



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Sally Douglas Arce
510-525-9552
Sally@PurpleLynx.com

Estelle Clemons
AC-OCAP Manager
510-326-5301
eclemons@oaklandnet.com

News from: Department of Human
Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2012

**7th Annual Walk to End Poverty
Make a Difference – Take the Power of 10
Challenge!**

**Saturday, May 19, 2012
9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Lake Merritt, Oakland**

Oakland, CA – Take a stand to end poverty by committing to the “**Power of 10 Challenge**” and form a team of 10 for the **7th Annual Walk to End Poverty** on Saturday, May 19th at Lake Merritt in Oakland. This FREE event is being hosted by your local Alameda County - Oakland Community Action Partnership to raise awareness and educate all Alameda County residents about the social factors that impact poverty (www.OaklandCAP.org).

With more than 1.5 million residents in Alameda County, almost 199,500 children, women and men are struggling to pay the rent and purchase food. Some 13.5 percent of Alameda County residents live under the federal poverty level (2010 U.S Census Bureau American Community Survey). That means that a family of four has an annual household income of less than \$22,350 and a family of two has an annual income of less than \$14,710.

“Homelessness, lack of employment, poor health and hunger – poverty’s consequences – can be severe,” says Estelle Clemons, Manager, Alameda County - Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP). Envision an Alameda County where every woman, man and child no longer struggles to meet life’s basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing. “Almost 20 percent of Alameda County’s children live below the federal poverty level,” Clemons says. “The goal of the Walk to End Poverty is to encourage participants to take a stand against poverty and the horrible effects it is having on our families who live within our communities.”

- more -

News from:
Department of Human Services
7th Annual Walk to End Poverty

April 12, 2012

Page Two

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Lake Merritt bandstand – across from the Garden Center at 666 Bellevue Avenue. The walk starts at 10 a.m. and the first 500 attendees who bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Alameda County Community Food Bank will receive a free t-shirt. Immediately following the walk, a community fair will be held to educate and inform the community about available programs, services, and opportunities for those who qualify.

Enjoy live entertainment provided by local artists who are committed to social change. Local elected officials will also be on hand to share their ideas and position on how we can collectively work together to address poverty– because *together we can make a difference!*

What:	7 th Annual Walk to End Poverty
Where:	Lake Merritt Bandstand (Off Grand Ave. and across from the Garden Center at 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA 94610)
When:	Saturday, May 19, 2012
What:	9 a.m. Registration begins 10 a.m. Walk begins 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Entertainment and community fair, including hands-on activities for children
Registration:	Free to the public
Giveaways:	Registration includes snacks, water, and lunch Free t-shirt to first 500 people who bring a non-perishable food donation
Directions:	Take BART to Lake Merritt station or, take BART to 19 th Street station. Then, take AC Transit #11 or #12 bus to Lake Merritt. AC Transit: Call 511, then say “AC Transit” or visit www.actransit.org
Information:	Call 510-238-2362 or visit www.OaklandCAP.org

About Alameda County - Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP)
Community Action Agency’s (CAA’s) were established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as part of America’s War on Poverty. The Alameda County – Oakland Community Action Partnership is part of broad national and state network of nearly 1,000 agencies, both non-profit, private and public organizations, that extend across the United States – all working to eliminate poverty on a local and national level. CAA’s involves local citizens in its effort to address specific barriers to achieving self-sufficiency.

AC-OCAP is committed to reducing poverty by providing services and programs targeted to low-income individuals and families. AC-OCAP has been funding programs and projects serving the low- income community for more than 40 years.

#