



May 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friend,

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and a reminder that children's wellbeing is shaped not only by how we respond to stress or hardship, but also by the everyday relationships and experiences that help children feel safe, supported, and connected.

For a long time, conversations about children's health and development focused primarily on reducing harm—addressing adversity, stress, and unmet needs. At the same time, research increasingly highlights the importance of positive experiences in childhood in building resilience and long-term health.

These experiences can happen in a few ways:

- in safe and supportive relationships with family, peers, and trusted adults
- in stable, equitable environments where children can learn and play
- in opportunities to engage with others and feel a sense of belonging
- and in moments where children are supported as they experience and express emotions.

Together, these ideas are reflected in the HOPE framework (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences), which offers practical ways for organizations like CCP, caregivers, and communities to create moments that support children's lifelong wellbeing.

The stories in this newsletter show how these moments of connection and support add up over time. Thank you for being part of this important work!

With gratitude,
Teresa Alvarez
Executive Director

WHAT CHILDHOOD LOOKS LIKE AT CCP



Día Del Niño: Joy in Full Color

On April 25th, families came together for our annual Día del Niño, an afternoon of live music, food, face painting, mini golf, and raffles, capped off by an incredible performance from Inlakech Cultural Arts Center that brought energy and culture to the whole celebration. With partners like Girls Inc. of Carpinteria, Communify, and Carpinteria City

Parks & Recreation on hand sharing resources, families left with more than just good memories.

A huge thank you to Chevron for sponsoring the day, and to everyone who came out, volunteered, and celebrated with us.

Watch the Celebration

Making Movement Fun



At this year's Move-A-Thon, students ran, jumped, and danced their way through each lap. Amidst a sea of bubbles, parents and teachers cheered them on, moved with them, and celebrated at the finish line together.

Beyond enjoying the sunshine, activities like Move-A-Thon help children build coordination, confidence, perseverance, and teamwork in ways that feel playful and engaging. And with plenty of snacks and gold medals to go around, their families and friends know it's something worth celebrating.

See the Move-a-thon Highlights

Partnership with Rincon Swim School

Many of us have memories tied to water — a summer at the beach, learning to swim as a kid, maybe a water polo season or a triathlon that pushed us further than we thought we could go.

We're grateful to share that CCP has partnered with Rincon Swim School, who has long been committed to making swim safety accessible to more kids in Carpinteria. Through this partnership, families on scholarship will now have access to free swim lessons.

Living on the coast, water safety is a life skill every child deserves to develop, regardless of what their family can afford.

SANANDO JUNTOS ***HEALING IN COMMUNITY***



Sanando Juntos is a healing space, a partnership with Clinicians for Change where individuals and families can come together each month to process stress, uncertainty, and the emotional weight many have been carrying in recent months. In a safe, environment with skilled and compassionate facilitators, participants share, listen, and find support in one another.

As one CCP staff member shared:

"Offering a safe space for the community-which has, in some way-been affected by the new administration is gratifying. Our participants feel safe to share their thoughts and fears that have been affecting them emotionally."

We're highlighting *Sanando Juntos* this May as a reminder that CCP's commitment to well-being extends beyond children — to their parents, their families, and the broader community. When families feel seen and supported, the ripple effect is felt by all of us.

SEE CCP IN ACTION

We'd love to welcome you to campus for an upcoming community tour at CCP on June 11th at 10 AM!

Visitors will have the chance to explore our classrooms and outdoor spaces, learn more about our programs, and hear how CCP continues responding to the needs of local children and families.

June 11th | 10 AM | Carpinteria Children's Project
5201 8th Street, Carpinteria, CA 93013

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

WHAT WE'RE BUILDING TOGETHER

Welcoming Our New Volunteer Coordinator



CCP is excited to welcome Candace Wakefield as our new Volunteer Coordinator. With experience in several roles at nonprofits, Candace will help strengthen volunteer engagement across CCP programs and events while creating more opportunities for community members to get involved.

Interested in volunteering with CCP?

[Submit Your Volunteer Interest Form](#)

Recognizing Community Leadership

This spring, several members of the CCP community were recognized for their leadership and service to children and families across Carpinteria. We are proud to celebrate the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and board members whose care and commitment continue helping CCP grow alongside the community.



Board member Marybeth Carty honored as Santa Barbara Foundation's Person of the Year, alongside longtime CCP supporter Dorothy Largay



Executive Director Teresa Alvarez recognized at the 2026 Women of Achievement Award Luncheon by the Association for Women in Communications Santa Barbara



Bob Berkenmeier recognized at the Carpinteria Community Awards banquet with the Merit Award for his commitment to volunteering with CCP

Our Contact Information

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