



**CARPINTERIA
CHILDREN'S PROJECT**
**PROYECTO DE NIÑOS
DE CARPINTERIA**

March 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friend,

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated our 10th year as Carpinteria Children's Project at our All In for Carp Kids breakfast. Looking around the auditorium, I kept thinking about how much care, trust, and shared effort it takes to build something like CCP—families, teachers, staff, partners, volunteers, and supporters all shaping what the old Main School building has become.

Over those ten years, CCP has grown in response to real life. Below, you'll find how the Helping Hands Fund is helping families stay afloat through complicated times, how outdoor adventures in our Early Learning Program are giving children room to explore and grow, and a few more highlights from across CCP. Be sure to mark your calendars for our Día del Niño community event on April 25th - more information below.

Each program is part of the bigger picture: helping children feel secure, helping families stay connected, and making care easier to reach.

Thank you for being the force behind this work.

In community,
Teresa Alvarez
Executive Director

Helping Hands, Healing, and What Families Need Most

Over the past 9 months, the Helping Hands Fund has allowed CCP to respond quickly when immigration-related crises put families under sudden financial and emotional strain. That support can take many forms, from groceries and utility assistance to legal fees and other urgent costs that help families stay on their feet.

Recently, Helping Hands supported a local family after the father lost income following an ICE raid at his workplace. While the family was already working with CCP through ongoing case management, the mother shared that she was falling behind on immigration attorney fees as she tried to secure her work permit. With support from Helping Hands, CCP was able to respond quickly and help ease what had become an overwhelming financial burden.

Alongside direct assistance, CCP continues to support families through case management and Sanando Juntos, healing workshops that offer space for reflection and connection.

See more: [Watch the recent KEYT story about CCP's work with local families.](#)

Watch KEYT Story

A Little Dirt, A Lot of Learning



Through our partnership with Wilderness Youth Project, our 3- and 4-year old classes spend six weeks exploring outdoors with educator Ulises. These experiences build confidence, support self-regulation, spark imagination, and give children room to test what their bodies and minds can do.

Hummingbird Class teacher Gabbie Cardona saw the growth firsthand:

*"With his guidance, we learned to trust ourselves and to trust the children to explore. We saw a lot of smiles when they finished climbing or reaching a new point. **We heard them say to themselves "look, I did it" after reaching the top of a hill or "estoy muy fuerte" after being able to hang off a tree branch for a bit, but we also saw so much creativity the way trees became cars, the way beachwood became music instruments and so much more.***

When we said goodbye to Ulises today, one of our little ones told him that he is now part of our family."

Time in nature supports children's growth in powerful ways, but it also invites the adults alongside them to slow down, notice more, and reconnect with the joy of learning. Experiences like these continue to shape how we think about outdoor learning at CCP, from partnerships like Wilderness Youth Project to the ways we are strengthening our outdoor classrooms and supporting teachers in bringing more nature-based learning into each day.



All In for Carp Kids

Earlier this month, supporters, partners, and neighbors came together for our All In for Carp Kids breakfast in support of CCP's programs.

The morning featured remarks from Carpinteria Councilmember Julia Mayer on the importance of investing in community, especially here in Carpinteria. We were also proud to honor First 5 Santa Barbara County and Michelle Robertson, former Executive Director of Main Family Resource Center, whose work helped shape the roots of what CCP is today. Special thanks to our lead sponsors, **Lynda Fairly and Richard Finkley**, for helping make this event celebrating our 10th year as a nonprofit possible.

Together, with the help of sponsors and generous neighbors in attendance, the event raised over \$130,000 to support programs at CCP.



Community Updates

Teresa Honored by Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limon

We're proud to share that Executive Director Teresa Alvarez was recently recognized as one of Senate District 21 and California's **Women of the Year**, honoring her leadership and dedication to supporting children and families in our community.

Teresa was selected to represent Senate District 21 for the California Legislative Women's Caucus Women of the Year ceremony at the State Capitol in Sacramento.





Dia del Niño - Children's Day Community Event

Save the date for this free community event to celebrate children! Día del Niño, celebrated in Mexico every April, is dedicated to honoring children, recognizing their importance in society, and promoting their well-being.

Enjoy raffles, fun face painting, interactive games and prizes, delicious food, live music, and exciting performances! **Saturday, April 25, 2026 1pm-4pm.** Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Enrollment Now Open

Enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open. Families interested in learning more about CCP's programs can fill out the pre-enrollment form below, or call our office with any questions (805-566-1600).

Pre-Enrollment Form

Our Contact Information

Carpinteria Children's Project
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(805) 566-1600
www.carpchildren.org



