

# The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

April 2003

Serving the Cities of:  
El Cajon  
La Mesa  
Lemon Grove  
Poway  
Santee

Serving the communities of:  
Agua Caliente  
Allied Gardens  
Alpine  
Barrett  
Blossom Valley  
Bostonia  
Boulevard  
Campo  
Canebrake  
Casa de Oro  
Crest  
Cuyamaca  
Dehesa  
Del Cerro  
Descanso  
Dulzura  
Eucalyptus Hills  
Fernbrook  
Flinn Springs  
Granite Hills  
Grantville  
Guatay  
Harbison Canyon  
Jacumba  
Jamul  
Julian  
Lake Morena  
Lakeside  
Mount Helix  
Pine Hills  
Pine Valley  
Potrero  
Ramona  
Rancho San Diego  
Rolando  
San Carlos  
San Pasqual  
Santa Ysabel  
Shelter Valley  
Spring Valley  
Tecate  
Tierra del Sol  
Vallecitos

Serving the Indian Reservations of:  
Barona  
Campo  
Cosmit  
Cuyapaipa  
Inaja  
Jamul  
La Posta  
Manzanita  
Mesa Grande  
Santa Ysabel  
Sycuan  
Viejas

## A Community Solution to a Community Problem

# East County Tackles Roots of Homelessness

Call it a “life skills facility.” Call it a “personal empowerment zone.” But, don’t call the Main Street Community Center in El Cajon a “homeless shelter.”

That’s because the community members who are proposing to launch the center want to create a place where the homeless can do more than crash for the night. They envision a center where people learn to turn their lives around completely.

The Main Street Community Center is a remarkable public-private partnership that offers a community solution to a community problem.

The philosophy behind the Main Street Community Center is the same as the mission of Alpha Project, the experienced non-profit agency that will run the center. We can keep giving people a bed night after night, or we can teach people how to take control of their lives— permanently.

This philosophy is shared by El Cajon’s Hamann Construction, the familiar and family owned company that has shown such a gener-

ous and genuine interest in the project.

Hamann Construction’s \$3.5 million investment will make it possible to turn an old motel and restaurant along East Main Street into the perfect place for Alpha Project to work its life-changing miracles.

Alpha Project and its president, Bob McElroy have a 17-year history of understanding how and why people end up on the street. Decades of research have identified the culprits behind homelessness. Statistics show that a majority of homeless adults have one or more of the following

challenges: drug or alcohol addiction, mental illness, illiteracy or a lack of life skills.

The talented staff at Alpha Project know that by zeroing in on these clearly-defined problems, it’s more than possible to turn wayward lives into safe and productive lives. Drug treatment, job training and basic healthcare, combined with accountability and positive reinforcement, do far more to end homelessness than a temporary cot and blanket.

Skeptics should tour Alpha Project’s Vista facility where some of the biggest fans of the program are the nearby homes and businesses who say

***“We can keep giving people a bed night after night, or we can teach people how to take control of their own lives— permanently.”***

***-Supervisor Dianne Jacob***



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**More than a Shelter**  
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that the Alpha Project's community beautification projects have rid the neighborhood of litter, vandalism and loitering. In fact, since the opening of the Vista facility, crime in the neighborhood has decreased!

Some of East County's most caring and conscientious individuals know that it was their tireless work that paved the road to the Main Street Community Center proposal.

The community's decades-long struggle to site a shelter was highlighted this winter by Father John Conrad. A voice for El Cajon's homeless, his persistence was the impetus for community members to huddle up and confront the problem head-on.

With the urging of Mayor Mark Lewis, Councilman Gary Kendrick and Gary Cass, a broad-based community group managed to open a temporary winter shelter in record time.

This impressive group included Tony Ambrose from the City of El Cajon Planning Commission, Eric Knowles from San Diego Rescue Mission and Pacific Commercial Investments, Marco Evangelista from Set Free Ministries, Harold Brown from Foothills Christian Fellowship, John Gibson from Westhills Christian Fellowship and Hamann Construction.

Determined not to scramble for a temporary shelter again next year, Eric Knowles and John Gibson went on a quest to find a site for a permanent shelter. They found the direction they needed from Mayor Lewis and Planning Commissioner Ambrose, and they found the services they needed from Alpha Project. They also found my commitment to do whatever I can to make the project a reality. For starters, at least \$500,000 can be acquired through the County to rehab the facility. I stand ready to work to bring those dollars to the project.

In the near future, additional details of the project will come before the El Cajon City Council and the community will have the opportunity to shape and mold the final product. I urge residents to learn more about the proposal and especially take time to research the successes of the Alpha Project.

The Main Street Community Center can be a world-class facility that will change individual lives and make our community safer, healthier and happier. Given the opportunity, it will serve as a model for communities who want to do more than simply warehouse the homeless.

In the end, these miracles will come about because of the tenacity of Eric Knowles and John Gibson, the generosity of Hamann Construction, the know-how of the Alpha Project and the persistence of others who have been working on this problem over the years— truly a community solution to a community problem.



# SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

Supervisor Jacob is humbled by the men and women who are risking their lives to bring freedom to the people of Iraq and greater stability to the globe.

Home to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Camp Pendleton and Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego County has more military installations than any County in the nation. In fact, one in five American service men and women involved in the war in Iraq deployed from San Diego County.

Supervisor Jacob was proud to join Supervisor Bill Horn in his quest to support President Bush and American troops with a resolution from the County of San Diego.

She would like to extended her deepest gratitude to the men and women of the U.S. military.

# County to State: Post Detailed Sex Offender List On Web

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors wants San Diegans to have access to the same type of information about registered sex offenders as residents of other states— including addresses, pictures and criminal records of dangerous predators who must notify law enforcement of their whereabouts.

Last month, the Board voted unanimously to seek and sponsor State legislation that would expand the amount of information currently available under Megan’s Law and make that information available on the web.

On March 5, the Supreme Court took a stand and ruled in favor of protecting our children over protecting convicted sex offenders. Justices said it was legal for the states of Connecticut and Alaska to post detailed information about registered sex offenders, including pictures, criminal history and vehicle information, on the Internet.

Sex offenders are a criminal population that is an automatic threat to the safety of our children. I believe that knowledge is power and a detailed sex offender registry will empower parents with the information they need to keep children safe.

Last year, San Diego County launched the State’s first regional sex offender pin map which shows the approximate locations of all registered sex offenders living in San Diego County. In addition, San Diego County is sponsoring legislation that would make it a felony to possess child pornography. Currently, the crime is considered a misdemeanor.

*Visit the County’s sex offender pin map online at [www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com).*



Photo by C. Adams

## Swing into Spring

Little league season is one of Supervisor Jacob’s favorite times of the year. She loves to see the Second District’s young people exercising and having fun.

Her mission to build and improve ballfields in the Second District marches on. To date, she’s committed more than \$3.5 million to ballfields, skate parks and other sports-related projects.

She’s determined to get even more kids enrolled in athletic activities and wishes all little leaguers a successful 2003 season.

**Join me for Coffee and Conversation**

**Friday, April 11, 2003 at 8:30 a.m.**

**Guy B. Woodward Museum**

**645 Main Street, Ramona**

# Get The Jacob Journal!

The Jacob Journal will be mailed to you on a regular basis by request only. So, if you like what you've read, fill out the form below and mail it back to us at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101 or fax it to us at (619) 696-7253. We'll put you on our mailing list to get The Jacob Journal regularly!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Apr-03

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