

Caring Connections



Ready for New Beginnings



Caring Connections is ready to begin another school year supporting the students and families of Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD). We have so many great things to look forward to; new partnerships, building on existing partnerships, as well as continued services to students and families who are in need of resources.

With the school year already under way, Caring Connections is enthusiastic and eager to start helping families. Several of our programs are not possible without the financial support of grants, donations and fundraisers. We are thrilled to share that we are beginning the school year with funds from the **Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Grant Program** in the amount of **\$15,000** for the Caring Connections' Healthy Lifestyles Program (HLP). This is the third year of implementation for this program. The focus of HLP is prevention of childhood obesity. Caring Connections partners with the City of Bellflower Parks & Recreation Department to enroll families who may have barriers to registering their children for the City's existing physical activity classes. With the support of Kaiser Permanente grant funds, assistance with fees for the classes is provided. Last school year we helped **329** kids enroll in classes. We are ready to begin registering children for classes to get kids active and healthy!

We also want to thank the **City of Bellflower** for their **Community Service Organization** funds in the amount of **\$5,000** for the 2017-2018 school year! The City of Bellflower has been a long standing partner with Caring Connections, supporting our efforts to serve children and families. These funds will help with vision assistance and basic needs resources, such as food and clothing. Thank you to both of these great partners for their support and dedication to helping families in BUSD.

Listed below are the scheduled Caring Connections meeting dates. All meetings will take place in the Bellflower Unified School District Board Room at 7:30 a.m.

- October 17, 2017
- November 14, 2017
- December 12, 2017
- January 16, 2018
- February 13, 2018
- March 13, 2018
- April 10, 2018
- May 8, 2018
- June 5, 2018



The Caring Connections Resource Directory has been updated for the new school year and will be emailed out to all collaborative members but can also be found on our website at www.caringconnectionsonline.com. Don't forget to also join us on Facebook for any updates, events, or agency announcements.



September 2017

Mission Statement:

Our commitment is to be a bridge to a healthy and successful future for children and families of the Bellflower Unified School District

2017-2018 Executive Board Members

Nichole McGahey
Encounter Christian Church

Doug Easer
Rotary Club of Bellflower

Jeanette Gosden
Consultant

Cindy Van Meeveren
Bellflower Volunteer Center

Victor Sanchez
Kiwanis Club of Bellflower

Chrissy Padilla Birkey
Kingdom Causes

Renett Banagas
Community Services
Coordinator



John J. Gunther
Blue Ribbon Practices in
Community Development
Award

Association of California
School Administrators
Partners in Education
Excellence Award

Greater LA Federal
Executive Board Partnership
Award

California School Boards
Association Golden Bell
Award for Partnerships &
Collaboratives



Updates and Events



YMCA Camp Oaks

Thank you to the Los Cerritos YMCA for working with Caring Connections once again to send 20 BUSD students to summer camp. Students went on a one week trip in July to Camp Oaks in Big Bear where they were able to experience many fun activities. Several of our students were Counselors in Training (CIT's) as well as volunteer counselors which provided students a great opportunity to build self-esteem and develop interpersonal skills.



When you shop at smile.amazon.com and select Community Agencies for Caring Connections as your charitable organization, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible items to Caring Connections. So don't forget, next time you shop for an online purchase to choose AmazonSmile.

Vision To Learn

Rotary Club of Bellflower is sponsoring more schools in BUSD this school year for the Vision To Learn (VTL) Program. Last school year, VTL provided **431** FREE eye glasses to students. We are excited to get started in October at Mayfair Middle/High School. This is such a powerful program that impacts the lives and success of each student who receives a pair of glasses. Thank you Rotary Club of Bellflower!



Backpacks and School Supplies

Starting out the new school year, we had several organizations provide backpacks and school supplies to students in the community. Thank you to Olive Crest, The Warrior Center, City of Bellflower Volunteer Center, City of Lakewood and other community organizations for helping hundreds of students be ready to start a new school year!

Rotary Club of Bellflower

Back to School Shopping Spree

Rotary Club of Bellflower jumped in once again to get kids ready for school by sponsoring their Back to School Shopping Spree on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Rotary Club sponsored 53 BUSD children in grades 1st through 6th to receive \$100 each to shop at Kmart for school clothes, shoes and supplies. Thank you to Encounter Church for helping with bussing the children to the event in Long Beach. This program lends a helping hand to families in need of support. It is greatly appreciated that Rotary continues to sponsor this program.



Community Events

- Bellflower Lions Club/City of Bellflower Car Show**
 On Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. the Bellflower Noon Lions will be hosting the 19th Annual Car Show. A variety of vendors will be there as well as music and raffles will be held. For more information, please call (562) 645-3208.
- City of Bellflower Mayor's Prayer Breakfast**
 On Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 7:00 a.m. is the City of Bellflower Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at John S. Simms Park. Join Mayor Schnabegger in prayer and celebration for Bellflower-based service providers. For more information, please contact Kingdom Causes at (562) 804-2189.
- City of Bellflower 60th Anniversary**
 City of Bellflower invites you to celebrate their 60th Anniversary on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Downtown Bellflower. They will have food vendors, food trucks, live bands, family-fun and fireworks. For more information, please call (562) 804-1424 ext. 2261.

Special thanks to Caring Connections Executive Board for the generous donation of refreshments at this month's meeting. We appreciate Starbucks, located at 14301 Bellflower Blvd. for the donation of delicious coffee!



The next Caring Connections meeting is Tuesday, October 17, 2017

