable to California Church IMPACT (non-tax deductible for advocacy work)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to California Church IMPACT/  
California Council of Churches  
2715 K Street, Suite D, Sacramento CA 95816

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## ***Congregations Caring for Children***

**Become a Summer Food Feeding Site**

Signing up as a food service site means nutritious, prepared meals will be delivered to your location. Thousands of children receive free and reduced-price lunches during the school year, but when school is out, they are without that important nutritional benefit. If you are offering a vacation bible school, or some enrichment program for children in your neighborhood during the summer, this would be a great way to see that they also receive lunch. Offering your location for one or two weeks is permitted. For more information, log on to [www.summerfood.usda.gov](http://www.summerfood.usda.gov) or contact Janet Allen, Director of Special Nutrition Programs at 415/705-2229 x401. Sites need to be identified in April.

**Universal Preschool in California?** The California Council of Churches Child Care Project has been hosting focus groups in several counties across the state and will soon be mailing out a survey to congregations hosting child care centers. We are gathering perspectives from the faith community on a proposal which is gaining momentum in our state. **Please watch for this mailing and return your surveys as soon as possible. Your input is very important to the shaping of public policy.**

## ***Immigrant Leadership Day***

The Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights invites you to the Immigrant Leadership Conference to be held on Sunday, May 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 711 "T" Street, Sacramento CA 95814.

### **GOALS:**

- Share your own cultural values and working experiences
- Learn about the California legislative process
- Increase Immigrant civic participation
- Prepare for the legislative visits on May 17

**Housing:** Participants are hosted by families in Sacramento. Hotel accommodations should be arranged individually.

To register call (415) 227-0388 and leave your name, phone number, and where will you be coming from, or fax your registration to (415) 543-0442

Your local contact for information is:  
Sr. Cecilia Calva, Leadership Coordinator (415) 227-0388  
If you want to fax your registration, please do so at (415) 543-0442. Mr. Moises Escalante: (213) 480-8800

### **Mail-in Registration:**

965 Mission Street # 514, San Francisco CA 94103

Visit the California Council of Churches online at <http://www.calchurches.org/>

## Calendar:

- May 3:** California Church IMPACT Board Meeting, Los Angeles
- May 4:** California Council of Church/California Church IMPACT Joint Board Retreat, Los Angeles
- May 4:** Crisis on the Streets: Homeless Women and Children in Los Angeles. A summit to address one of our city's most pressing concerns (pg. 3)
- May 5:** California Council of Churches Board Meeting, Los Angeles
- May 12:** Save the Safety Net Rally Day  
danika@cfpa.net or (415) 777-4466
- May 15:** Southern California Legislative Briefing Day  
A California for All People A Budget Issues Workshop for People of Faith (pg. 1)
- May 16:** Immigrant Leadership Conference (see page 3)
- May 17:** Immigrant Day - Contact Josette Cordove,  
(916) 448-6762, cordova@nilc.org
- May 19:** Faith rally on Budget Justice (see page 1)

## Los Angeles County Faith Based Child Care Network Gears Up

The Los Angeles County Faith Based Child Care Network, made possible by a grant from First 5 LA, is hosting area meetings this spring throughout Los Angeles County. If your congregation is in Los Angeles County and operates or leases space for child care, you are invited to be part of this growing network! Area meetings are looking at issues of accreditation, developing substitute pools and sharing best practices for quality improvements. In addition, the proposed universal preschool proposals have generated lots of interest and discussion in forming local area networks for potential collaborations.

To find out when a network meeting is scheduled for your area, contact the Rev. Kathy Cooper-Ledesma, Associate Director, at (323) 256-3162 or at [kathy@calchurches.org](mailto:kathy@calchurches.org). You can also check the CCC website at [www.calchurches.org](http://www.calchurches.org).

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California Council of Churches  
2715 K Street, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95816



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