



January 2010

- Friday, January 1
**New Year's Day
Holiday**
- Monday, January 4
EOC New Hire
Orientation
**EOC Take Action!
Program
Begins**
- Tuesday, January 5
All Head Start Staff
Returns
- Wednesday, January 6
County-Wide PC
Executive Board
Meeting
- Monday, January 11
Center Based Classes
Resume
- Tuesday, January 12
Team 21 Meeting
- Wednesday, January 13
CAST Session I
- Monday, January 18
**Martin Luther King
Jr. Day Holiday**
- Tuesday, January 19
EOC New Hire
Orientation
- Wednesday, January 20
Leadership Forum
County-Wide Policy
Council Meeting
- Thursday, January 21
CD/TD Meeting
- Wednesday, January 27
EOC Board Meeting



Carmen & Cirilo Solarzano

2009 Holiday Party Update

Mele Kalikimaka was the thing to say at EOC's Holiday in Hawaii Party on December 11, 2009. Over 350 guests arrived at the beautifully decorated Golden Palace Banquet Hall to a Hawaiian filled event. Dinner was a hit as well as the music. Our emcee, Head Start's very own, Alita Taylor, did a great job getting the entertainment started for our employees. We had several participants in our hula and best dressed contests, along with some lucky individuals from our big ticket raffle items. Overall the event was a great success.

LCC Helps Spread Holiday Cheer

Our Local Conservation Corps made a difference this holiday season in the lives of hundred of children. Earlier this month, the Corps in partnership with Blessed By The Best and 1000 Friends of Fresno, hosted a toy drive at our new LCC Headquarters. Senior and program managers, supervisor, Ameri-Corps members, Corps members, and Youth Build Charter School participants all helped distribute toys, snacks and other goodies to up to 700 children.

Thank you LCC staff and participants for giving your time and brightening the day for underprivileged children in Fresno's west side.

Market on the Mall

The "Market on the Mall" is now on their winter schedule of Wednesdays only. In March, 2010 it will expand again to include Wednesdays and Fridays. All the vendors wish Fresno County EOC a Happy New Year.



**Yvette Sanchez
Fuentes
Office of Head Start
Director**



Yvette Sanchez Fuentes brings extensive experience in providing services to young children from low-income families at the local, regional, and national level to her appointment as the Director of the Office of Head Start. In her role as Director, Ms. Sanchez Fuentes will help lead ACF's critically important mission of enriching the quality of early childhood development for our nation's most vulnerable children.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Sanchez Fuentes served as the Executive Director of the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association (NMSHSA). She worked with early education services, policies and resources for migrant and seasonal farm worker children and their families.

Before joining NMSHSA, Yvette worked for the Education Development Center where she was the Early Childhood Specialist for the International Systems Division and provided technical assistance to projects in Honduras, El Salvador and Egypt—(next column)

Continued —

Ms. Sanchez Fuentes has served as a national Head Start Fellow where she provided consultation in literacy, parent education, child care collaborations, and program improvement to Migrant and Seasonal Head Start and other early childhood education programs nationwide.

Early in her career, Ms. Sanchez Fuentes managed services for a large migrant and seasonal program for staff development and family child care initiatives. She received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from California State Polytechnic University (CalPoly).

**Holiday Party Pictures
Ready for Pick Up!**

If you purchased photos at EOC's Holiday Party, the pictures are in and ready for pick up. Drop by the Human Resources Office and be sure to bring a photo ID.



**A Message to Staff—
Changing Lives for the Willing Hearts**

As we end the first decade of the 21st Century our agency is entering into a brief period of leadership transition. The worst economic struggle since the Great Depression that our nation is currently facing is, unfortunately, not a new or recent event for many in our rural and urban Fresno communities.

That is why I feel it is vitally important that we as a staff stand together and strive to provide the best possible services to our clients with the limited resources at our disposal.

As our President stated in his inaugural address almost a year ago "The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our gross domestic product, but on the reach of our prosperity; on the ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart — not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good."

Let our agency be that path to those "willing heart(s)" this year in Fresno wherever that need exists—be it in the field of the parched west side or the urban neighborhood identified as the poorest in the nation.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed 2010.

George Egawa, Interim Executive Director



If you would like to contribute articles to Head Start HeadsUp, contact Mike Garcia in the Head Start Human Resources Office 263-1224 , 263-1287 fax, mike.garcia@fresnoeoc.org