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**CABRILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S  
ANNUAL NEIGHBORWORKS® WEEK PROJECT FOCUSES ON  
*PAYING IT FORWARD* FOR YOUTH**

**Neighbors, Businesses and Volunteers Plan to Get Together on June 12  
to Fundraise and “Friendraise” to Benefit Area Youth**

Ventura, CA – The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) will host its annual NeighborWorks® Week (NWW) community event on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Town Square in the rural farmworker community of Piru.

The event will be both a neighborhood celebration and an effort to raise resident and business awareness of the need to support youth programs in the Santa Clara Valley, where Piru is located, especially the Boys & Girls Club and Big Brothers/Big Sisters One Step a La Vez program. The event will focus on what organizers are calling “friendraising” and fundraising to ultimately build a dream playground for youth living in the area. Piru community members will be able to give input on the draft of the neighborhood playground which is expected to be built on August 7. CEDC will be leading the community in raising volunteers and money to build the playground which will be completed in partnership with the County of Ventura, a major Ventura County business and a nationally known playground builder.

The June 12<sup>th</sup> event taking place in downtown Piru will include a live sidewalk chalk art competition, a horseshoe tournament, youth activities, organization booths, a drum circle, a live spray paint art demonstration, free snacks, music and the opportunity for the community to interact, brainstorm and have fun in celebration of youth. In addition, there will be a special musical performance by the the Piru Riverband.

CEDC is a non-profit housing and community development corporation (CDC) serving Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Since 1998, CEDC has been a proud member of the NeighborWorks network through its affiliation with NeighborWorks America, a national intermediary that provides funding and technical assistance to CDC's across the country. National NeighborWorks Week — now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year — is a celebration of the accomplishments of the NeighborWorks network

Across the country, NeighborWorks Week is June 5-12, 2010. During NeighborWorks Week, local NeighborWorks organizations across the U.S. mobilize tens of thousands of volunteers, businesspeople, neighbors, friends, and local and national elected and civic leaders in a week of neighborhood change and awareness. They rehab and repair homes, paint and landscape properties, conduct neighborhood tours, recognize successful partnerships, and host events that educate, train and inform.

This is the ninth consecutive year that CEDC has assisted a neighborhood in coordinating a revitalization or community project as part of NWW since CEDC became a chartered member of NeighborWorks America ([www.nw.org](http://www.nw.org)). Past NWW revitalization projects have taken place in Oxnard, Ojai, Santa Paula, El Rio, Fillmore, Santa Paula and Ventura.

Past CEDC NeighborWorks Week activities have included renovating a maternity home, rehabilitating homes with paint and landscaping, and planting a community garden. “CEDC’s volunteer project for 2010 is different than anything we’ve done before. This year we are especially honoring the spirit and energy of youth. Youth and art will be coming together to create something exciting, that will result in a park for the youth in Piru by the end of the summer,” enthuses CEDC’s Community Building and Neighborhood Revitalization team member and Americorps Vista member Juliana Gallardo.

Citi Community Development is the title sponsor of this year’s event along with CEDC. “Citi Community Development department is very proud to support Cabrillo’s NeighborWorks Week. At Citi, we are committed to making communities better where we work and live. This neighborhood revitalization project will provide a safe recreation place for children and families of Piru,” says Gustavo Bidart, Vice President and Regional Manager for Citi Community Development’s Southwest California and Nevada regions.

Volunteers, supplies and donations are still needed. Anyone interested in making a donation of time, money or supplies, is asked to call lead project organizers Juliana Gallardo or Raul Lopez at 805/659-3791.

CEDC is a private non-profit affordable housing and community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and the Santa Maria area. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,346 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental homes, manages 714 affordable rental units, and has helped more than 7,632 families into homeownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 230 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC’s 29<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

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