

Staff...

Estela De Los Rios, *Executive Director*
estela@c4sa.org

Paula Karazuba, *Administrative Assistant*
paula@c4sa.org

Yvonne Kovatch, *Fair Housing Director*
yvonne@c4sa.org

Dianne Martinez, *Youth Mentorship Specialist*
dianne@c4sa.org

Rene Velazquez, *Human Trafficking Coordinator*
rene@c4sa.org

George Ibarra, *Fair Housing Counselor*
george@c4sa.org

Gloria Peralta, *Fair Housing Counselor*
gloria@c4sa.org

Maria Elena Aranzubia, *Fair Housing Counselor*
mariaelena@c4sa.org

Nasir Al Samarrie, P.h.D, *Fair Housing Counselor*
nasir@c4sa.org

Raafat Samuail, *Web Technician*
david@c4sa.org

Board of Directors

Jose Preciado, *President*
Reverend Gerald Brown
Mario Garrett
Besma Coda
Mark Arabo
Jesus Pacheco



JANUARY 2016 | CSA San Diego County

The Advocate

Human Rights Immigration Workshop in El Cajon

With a high attendance, East County residents are on the road to become permanent legal residents and U.S. citizens



The East County Coalition, a group organized by local community members and for the improvement of the community, recently hosted a Human Rights Immigration Workshop that had a great turnout. Topics of interest that were covered in the workshop included what DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents Accountability) are, and how to obtain visas and passports. Attorney Francisco Vidal was able to answer many of the questions the clients had in regards to what steps they need to take to become permanent legal residents and U.S. citizens. By the time the workshop ended, many of these clients had received the clarification they needed to take the next steps in their journey towards residency. Overall, the workshop turned out to be a very successful event. To continue aiding these community members, the East County Coalition is already planning on hosting another workshop in the month of February. More details to come soon.



“The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the *silence* over that by the good people.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Who we are >>>



CSA San Diego County is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of our community. We serve as advocates for fair housing and in mediating tenant/landlord issues. Other issues CSA addresses include: hate crime prevention, civil rights of first generation immigrants, human trafficking, youth education, and voter education. All of the services we provide are at no cost to our clients.

Our team is comprised of dedicated volunteers, passionate staff, and a trail-blazing executive director.

Our mission is to promote positive attitudes and action that ensure respect, acceptance, and equal opportunity for all people. We are profoundly committed to ensure the well being of all San Diego County residents.

For more information please contact us at

1-800-954-0441

Or visit our website

www.c4sa.org

Anti-Sex Trafficking Forum at Mount Miguel High School is a Success!

With a high turnout, the forum incites the community to get involved



During the month of October CSA San Diego County sponsored an Anti-Trafficking Forum at Mount Miguel High School in Spring Valley, one of San Diego's high intensity areas for human trafficking. The forum included a screening of the documentary Chosen and followed a panel discussion afterward, featuring three trafficking survivors, San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan, and FBI agent Jennifer Wolf.

Many people attended the event, among them a variety of families, teenagers, and community leaders. The audience was thoroughly moved and captivated by the trafficking survivor's stories and many were even inspired enough to ask what they could do to help stop trafficking. It was a successful event in raising awareness and inciting the community to get involved in supporting the efforts to eradicate anti-sex trafficking in San Diego. CSA San Diego County would like to thank everyone who attended, and also a big thank you to Rotary for funding the event.

Fair Housing is Not an Option, It is the Law

Know Your Rights



WHO does Fair Housing protect?

The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and familial status (protected classes). Californians are further protected from discrimination on the basis of age, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, sexual identification, AIDS/HIV, medical condition, political activities and affiliation, military or veteran status, and/or being domestic violence survivors.

WHERE & WHEN is Fair Housing discrimination occurring?

Despite the Federal Fair Housing Act, discrimination is still very prevalent in communities all over the United States. The following are just a few of the many examples of discrimination in Fair Housing:

- One investigation found that a nationwide mortgage lender had systematically charged higher interest rates to Hispanic and African-American borrowers.
- Additionally, there have been cases like in Virginia Beach where landlords refused to rent to families with three or more children.
- Lastly, disability continues to be the leading cause for discrimination in Fair Housing. In Connecticut a landlord refused to grant a tenant reasonable accommodation for her assistance dog which helped her with her cerebral palsy, seizure disorder, and depression.

WHAT are some common unlawful acts of discrimination?

- Refusing to sell a property because of a person's protected class
- Restricting loans or targeting higher cost loans to people based on their protected class or the neighborhood where the home is located
- Falsely denying that housing is available for inspection, sale, or rental
- Failing to provide reasonable accommodations to a person with a disability

HOW do we stop discrimination in Fair Housing?

Knowing your rights is the first step to fighting housing discrimination. Educate yourself with the facts and contact CSA San Diego County. Our services are completely free!

The Wage and Hour Division Strives to Attain Equal Pay for All

Members of the U.S. Department of Labor Wage & Hour Division and CSA's Exec. Director meet to discuss strategies to address the community's labor wage issues



The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) is responsible for administering and enforcing some of the nation's most important worker protection laws. They are deeply committed to ensuring that workers in this country are paid properly and for all the hours they work, regardless of immigration status. Thus, during the recent meeting between CSA San Diego County's Executive Director, Estela De Los Rios, San Diego District Director, Rudolfo Cortez, and Community Outreach Specialist, Rosanna Santana, they discussed their concerns for labor wage issues and possible solutions to resolve them.

One of the resolutions these leaders discussed is working on initiatives in the agriculture and recycling centers in the County to begin with, as these are popular places that have a tendency towards violating employee's wage rights. Other common places where wage violations may occur also happen in a variety of industries, including construction, restaurants, janitorial, and retail. Together with the help and support of the community and labor wage victims who come forward, the WHD seeks to eliminate labor wage violations and seek that all San Diego residents receive a fair wage regardless of their status.

Combating Human Trafficking: A Labor Trafficking Symposium

Community and nation-wide leaders gather to discuss and counter human trafficking



During the month of October District Attorney Bonnie Dumais and U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy lead the first ever Labor Trafficking Symposium. The all-day event featured a variety of different experts in human trafficking; including federal, state, and local law enforcement, prosecution and labor department officials, victim service providers, and community organizations. The event also featured two special guests: the California Labor Commissioner Julie Su, and the Director of the California Department of Fair Employment. The objective of the symposium was to gather all these different organizations to educate, build human trafficking awareness, and develop a strategic plan to combat trafficking.

The symposium included an overview of a historical labor trafficking case and it also gave the opportunity to many of the agency representatives that were present at the event to share their own accounts and experience with trafficking. A trafficking survivor also gave his testimony. The symposium also allowed for these organizations to learn more about the best practices for handling labor trafficking cases, and it also gave the audience the opportunity to learn how about the anatomy of case investigations and prosecutions. Through educating the members of the present agencies the event was successful in raising awareness, gaining supporters, and achieving a plan of action to combat trafficking both in San Diego and in the nation.

CSA San Diego County is a friend of the children of Haiti

Together in collaboration with the *Those Angels Foundation*, CSA has had the opportunity to cooperate in building a new school in Haiti for homeless and orphaned youth. In a place full of poverty, frequent killings, and destruction, this new school will be a new home and refuge for children in need. Most importantly, these children will now have the opportunity to receive the education they need to improve and advance their future.



CSA San Diego County Thanks the La Mesa Sunshine Rotary Club for their Contribution to Address Human Trafficking

CSA San Diego County and its Executive Director, Estela De Los Rios, would like to express their deepest gratitude to the La Mesa Sunshine Rotary Club for their contribution to address human trafficking. With this additional support, CSA San Diego County will now have the increased ability to address human trafficking issues and educate, empower the community, and raise awareness. Once more, thank you for all you do and all your support Rotary Club!



CSA San Diego County proudly serves the following cities:

Alpine	Lemon Grove
Bonita	Lakeside
Bonsall	Lincoln Acres
Borrego Springs	Mt. Laguna
Boulevard	Mt. Palomar
Campo	National City
Chula Vista	Pala
Coronado	Palomar Mtn.
Del Mar	Pauma Valley
Descanso	Pine Valley
Dulzura	Portrero
El Cajon	Poway
Fallbrook	Ramona
Guatay	Rancho Santa Fe
Imperial Beach	San Luis Rey
Jacumba	Santa Ysabel
Jamul	Santee
Julian	Solana Beach
La Mesa	Spring Valley
Lakeside	Tecate
	Valley Center
	Warner Springs