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More ICTF-JPA Information

<http://www.ictf-jpa.org/>

Housing and Homelessness Resources

<http://www.hudhre.info/HPRP/>

<http://www.beyondshelter.org>

<http://www.catholiccharitiesla.org>

http://www.longbeach.gov/health/fss/homeless_services/default.asp

<http://www.newbeginningscounselingcenter.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Outreach-in-Action/117508499616>

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You have received this eUpdate because you have expressed interest in ICO's work. If you want to be removed from this list, please email us at:

Happy Holidays

ICO Launches Holiday Fundraising Appeal

With the slogan "Trumpeting the Untold Stories of Long Beach," ICO has launched its holiday fundraising appeal. The appeal includes a brochure that, when unfolded, shares the stories of Long Beach residents confronting challenges in air quality, housing, homelessness and foreclosure, immigration, and health care.



Grassroots fundraising and individual donations have become even more essential in today's troubled economy, with many foundations substantially reducing their giving. If ICO is to continue with the important work we are doing, we need our local supporters to step up. Look for the appeal in your mailbox soon, and please be generous.

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ICO Leaders Protest Proposed Railyard Expansion at JPA Meeting

ICO leaders spoke out at the Oct. 23 meeting of the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles Joint Powers Authority (JPA), which is considering a proposal by the Union Pacific Railroad to double their cargo capacity at the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) railyard that abuts West Long Beach.



"Do we need this massive expansion of the railyard next of our neighborhood and schools when we have a viable option of on-dock rail to handle cargo?" ICO Board Vice President Evelyn Knight asked. "Do we need to be in a hurry to make bad decisions and waste good resources in this time of uncertainty?"

James Larson, a member of St. Lucy's Catholic Church, suggested that the Union Pacific Railroad was like a spoiled child who won't clean up his room unless they are allowed to expand. "They are the spoiled

child. They can not be allowed to bully this neighborhood any longer.”

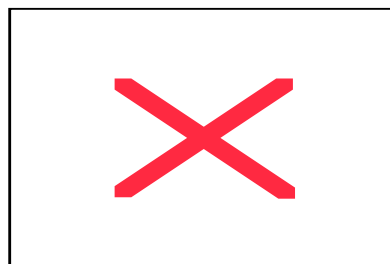
Ben Rockwell from First Congregational Church UCC shared the impact of pollution on people with respiratory problems. Mary Hernandez, long-time Westside resident and member of St. Lucy’s, talked about the impact of the pollution and noise from the railyards on the community and schools. “I hear them at night, clanking, motors running... Can you imagine kids get sick with asthma ... Don’t expand.”

In 2010, the Ports are going to be reviewing environmental impact reports for the expansion of the ICTF railyard and the building of a new railyard adjacent to West Long Beach schools and neighborhoods.

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ICO Leaders Continue Work on Homelessness

In November, the ICO Homeless Initiative Committee conducted several research visits in efforts to move forward on two possible projects for the homeless. First, they visited with local agencies, including the Veterans Administration Hospital and The Multi-Service Center, to learn more about the Long Beach homeless population. What they heard was that in the wake of the economic downtown the fastest-growing homeless population was people living in their cars.



Members of the Homeless Initiative Committee than traveled to Santa Barbara to visit [New Beginnings Counseling Center’s](#) “Safe Parking Lot” Program, a citywide program to provide secure overnight parking spaces in designated locations for those Santa Barbara homeless living in their cars. Leaders followed up


with a call with the director of the Santa Barbara program, and plan other research visits and continued work with Long Beach 6th District Councilman Dee Andrews’ office, who has identified this population as potential recipients of federal funding through the City’s share of the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

The second opportunity that ICO leaders have been researching is how we can better support already existing organizations that serve the homeless, such as [Christian Outreach in Action](#). ICO leaders met with COA board members to discuss their needs and how we can collaborate to nurture their efforts and ensure that they are able to continue their great work for years to come.

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ICO Leaders Participate In National Immigration Reform Call

On November 18th six ICO leaders participated on a national



conference call on immigration reform with U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Illinois, joining 50,420 fellow callers interested in the progress of immigration reform legislation in Washington, D.C. ICO leaders continue to lead ESL & Citizenship classes at St. Athanasius Church and have seen dozens of new citizens come from these classes while many others continue to wait for immigration reform.

On Friday, December 4th, from 6:00-8:00pm ICO leaders along with the *Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition* and *Reform Immigration for America* will hold a "Know Your Rights Workshop" at St. Athanasius School, in Room 6. Community members will role play and learn what their rights are, including how to respond should they encounter ICE agents or the police at home, at work or during traffic stops. They will also have the opportunity to ask specific questions to an immigration lawyer.

ICO leaders are also planning an immigration reform event in January to create an opportunity for our representatives to hear local testimonies and why we need reform now. On his national conference call, Congressman Gutierrez committed to introducing an immigration bill in the U.S. House of Representatives in May of 2010, shortly after U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer of New York introduces a similar bill in the U.S. Senate.

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