

# Best Start Lancaster

## PARTNERSHIP PLANNING 2011-2012

### What we've accomplished in the past year...

#### ← Phase 1: Engaging the Community, Establishing a Partnership, Developing Leadership (May - Dec 2011) →

**July 7, 2011** – About 55 Best Start community members and service providers participated in **asset mapping** to identify strengths and needs in the community. This information has been used for **Community Planning** and will continue to be used throughout the implementation of Best Start.

**August 2011**- Boundaries Workgroup and Vision Statement Workgroup met to discuss recommendations they would present to the larger group.

**September 10, 2011**- The Boundaries Workgroup presented 2 plans to extend the Partnership boundaries to include Quartz Hill and the Women's shelter.

**September 10, 2011**– Best Start Partnership & community members met with neighbors, played games, made healthy snacks, and art & crafts at Antelope Valley Best Start *Play day*.

**October 27**– The Community reviewed and voted on **Partnership criteria** and discussed **quorum**. They selected **Guidance Body** as the leadership group name.

**November 5, 2011**—A number of community members participated in a **planning retreat** where they received training on power and equity. The group also identified a temporary **governance structure** and **Guidance Body criteria** to present to larger community.



*"I have learned to make decisions. There are people that are willing to listen to me and perhaps I can make an impact in the community."*

~Leadership Body Representative



**April 15, 2012**— Best Start Lancaster families visited LACMA and participated in "Recycle, Transform, Make Art" workshop.

**May 3, 2012**– *Building Community Networks: A Neighborhood Map of Organizations serving Palmdale and Lancaster* was held. Community Based-Organizations gave presentations about their services, and answered questions from parents and community members.

**January 19, 2012**– In order to better determine the overall priorities of the community, Best Start community members identified their top 7 priorities from the 21 developed in previous meetings. These will be used to help guide the Best Start Community Plan development.

**January 19, 2012**- Members of the Guidance Body were introduced to the Partnership.

**February 9, 2012** – Best Start Partnership members signed up to take part in the 6 workgroups developed: **Welcome Baby & Home Visitation, Fitness & Nutrition, Kindergarten Readiness, Partnership Training, Transportation, Parent/ Care-giver Education & Training.**

#### 2012

#### 2011

##### July - Aug

**July 7, 2011**- Vision Statement Workgroup was created to consolidate the visioning work of the community and propose vision statements to the larger community.

**July 28, 2011**– Best Start campaign **Re-think Your Drink** was introduced to bring awareness to the community about the benefits of drinking more water.

##### Sept - Oct

**September 1, 2011**— Community members finalized and approved vision statement for Best Start Lancaster.

**September 15, 2011**—**Understanding our landscape.** Community members conducted several data collection exercises to understand the importance of data in making decisions for their community.

##### Nov - Dec

**October 6 & October 27, 2011**– Members participated in the **Community Partnership Training** to clarify roles and responsibilities within the 3 levels of engagement: Partnership, Workgroups and Guidance Body.

**December 8, 2011** – Partnership voted on the size of the Guidance Body, and decided that **11 out of 15** seats were reserved for parents. **There were 29 nominations.** Partnership voted in the **Guidance Body members** and all seats were filled.

##### Jan - Feb

**January 12, 2012**—The Guidance Body met for the first time.

**February 9, 2012** – **Community Assessment findings** were presented and partnership members were trained to use both **quantitative** and **qualitative data** to prepare them for the work they would be doing in the Work Groups developed for the Community Plan.

##### Mar - Apr

**March 2012**- Various workgroups met throughout March to **review priorities** and **submit recommendations** to the Guidance Body, who presented them to the Partnership.

**April 1, 2012** - Champions for Change hosted a **cooking demonstration** and store tour of Vallarta Supermarket and received free recipe books to take home and share.

##### May - Jun

**March 29, 2012**– Members **brainstormed** ways to communicate the Best Start goals to the community to increase engagement and participation and reach specific audiences.



Community leaders were asked about their dreams for Lancaster. The "word cloud" above reflects their responses. Words appearing in larger type appeared more frequently in responses.



**Vision**  
Best Start Lancaster is committed to be the best environment for children and families to safely grow and thrive where all community members are valued and respected.

#### ← Phase 2: Setting Priorities and Objectives and Developing a Community Plan (Jan - June 2012) →

Items in yellow are major milestones completed by all Partnerships

