



Calistoga Family Center
Healthy Families. Strong Community.

2010 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The programs and events listed here are part of the network of the services we offer throughout the year as we focus on *Strong Families, Strong Community, Family Academy, Family Economic Success, Family Health, and Youth Link.*

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic

Early in 2010, Calistoga Family Center assisted 212 families in filing tax returns through our Family Economic Success Program's *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic*, which helped the families recover nearly \$315,000 in tax refunds. This represents a sizeable windfall for Calistoga which is a small community of less than 6,000 individuals!

Student Assistance Program

The Calistoga Family Center, in conjunction, with the Calistoga Joint Unified School District continued to operate the *Student Assistance Program (SAP)* for the fourth year in a row. The comprehensive SAP model is designed to provide a formalized, systematic approach for addressing concerns that affect a student's ability to achieve in school, particularly alcohol and drug use and behavioral issues. The SAP process identifies, refers, accesses, educates, and supports students who exhibit behaviors that interfere with the learning process and healthy development.

The most common services students were connected to were Support Groups, After School Programs, Migrant Education and community-based services offered through Calistoga Family Center.

A formal evaluation Napa County conducted of the 153 Calistoga students (*that's 40% of the Junior High and High School population!*) referred during the 2009-2010 school year found that the SAP program was a success, showing academic achievement improvements, lower suspension rates, and increased perceptions of harm relating to substance use among SAP referred students.

Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop

CFC ended the year by resurrecting a wonderful community event – the Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop. Thanks to a generous donation from a young Calistoga resident, CFC was able to host two workshops in December. Both workshops were filled to capacity. Other generous donors provided scholarships so CFC was able to waive fees for needy families. School readiness was emphasized in each of the workshops. Skills such as manual dexterity, reading and listening were emphasized. Additionally, for many children, it was an introduction to a different cultural tradition. This was a wonderful community event which celebrated families and touched the very heart of CFC's mission. Next year, the Calistoga Family Center intends to host a traditional Mexican Holiday event – the building of piñatas with the traditional seven horns!