



from the executive director

Global warming presents a serious challenge to our world. Measurable evidence is clear as scientific reports warn of the effects caused by global warming – a melting ice cap, droughts, and rising temperatures, to name a few.

The time for change is now! Fresno County EOC has the opportunity to be part of the solution to reduce global warming. Our Local Conservation Corps (LCC) Recycling Program is leading this effort by providing recycling services free of charge to schools, businesses, and local events. In the story titled "Painting the Town Green," find out where you can expect to see some of our Corpsmembers in action and what benefit schools are reaping by recycling.

This edition of Change also highlights Early Head Start's new Child Development Center. This center is providing infants and teen parents attending the School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL) – our charter school – with affordable, quality early developmental services. Read

"Getting a Head Start In Life" to find out where the center is located and what type of services are offered.

Finally, I would like to congratulate and commend two of our Foster Grandparents, Grandma Marcelina Rodriguez and Grandma Eddie Edwards, for their unconditional commitment in mentoring our youth via our Foster Grandparent program. These two notable women have volunteered a combined total of 45 years and have helped countless youngsters socially and academically. Learn more about these giving volunteers in the article entitled "Guiding Lights".

Let me leave you with one final thought; we all have the ability to elicit positive change in and for our community. Plant a seed. Take the lead and start a recycling program at your home, business, or place of employment, or volunteer – a few hours a month makes the world of a difference to a child, our environment, and our community.

Warm regards,

Roger Palomino
Executive Director

Painting the Town Green

Turning Recyclable Trash into Cash



"Last fall we gathered a total of 10,671 lbs"

In a sea of crimson and white, you'll find a team of green-uniformed men and women declaring a war on waste. This specialized squad, armed with recycling bins and bags, is comprised of members from none other than EOC's Local Conservation Corps (LCC) Recycling Program.

From recycling blitzes at Fresno State Football home games, to eco-friendly efforts at Kearney Park during the Fresno Historical Society's two-day Civil War Revisited, to recycling campaigns at

The Big Fresno Fair, LCC Corpmembers are hard at work collecting recyclable containers. "It's too early to tell how many pounds of recyclables we've collected," says Shawn Riggins, EOC's LCC Recycling Program Manager. "However," he adds, "last fall we gathered a total of 10,671 lbs of CRV [California Redemption Value] containers from all three events." The money collected from the sale of CRV containers helps EOC sustain the LCC's AmeriCorps and Recycling programs.

Local schools are also taking advantage of the special benefit LCC's Recycling Program offers as monies raised from the sale of CRV containers are donated back to each school. "Some schools receive monthly checks ranging from \$500 to \$800," says Riggins. "The money typically helps with the costs of field trips and school supplies."



LCC's Recycling Program provides recycling bins, free of charge, to schools and businesses in Fresno and Madera counties. To start a recycling program at your place of employment or for more information on LCC's Recycling Program, please contact Shawn Riggins at 559.264.1048.

On the Horizon...

Fresno County EOC is hard at work developing programs and providing services that help low-income individuals and families residing in Fresno County become self-sufficient. Here are just some of our ongoing and future projects.

- Construction on EOC's Neighborhood Youth Center nears completion
- Seeking funds to develop and implement mental health program
- Expanding re-entry programs for youth and adult offenders
- Juvenile Delinquency prevention and early intervention services
- Monitoring a potential water crisis with the potential of serious economic impact in Fresno County.

If you have any ideas or information on any of these issues, please email Mr. Roger Palomino at Roger.Palomino@fresnoeoc.org

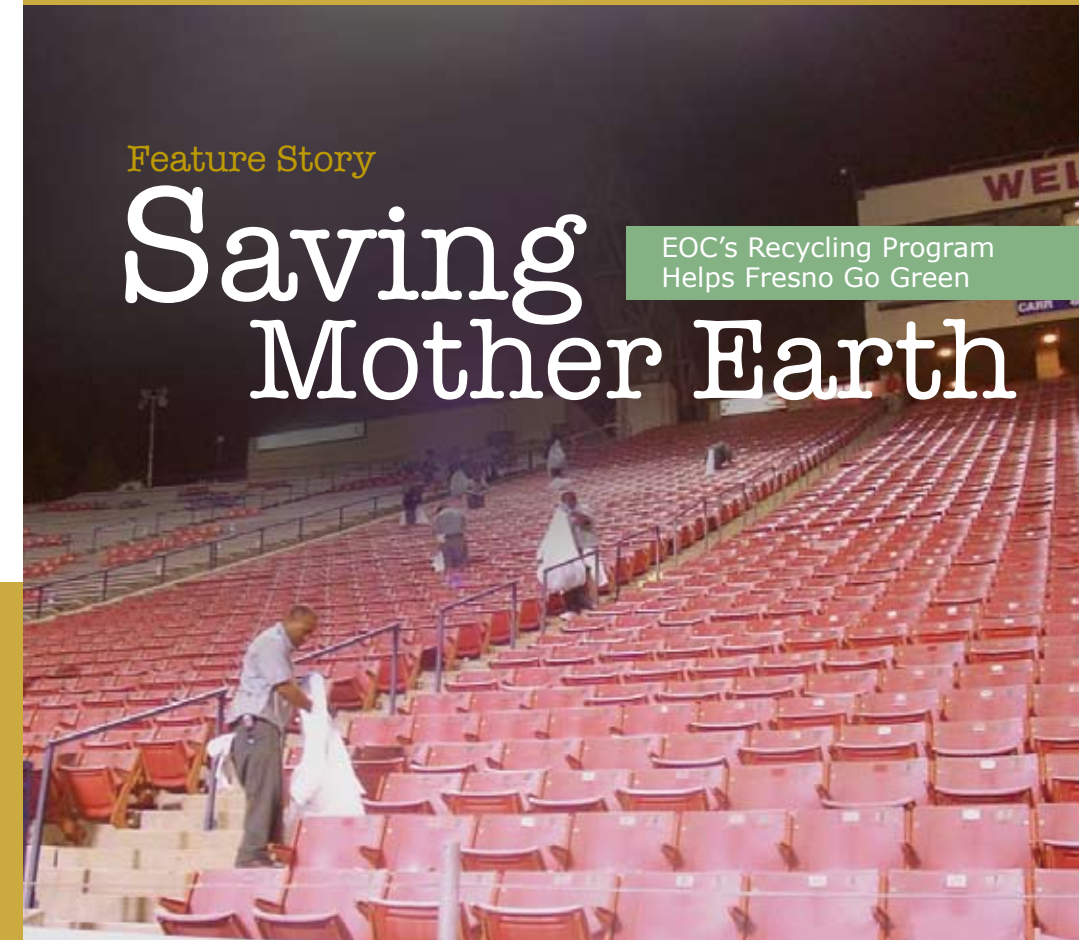
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Feature Story

Saving Mother Earth

EOC's Recycling Program
Helps Fresno Go Green



EOC is an integral catalyst of positive change in our community. We are helping people and changing lives through various events and services.

EOC continues to explore new ways to inspire change and make our community a better place. In just the past few months EOC has been responsible for instituting real change.

in this issue

Painting the Town Green

EOC's Local Conservation Corps Recycling Program makes Fresno a cleaner, greener city by collecting recyclable cans and bottles at local events.

Getting A Head Start In Life

Early Head Start's new Child Development Center gives underprivileged infants and toddlers an opportunity to get ahead in life by providing them a place to learn and grow.

Guiding Lights

Foster Grandparents volunteer their time and share their pearls of wisdom with youngsters throughout Fresno County. We celebrate two Foster Grandparents who have generously volunteered a combined 45 years of service to our community.

Getting A Head Start in Life

New Child Development Center Helps Children and Teen Parents Succeed



On the corner of East Divisadero Street and North Glenn Avenue in downtown Fresno, sits EOC's brand new, state-of-the-art Child Development Center. The center, part of EOC's Early Head Start program, provides infants and toddlers with the educational, emotional, and social resources needed for comprehensive early development.

Just a few blocks away is the School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL), the Agency's charter school. Strategically placed within walking distance of each other, the Child Development Center gives teen parents attending SOUL the opportunity to continue to pursue their education by providing them with no cost, professional, and reliable child development services. "Many teen parents drop out of high school to take care of their child because they simply cannot find quality childcare," says SOUL's principal, Dr. Mark Wilson. "Our goal is to stop this cycle and to help our young parents thrive so they can provide their children with the best possible future."



With up to a **4:1** ratio, parents can rest assured that their child is receiving the best quality care.



"Our goal is to stop this cycle and to help our young parents thrive so they can provide their children with the best possible future."

SOUL students and teen parents attending SOUL also have the unique opportunity to take parenting and child development courses at the new Child Development Center. "The purpose of the classes is two-fold," adds Kathleen Shivaprasad, program manager for Early Head Start. "Not only can we equip young parents with the parenting tools necessary to successfully rear a child, but we can also help SOUL students who want to pursue a career in early childhood education by offering high school credits for classes taken."



The Early Head Start program offers comprehensive support including child development; health, safety, and nutrition education; parent and child play groups; and fatherhood/male involvement services. Services for children with disabilities are also an integral part of the program.

To check eligibility or to enroll your child in an Early Head Start program near you, contact Early Head Start at 559.263.1550 or visit our web site at www.fresnoeoc.org.

Guiding Lights

"Grandmaaaaaa!" A cheerful first grader at Jefferson Elementary shrieks as she runs into the arms of "Grandma Marcie." Just a few miles away, children at Maple Vista Head Start surround "Grandma Eddie" as they wait to greet her with warm smiles and big hugs.



Marcelina Rodriguez and Eddie Edwards have been part of EOC's Foster Grandparent program for the past 20 and 25 years, respectively. These two phenomenal women dedicate 20 hours of their time weekly helping youngsters excel academically and socially. "There are days when you wake up and your body aches and you don't feel like going in," says 83-year-old Marcelina Rodriguez. "But you pick yourself up and you walk out the door. And you know what? When you get there, that pain that you felt in the morning just magically disappears. Being with the children just makes you feel better!"

Eddie Edwards volunteered as a Foster Grandparent at Juvenile Hall for 17 years before moving to Maple Vista Head Start. "I wanted to teach the kids to crochet and quilt," recalls Eddie Edwards. "I soon realized that these youngsters just needed someone to listen to them and allow them the opportunity to vent."

"It's a beautiful thing to see children blossom before your eyes."



"It is the most rewarding experience...to see a successful young man or woman before you."

Foster Grandparents extend love and wisdom and dedicate time and attention to nurture an infant or mentor a youngster who otherwise might not receive heartfelt sharing and caring. "It's a beautiful thing to see children blossom before your eyes," adds Grandma Marcie. Grandma Edwards agrees, "I've bumped into children I helped 15 or 20 years ago who thank me for helping them. It is the most rewarding experience ... to see a successful young man or woman before you."



Foster Grandparents must be 60+ years of age, able to volunteer an average of 20 hours per week, meet an income requirement, and most importantly, love children.

To learn more about the Foster Grandparent program, please call Vicki Lopes at 559.263.1530 or Kathlene Brookshire at 559.263.1638.

