



United Way of
San Luis Obispo County



What's raised in SLO County stays in SLO County!

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2009

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United Way Awards \$177,000 to Local Health and Human Service Programs

San Luis Obispo, Calif. - United Way of San Luis Obispo County brought the year to a successful close by awarding more than \$177,000 in grants and awards to local health and human service programs that provide the community with a wide array of resources.

As part of United Way's annual **Community Impact Fund**, more than 30 community volunteers reviewed 59 grant applications, requesting a total of over \$485,000 to help meet the most pressing needs in the county. After careful consideration, 33 grants totaling **\$170,215** were awarded in the areas of education, income and health.

The United Way of San Luis Obispo County **Innovation Award** recognizes a local not-for-profit organization for inventive approaches and programs. The 2009 recipient is "Jack's Adaptive Toy Lending Library", a program of Jack's Helping Hand. Through its program offering and service delivery, "Jack's Adaptive Toy Lending Library" exhibits characteristics that are creative both in concept and collaboration, key traits of this particular award. This year's **\$5,000** award was made possible by its founder, Don Maruska of Don Maruska & Company, Inc., Nancy and Randy Flamm of IQMS, and Dioptics.

The United Way **Youth Board** has determined the recipients of their 2009 grant awards – the San Luis Obispo High School Peer Mediators' "Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders for Today's Challenges" and the Atascadero Octagon Club's "Charles Paddock Zoo Garden Project" were **each awarded a \$1,000 grant** for their projects. Qualifying projects were organized by youth, under age 19, demonstrated a need in SLO County, and incorporated youth developmental principles. Applications for Youth Board membership are currently being accepted for the 2009-10 school year.

All grant recipients will be recognized at United Way's Annual Recognition Event on Thursday, June 11. For more information about United Way of SLO County, the Community Impact Fund, Innovation Award or Youth Board, visit www.unitedwayslo.org or call (805) 541-1234. Donations can be sent to United Way of SLO County, P.O. Box 14309, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

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A complete list of Community Impact Fund grant awards is available on the United Way website at www.unitedwayslo.org.

This news release is also available on the United Way website at <http://www.unitedwayslo.org/News/index.html>.