

# FOCUS ON CHILDREN

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## A Big Thank You to Solano Voters: Prop 1D Defeated!

Solano County voters saw through this cynical attempt to raid local funding for children's services. As in every other county in the state, on May 19, they rejected Proposition 1D by a nearly two-to-one margin.

Many of you responded to our call for help to defeat this measure, volunteering time, writing letters, and reaching out to local elected officials for support. Still more helped by making sure they remembered to vote in support of our kids. Thank you!

Ours was a loosely organized, come-from-behind, grassroots effort. Our opponents were well funded by major oil, alcohol and tobacco companies. The fact that the measure was so resoundingly defeated is a testament to the power of everyday people to make a difference when they unite around a common cause.

Let's remember we have this power, and exercise it again in the weeks ahead as we struggle for a state budget that adequately protects and cares for all of our children.

## State Budget Crisis

### Action Steps to Protect Our Kids

As we go to press, the state legislature is making decisions on budget cuts that the governor has proposed.

The governor's proposals include:

- **Eliminating CalWorks** entirely, which would almost overnight add about 16,000 women and children to the ranks of homeless and hungry people in Solano
- **Eliminating Healthy Families** – the low-cost health insurance program for kids, which covers over 5,000 local children
- **Making additional severe cuts to education**, at all levels from child development programs to state universities
- **Making additional severe cuts to Child Welfare and Foster Care**

Please join the Children's Network in insisting that budget issues be resolved in a balanced way - we must include new revenues, not just more cuts!! Take these two steps to save our kids:

#### Be informed:

- Read the California Budget Project analyses of proposed cuts at [www.CBP.org](http://www.CBP.org)
- Check out the tradeoffs - cuts vs. revenues - on page 3
- For updated info, check out our website, [www.childnet.org](http://www.childnet.org), or go to <http://www.fixthebudgetnow.org/>

#### Take action:

- The Governor has asked the public to contact him with their budget suggestions via Twitter. Tell him to raise revenues! Tweet to #myidea4CA.

*(continued on p. 2)*

## Upcoming Events

### Child Abuse Prevention Council

Solano Co. Government Ctr.  
675 Texas Street Fairfield.

**July 20**, 1:00—2:30 p.m.

**August 17**, 1:00—2:30 p.m.

**Sept. 21**, 1:00—2:30 p.m.

### Integrated Family Support Initiative

Solano Co. Government Ctr.  
675 Texas Street, Fairfield

**August 10**, 9:00—11:30 a.m.

### Solano Children's Alliance

Joe Nelson Community Ctr.  
611 Village Drive, Suisun City

**July**, no meeting

**August 5** 12:00—2:00 p.m.

**Sept. 2**, 12:00—2:00 p.m.

### Family Resource Center Network

Children's Network  
2320 Courage Dr. # 107,  
Fairfield

**July**, no meeting

**August 3**, 1:00—4:00 p.m.

**Sept. 14**, 1:00—4:00 p.m.

### Child Care Planning Council

Children's Network  
2320 Courage Dr. # 107,  
Fairfield

**July 27**, 1:00—3:00 p.m.

**August 24**, 1:00—3:00 p.m.

**Sept. 28**, 1:00—3:00 p.m.

## State budget action steps

(Continued from page 1)

- Post your concerns on your Facebook or Myspace page, use your email lists, or reach out to your friends and colleagues in other ways to encourage them to join you in voicing opposition to these draconian budget proposals
- Send letters to your legislators and the governor via email, in person at local offices, or overnight mail
- Call your legislators today, tomorrow, and throughout the coming weeks as these decisions are being made (contact info below)

Let's continue to be united in speaking up for kids. **These budget proposals are not a done deal.** Together we can make a difference!!



## Contact info for Legislators

### Senator Patricia Wiggins

State Capitol Building, Room 4081  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 651-4002

Fax: (916) 323-6958

Website: <http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com>

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<http://legplcms01.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.aspx?district=SD02>

#### District Office:

444 Georgia Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590

Phone: (707) 648-5312

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### Senator Lois Wolk

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Sacramento, CA 95814

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#### District Office:

555 Mason Street, Suite 230  
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### Assemblywoman Noreen Evans

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### Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada

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Email:

<http://legplcms01.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.aspx?district=AD08&>

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## Budget priorities: Programs for families *or* tax loopholes for wealthy corporations and individuals?

**"[The governor's] proposed cuts would disproportionately affect California's children and youth"**  
*California Budget Project*

**"If lawmakers sign off on closing the health insurance program for children whose families make too much to qualify for [Medicaid](#) [Healthy Families], California would be the first state in the nation to close the popular program."**

—Jennifer Steinhauer,  
 5/30/09 *New York Times*

**"The impact of the unprecedented cuts proposed in the Governor's budget would severely harm each and every school."**

—California PTA

California is facing a record-breaking budget shortfall. But our legislators have choices about how to close the gap.

Each year, California gives away more than \$50 billion in tax breaks to individuals and wealthy corporations. If we close just some of these tax loopholes, we can preserve desperately needed health, education, child care, and social service programs for children and families.

For example, legislators could choose to:

- |  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| Completely eliminate CalWORKs, income and job training for very-low-income families with children<br><b>\$1.3 billion</b>  | OR | Close the "research and development" tax break for corporations<br><br><b>\$1.3 billion</b>  |
| Eliminate assistance for victims of domestic violence AND mental health services for special education students<br><b>\$72 million</b>   | OR | End the loophole that excludes high-end computer programs from sales tax<br><br><b>\$74 million</b>  |
| Eliminate Healthy Families, leaving 900,000 kids without health insurance AND cut services for the seriously mentally ill AND cut off access to life-saving medications for low-income HIV/AIDS patients<br><b>\$513 million</b>   | OR | End the tax loophole that subsidizes giant corporations like Wal-Mart through the Enterprise Zone program, which nonpartisan analysts say does not benefit the state's economy<br><br><b>\$497 million</b> |
| Eliminate CalGrants, which help make college a reality for low-income students and train the next generation of the workforce<br><b>\$173 million</b>  | OR | Close the loophole that allows wealthy corporations and individuals to dodge taxes on their real estate deals<br><br><b>\$174 million</b>  |
| Stop funding state parks, taking away a major resource for low-cost, healthy family recreation and endangering natural areas AND slash support for the in-home support services that disabled and elderly people depend on, potentially sending tens of thousands to nursing homes<br><b>\$684 million</b> | OR | Get rid of the tax loophole that lets giant multinational corporations shelter their profits in offshore tax havens like the Cayman Islands<br><br><b>\$700 million</b>                                    |

For more info: <http://www.workingcalifornia.org/issues/economy.html>

Two-hour workshops utilizing the Assets and Resources curriculum will be set up in the coming months throughout the county. For more information, call Rosemary Kennedy, 707-421-7229, ext. 111

*"We don't have money for that:" Parents talk with their kids about their family's tough times,* from the January-February 2009 *Children's Advocate*, is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese at [http://www.4children.org/issues/2009/january\\_february/we\\_dont\\_have\\_money\\_for\\_that/](http://www.4children.org/issues/2009/january_february/we_dont_have_money_for_that/)



## Financial problems plus emotional stress: New workshop helps parents cope

Recession, economic downturn, whatever you call it, our current economic problems are all over the television and newspapers these days. Kids are noticing. Like their parents, they're worried. And without a doubt, children are picking up signals that the adults closest to them are concerned about their financial security.

The recession can have a range of psychological effects on children, from difficulty concentrating in school to increased strain on family relationships. Parents need to know how to talk straight to their children while allaying their fears.

The Parenting Partnership is now presenting a workshop, Assets and Resources, to give parents tools for addressing emerging financial concerns and emotional stress while meeting crucial

family needs. The workshop presents a curriculum designed to help parents address emerging financial concerns by learning how to evaluate their family's economic situation, create budgets, and pay bills. At the same time, it includes problem-solving strategies for addressing emotional stress, with ways to involve children at various developmental stages, as well as strategies for sustaining family morale, routines, and discipline during dislocations and transitions.

At a May 14 presentation of the workshop by Bill Haigwood from the California Parenting Institute, the 16 participants included staff from the Solano and American Canyon Family Resource Centers, Children's Nurturing Project, and Solano Department of Mental Health.

### Child Abuse Prevention Month April 2009

## Solano Highlights: Blue Ribbon Campaign and Children's Memorial Flag Day

Events throughout Solano County this past April focused attention on ways to prevent child abuse and neglect. Participants distributed informational materials and encouraged people to wear blue ribbons in recognition of children who have been mistreated. The Child Abuse Prevention Council, Board of Supervisors, Family Resource Centers and many other partners participated in the county-wide effort.

Candles on 32 small chairs placed in the Children's Garden of Hope in Fairfield represented the 32 children who died in Solano County in 2008, at the fourth annual Children's Memorial Flag Day on April 24. The event was sponsored by the Child Abuse Prevention Council and Office of Family Violence Prevention. Guest speakers included the Honorable Linda Seifert, Board of Supervisors; Patrick Duterte, Director of Health and Social Services; Denise McBride, Secretary of the Child

Abuse Prevention Council and Donna Robinson, Solano County Probation Department.

More than 4,000 children each year in Solano County are reported to Child Protective Services as being abused or neglected. These children face many challenges. Young people who have experienced abuse are at greater risk of growing up to be adults who are self-destructive and damaging to our communities. To help all children become healthy, happy adults, parents and caregivers must provide them with love, security, emotional support, and a strong connection to their extended family and communities. To help ensure the safety and well-being of our children, communities must provide parents and caregivers with the support they need to play this important role—throughout the year.

# EarnIt!KeepIt!\$aveIt! 2009 refunds jumped more than 50%

SOLANO COUNTY

With the tax season behind us, we offer our sincerest gratitude for the hard work and commitment to our community shown by our partners and volunteers.

Your collective energy helped thousands of Solano County residents get the refund they deserved. Almost 100 Solano County volunteers were involved in this year's Earn It! Keep It! Save It! (EKS) campaign, the Bay Area's largest free tax-assistance program. Although final results are not yet in, the preliminary results look extremely promising.

In Solano County this year, EKS coordinated 13 free tax assistance sites including both VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) and AARP Tax-Aide sites. Together they helped 2,708 of Solano's neediest families claim \$2,543,589 in tax refunds and in many cases connect with

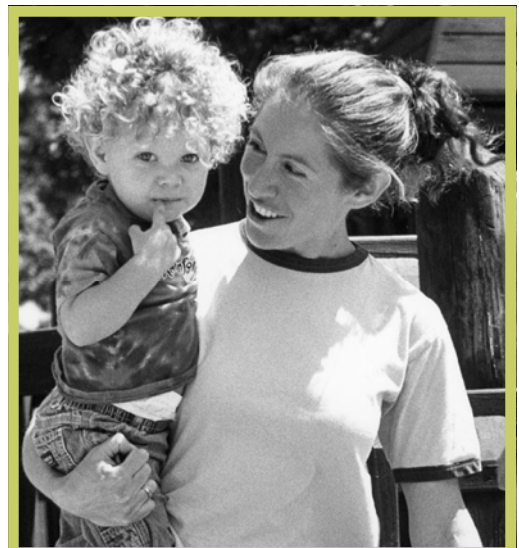
asset-building resources. This is a 57.8% increase from last year's total refunds.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the largest and most effective federal aid program for low- to moderate-income workers. For many eligible families, EITC can increase their annual income by as much as 15 percent. Recognizing EITC's potential economic benefit to both families and communities, the Children's Network has partnered with the United Way of the Bay Area and the Internal Revenue Service to conduct this campaign. The Children's Network coordinates marketing outreach and volunteer income tax assistance sites and provides ongoing support services to participating agencies throughout Solano County.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
# of Sites	3	9	11	14	13
# of Volunteers	11	31	43	103	84
# of Returns Completed	107	550	736	2,810	2,708
EITC \$ Captured	\$117,713	\$180,171	\$267,562	\$445,308	\$656,443
Total Refunds	\$443,435	\$583,842	\$890,420	\$1,611,489	\$2,543,589
* preliminary figures					

## More support for child care professional development

Child care professionals will have improved access to professional development opportunities this fall through the new Solano Child Care Professional Development Program. As the continuation of Solano Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES), the new program will continue to provide cash stipends and resources for child care professionals to continue their education. The program will also do additional outreach to make sure providers receive the information and help they really need to implement and maintain a quality program. For more information, please call Shelia or Minerva at 707-438-1709.



# Children's Network

*A united voice for the children of Solano County*

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Karen Sanchez, Chair  
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**CHILDREN'S NETWORK**

Kim Thomas, Executive Director

**NEWSLETTER**

Jean Tepperman, Editor

### **Making Work Pay Tax Credit: You may need to adjust your withholding**

The Making Work Pay Tax Credit—up to \$400 for individuals or \$800 for a married couple—doesn't come as one separate payment. Instead, it reduces the amount taken out of each paycheck for taxes, usually by about \$5 to \$20. (If you don't have taxes withheld you can claim the credit when you file your tax return.)

The credit phases out for people who earn more than \$75,000 a year.

**Because the Making Work Pay Tax Credit reduces the amount of taxes withheld from your paycheck, there is a chance you may have too little withheld and owe an additional amount at the end of the year if any of the following applies:**

- You work more than one job, or you and your spouse both work
- You make more than \$75,000 a year or you and your spouse make more than \$150,000 combined
- You and your spouse's combined income will put you in a higher tax bracket
- You are a pension recipient with no earned income

If any of these situations apply to you, you may need to recalculate your withholding to avoid being under-withheld. Talk to your employer as soon as possible.

*For more information, see IRS publication 919, "How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?" (order from 1-800-829-3676). Or visit the IRS web site, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), and use the Withholding Calculator. Or call 1-800-829-1040 for assistance.*

### **Please support the Children's Network!**

.....  
**YES! I want to support the work of the Children's Network of Solano County**

I'd like to make a tax deductible contribution to the Children's Network  
 \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250    (other—please specify amount \_\_\_\_\_)

Please make checks payable to the Children's Network, or to pay by credit card:

Visa     Master Card    CC# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send this form and payment to:*

Children's Network 2320 Courage Drive, Suite 107 Fairfield, CA 94533.