

Notes from the Director

## **The Evolution of CYFAR**

—*Marc Braverman*

It is deeply distressing that any child has to grow up in the midst of poverty, violence, or other environmental conditions that present severe challenges to his or her optimal development. In the United States today, far too many millions of children—probably more than ever before—face these circumstances, and it is incumbent on our societal institutions to attempt to address the situation as best they can. As one response to these difficult problems, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) launched the Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Initiative in 1991 with a Congressional appropriation of \$7.5 million. Local community programs, representing collaborations between Extension agents and other agencies, were created and supported with the goal of building communities where children could grow up in safe, secure, supportive environments. To supplement the efforts of these local community programs, the Initiative also included university-based Centers for Action, funded by the Kellogg Foundation, to provide guidance and technical assistance in specific program areas.

In the intervening years the CYFAR Initiative has grown and evolved as the Cooperative Extension System has incorporated theoretical and practical knowledge regarding effective community programming for children, youth and families. Several of the most critical current emphases within CYFAR are the development of sustainable community programs (i.e., programs that can continue effective operation after seed funding has expired), the development of strategies for assessing and demonstrating the positive impacts of community programs, and the establishment of electronic connectivity across all program elements. At present CYFAR includes the following specific components:

- *Community Youth at Risk projects.* These local projects are at the heart of the CYFAR programming effort. Since the first round of funded projects in 1991, 96 projects have been funded in 49 states and two territories.
- *State Strengthening Projects.* These are a fairly recent addition to the Initiative, and stem from a growing awareness that effective local programming might best proceed through coordinated statewide efforts. Thus CSREES has shifted its funding focus toward statewide collaborations. Twenty-five State Strengthening Projects have been funded since 1994.
- *National Children, Youth and Families Networks.* These Networks consist of collaborations of Extension professionals across different states in specific topic areas. In concept, they



have replaced the previous Centers for Action. Five have been established: National Network for Child Care, National Network for Family Resiliency, National Network for Collaboration, National Network for Science and Technology, and National Decisions for Health Network. Altogether these Networks draw on the expertise of approximately 95 professionals from 60 land-grant university systems.

- *Children, Youth and Family Education and Research Network (CYFERNet)*. This is an Internet-based electronic information management system that connects all of the collaborators and organizational elements within the CYFAR Initiative. CYFERNet can be accessed on the World Wide Web through the following address: "<http://www.cyfernet.mes.umn.edu>".

California has participated extensively in CYFAR since its inception. County 4-H programs received grants for local programming in San Diego County, Santa Clara County, and a ten-county collaboration in the Northern Region (with Placer serving as the lead contact). California also received funding to establish national Centers for Action in the areas of (a) School Age Child Care and (b) Science and Technology. Currently, in addition to the local youth at risk projects, which are at or near the end of their multi-year funding cycles, our state is participating in CYFAR in the following ways:

- The California 4-H program is a collaborator in three of the National Networks: Child Care (with Sharon Junge having served for two years as the Western Region liaison for this Network), Science and Technology, and Decisions for Health.
- The 4-H Center for Youth Development (4-H CYD) has undertaken the evaluation of the National Decisions for Health Network's national activities and effectiveness.
- The 4-H CYD has a grant from the National Network for Child Care to develop a curriculum for high school students on the topic of child care careers.
- In November, the California 4-H YD Program submitted a proposal to USDA for funding for a State Strengthening Project. The Project team will include the 4-H CYD, the 4-H YD Program Coordinator's office, county 4-H YD staff, UCCE Specialists, and UC campus faculty. (Further information is provided in the related article in this issue of *Center Update*.) The State Strengthening Project highlights three specific county programs, but through the lessons it provides it will also enable us to build 4-H programming capacity throughout California. USDA plans to announce their funding decisions this spring.

CYFAR represents one of the most important *new* developments in Extension programming over the past decade. It is just one part of the many facets of 4-H programming, and in many ways its ultimate impact remains to be determined. Nevertheless it deserves strong support because it reflects one of our organization's most innovative attempts to reinvent itself, and to respond in new ways to changing times and critical needs.

***Out and About Around the State...***

—Sally Stanley

*Vacaville Youth Round Table*, UC Davis (10/17 and 11/4/96):

Ramona Carlos participated in two meetings of the Vacaville Youth Round Table held here at UC Davis. The round table was initiated by interested city officials, youth workers, educators, parents and students in the Vacaville community who wanted to use the knowledge base of the university to develop strategies to encourage youth to take personal responsibility for their actions. Discussions involved ideas on how to adopt community norms regarding youth issues such as substance abuse, gangs and sexual behaviors.

*Interview with the Sacramento Bee*, (Mid-November, 1996):

Ella Madsen was interviewed by the *Sacramento Bee* about the 4-H Youth Development Program, past and present, as well as the role of the Center in youth development programming. The article appeared in the December 30, 1996 Metro section.

*Presentation to students in Human Development*, UC Davis (11/5/96):

Anna Otto presented a lecture on careers with children to HDE 140 university students.

*North Central Region Youth Staff Meeting*, Contra Costa (11/12/96):

Ramona Carlos attended the Youth Staff meeting in Contra Costa county in order to encourage participation in the Center's upcoming Youth Programming Book. The Center is offering assistance to all those wishing to submit manuscripts for publication. Ramona distributed a packet of sample publications in order to assist those

wishing to submit manuscripts. Anyone interested in this sample packet can contact the Center or Ramona Carlos at 916-754-8435.

*Preparing Adolescents for the World of Work*, San Rafael (12/9/96):

Ella Madsen and Sally Stanley met with Hi 4-H members in San Rafael to pilot the survey questionnaire for the collaborative "World of Work" study. The pilot study was arranged through Jane Chin Young and Karen Detwiler in cooperation with Caryl Hodges. The input from this wonderful group of young people was really helpful to our study.

*4-H YD Program Advisory Committee*, Davis (10/24/96):

Marc Braverman met with other 4-H YD state and county staff in the inaugural meeting of the 4-H YD Program Advisory Committee. The committee will meet three times per year. Next meeting is in February at UC Riverside.

*4-H State Leaders Council*, Davis (10/26/96):

Marc attended the Leaders Council Meeting and presented a report on the four recently completed 4-H Leader Trainings that the 4-H CYD conducted around the state in September and October.

*American Evaluation Association (AEA) Conference*, Atlanta, GA (11/6-11/9/96):

Marc attended this conference, and presented a paper based on his tobacco education research, entitled "Potential Testing Effects in Measures of Early Adolescents' Attitudes Toward Tobacco." In addition to attending sessions about a variety of program evaluation topics, Marc had the opportunity to meet with Cooperative Extension specialist and agent

colleagues from other states. AEA has a relatively large number of Cooperative Extension members, who make up a Topical Interest Group entitled "Extension Education Evaluation." Next year's AEA conference will take place in San Diego, November 4-8, 1997.

*Presentation to Human Development graduate class, UC Davis (11/12/96):*  
Marc made a guest presentation in HDE 291, a proseminar for first-year Human Development graduate students. He discussed his November 1994 article in *Health Education Quarterly* with Lynn Bloomberg and Jim Meyers, entitled "The importance of social interaction: A new perspective on social epidemiology, social risk factors, and health."

*Proposal Reviews for the California Department of Health Services, San Francisco (11/13-14/96):*  
Marc Braverman served as an invited outside reviewer of statewide proposals on "Community Interventions to reduce Tobacco Use," a Request for Applications that had been issued by the Department of Health Services (DHS) Tobacco Control Section. The reviews took place in a two-day meeting coordinated by DHS in San Francisco.

*Evaluation consultation on UC Davis Vet School projects, Davis (11/15/96):*  
Marc met with Lee Zasloff, a researcher at the UCD Vet School, to discuss her evaluation plans for two projects aimed at increasing young people's respect for and treatment of animals.

*North Central Region Youth Staff, Fairfield (12/11/96):*  
Marc was invited to meet with North Central Region 4-H Youth Development Advisors to

discuss planning for the next Partners in People conference.

### ***Leader Trainings: Final Report***

—Anna Otto

As noted in the last *Update*, the 1996 fall Leader Trainings hosted by the CYD were successfully completed in the four regions. Overall, the leaders attending the trainings were pleased with the quality of the information they received. In response to the question, "Overall, was this a good training?", the average rating was above 4 (on a five point scale where 1 was "NO!" and 5 was "YES!"). Similarly, all individual sessions also received an average score of about or over 4.

Leaders in San Benito county have invited Sally Stanley and Anna Otto of the Center to present their sessions, *Experiential Learning: Ideas for Hands-On Teaching* and *Leadership Exploration*, at a county leader training. This is scheduled for February 1, 1997.

### ***4-H CYD Applies for Statewide CYFAR Project Grant***

—Ramona Carlos

The 4-H CYD was very busy this past month preparing a grant proposal to CSREES-USDA for a State Strengthening (STST) Project. This funding opportunity is a part of USDA's Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Initiative which focuses on innovative programming approaches in low income communities through collaborations between Extension and other agencies. 4-H YD staff may recall the e-mail from Marc to county 4-H offices, inviting the submission of programming ideas for possible inclusion in the STST project proposal. County projects were

selected based on the following criteria, which were developed in consultation with the 4-H Advisory Committee:

- communities need to meet the criteria outlined in the Program announcement;
- projects should demonstrate thoughtful planning;
- projects should demonstrate collaboration with local community agencies;
- selected projects, as a group, should reflect a mix of urban and rural communities;
- projects, as a group, should reflect the geographical diversity of California (i.e., projects should be located in different parts of the state).

Based on an examination of the National Outcomes of the CYFAR Initiative, staff discussions and the programming ideas suggested by county staff, we developed the following overall themes for the STST Project:

- Strengthening family dynamics and intergenerational bonds.
- Increasing parenting skills.
- Using a family-oriented delivery structure to teach critical life skills to youth.

4-H Youth Development staff from nine counties responded to the original inquiry, and three county projects were selected to be a part of the STST proposal:

- "Orland 4-H Afterschool Project," Glenn County (Jeannette George, 4-H Youth Development Advisor)

- "College Bound," San Francisco County (Faye C.H. Lee, 4-H

- "The Neighborhood GreenNet Project," Santa Barbara County (Michael Marzolla, 4-H Youth Development Advisor)

Although only three projects were able to be included in this proposal (based on the RFP), it is anticipated additional projects may be added in succeeding years. We

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believe that our proposal is strong, and are excited about the potential new local projects. They will help to strengthen families in low-income communities by providing resources and skills to help improve their lives. Announcements of grant awards will be made around April 30, 1997. We'll keep you posted!

### ***Caring for Kids: An Update***

—Anna Otto

The *Caring for Kids* project is moving forward. Anna Otto (Project Director) has met with Marc Braverman (Principal Investigator) and members of the 4-H School Age Child Care (SACC) workgroup and the Center for Child and Family Studies (CCFS) at U.C. Davis to discuss the preliminary curriculum outline. Based on their feedback, the outline is being revised and activities are being designed. In January, Anna will travel to Tucson, AZ to present a project update to the funder, the National Network for Child Care, and present a workshop session at the CYFAR conference. During Winter 1997, Anna will be working with a group of undergraduate students enrolled in HDE 198 at U.C. Davis. These students will help to further refine the project through a series of focus groups and activity trials. Pilot testing of the project should occur in Spring 1997. We are delighted that the following members of the SACC will be collaborating on the project: Sharon Junge, Teresa McAllister, Fe Moncloa, and Jeanne George.

### ***Announcement of Spring Conference***

—Ella Madsen

It is a dark and stormy day, at least from our windowless domain on the third floor of

Hart Hall we think it is, and what better way to warm our 4-H hearts than with thoughts of Spring Conference, 1997. This year's conference will be held **May 20 and 21** at the **Alumni Center** on the UC Davis campus. We are very pleased that DANR vice-president, Reg Gomes, will be the keynote speaker on day two of the conference. Arrangements for a speaker on day one are currently in process.

***Suggestions for workshops would be welcome.*** A few of the topics that we have been considering for workshops are: Ethics, Attachment, Community Collaboration, and Curriculum Development training by a 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System representative. If you would like to suggest a particular topic or presenter please contact Ella Madsen by FAX, 916/754-8440 or e-mail, ermadsen@ucdavis.edu by February 5.

***Call for County posters and displays.*** We will have plenty of space for county posters and displays which can be left in place throughout the conference. These should focus on projects and events that have been developed or occurred during the past year. Displays highlighting collaborations and partnerships with community agencies and between counties would be of special interest.

***Open Workgroup Session.*** On Wednesday afternoon, May 21, facilities will be made available for any group that would like to arrange a workgroup meeting immediately following the adjournment of the conference at 2:15.

We hope you will mark your calendars and take advantage of this professional development opportunity. All 4-H YD Staff are invited to attend. As in previous years, the travel expenses related to the conference will be covered for 4-H Youth

Development Advisors as well as Program Representatives with primary responsibility for youth programs within a county. Travel support for other county staff personnel will be determined on a case by case basis, and will depend on available funds and the number of requests.

Conference packets, with registration materials, will be mailed soon.

***CYD Book on Innovative Programming on Youth Development Topics***

—*Ramona Carlos*

We are still actively encouraging everyone to send us your submissions for chapters in the CYD book. The deadline for receipt of manuscripts is **February 14, 1997**. We are available to help develop ideas, review outlines, or assist in other ways. We have put together a short packet of sample articles which could serve as examples of potential chapters. This packet is available to anyone who requests it. Contact either Ramona Carlos (916/754-8435) or Katherine Robinson (916/754-8432) for a copy.

***County Spotlight: Providing School Enrichment in Fresno County***

—*Anna Otto*

**Dave Snell, 4-H Youth Development Advisor** in Fresno County has developed a number of school enrichment projects for use in Fresno County. The projects cover three areas: Avian Embryology, Plant Science, and Human Nutrition. About 8,000 students in 300 classrooms across the county are served by the Avian Embryology project alone! Through their participation in the classroom, these students learn not only about the subject at hand, but also about the 4-H program. According to Dave, this has proved to be an effective outreach and recruitment opportunity. The biggest

benefit, however, has been the development of relationships with a group of dedicated, motivated teachers.

Avian Embryology

This project is delivered by teachers in their respective classrooms. Dave trains the teachers through an in-service program, provides the curriculum and the materials (eggs, incubators, and feed). The project is made possible by an active collaboration: Dave developed the curriculum material and provides the teacher training, Zacky Farms provides the eggs, and the incubators were purchased with funds from the local Sponsoring Committee. In addition to covering the science of embryology, the curriculum focuses on life experiences related to the project. For example, if the chicks don't hatch or if they die, then the class may discuss the topic of death. If a chick is born with a crooked leg or wing, an opportunity is provided to discuss disabilities. Finally, there is a strong ag literacy message in the curriculum: students learn about both the natural and agri-business process. It is emphasized that these chicks are raised as food animals, not as family pets.

Plant Science

This project is similar in delivery to the Avian Embryology project. Within Plant Science, there are currently three curricula: a wheat project, a rice project, and a sugar beet project. The seeds for the projects are provided through donations from seed companies, and the science content is obtained from using 4-H curricula. The projects also work to increase ag literacy by following the product from seed to final product. With the wheat project, for example, students learn how to select and prepare a site, pest management, harvesting the crop, and finally recipes for using the crop. The rice project provides an

opportunity for tying into the culture of the many South East Asian residents of the county. The sugar beet project involves a collaboration with Spreckle Sugar. In this project, the product grown by the class is ultimately processed at the sugar plant so that the students see the final product—refined sugar.

#### Human Nutrition

This project uses the *Eating Right is Basic* curriculum. For schools that qualify for EFNEP, the project is delivered by an EFNEP assistant. For schools that do not meet the criteria for EFNEP, the project is delivered by Barbara Wortham, 4-H Program Representative.

#### Keys to Success

According to Dave, two things are important to insuring the success of school enrichment programs. First, the projects must be teacher friendly. Ideally, all items needed to carry out the project will be provided to the teacher. If the project is a burden by requiring the teacher to locate or purchase additional materials, the project may not be completed. Second, if collaborators are involved, care must be used not to over burden them.

#### ***Journals Information Packet***

—*Ramona Carlos*

4-H YD Advisors should have each received a copy of the list of journals that we felt might be appropriate for publication of Advisor research articles. This packet, which includes descriptions of the journals and the journals' published instructions to authors (if available) was mailed to each YD

Advisor in early November. Please contact Katherine Robinson (916/754-8432) if you did not receive yours.

#### ***Preparing Adolescents for the World of Work***

—*Ella Madsen*

The *Preparing Adolescents for the World of Work* grant project is quickly moving toward the data collection stage which will start in February. During the fall Center team members were busy researching suitable standardized surveys and developing their own questionnaire for data collection. A draft of a packet for contacting school administrators was also prepared. Advisors were busy identifying resources in their county that could serve as possible data collection sites. In late November the project team met to edit and refine these materials and make plans for piloting the survey during December. The survey was piloted among high-school age groups in Marin, Butte, and Yuba counties and among young adult groups in El Dorado county.

#### ***Conference to Promote Gardening In Schools Is Planned for March 15***

*Press Release—Molly Fraker, CUESA*

Dan Desmond (Sonoma), a member of the planning committee for the upcoming conference "A Garden in Every School: Cultivating a Sense of Season and Place," suggested that it could be of interest to 4-H Staff and volunteer leaders. The conference will be held Saturday, March 15, 1997 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Berkeley, CA. Aimed at K through 12th grade educators, parents, and interested community members,

the conference will explore how gardens can establish important connections between fresh food, good nutrition and a healthy environment by focusing on how season and place effect what we grow and eat. Delaine Eastin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be among the keynote speakers. Schools and institutions from throughout the seven-county Bay Area region will be represented on the panel discussions.

Topics to be discussed include how a garden can add new dimension to curricula in many

subject areas; how growing fresh food can enliven cooking and nutrition lessons and instruct about sustainable agriculture practices; how a readily available supply of fresh food can inspire a new way to approach school lunch programs; and how maintaining a garden helps develop responsibility for the whole school environment, particularly in the areas of composting, recycling and reuse.

For more information contact the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture (CUESA) at 510-526-2788.