COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY HOSTS BIENNIAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT IN LONG BEACH

Event held to showcase The Growing Experience’s Successful Community Efforts in Preventing Childhood Obesity

Long Beach, June 17, 2013 - The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) and the City of Long Beach Department of Public Health and Human Services held a pre-conference session to kick off the 7th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference (Conference). Attendees visited The Growing Experience’s (TGE) 7-acre urban farm located within the Carmelitos public housing development in the heart of Long Beach to learn about the successful efforts which have been implemented in the community to address the challenges of childhood obesity.

Registered conference attendees had the opportunity to tour TGE’s urban farm and community garden, sample healthy snacks made from TGE produce prepared by three of TGE’s partner chefs; Paul Buchanan of Primal Alchemy Catering,
Michael Poompan of Renaissance Hotel Long Beach, and Sean Forsha of SF Catering, and participate in a panel discussion comprised of community leaders. The City of Long Beach Department of Public Health and Human Services also led a hands-on food preservation workshop in TGE's newly upgraded community kitchen.

Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director, said, “I am so proud to have The Growing Experience serve as the backdrop for the pre-conference event. Their efforts over the years to get Long Beach youth interested in fresh, healthy foods and excited about growing their crops, will set them on a path to becoming healthy adults.”

Sponsored in part by the California Department of Public Health, California Endowment, and Kaiser Permanente, the Conference is a gathering of the nation’s most influential professionals dedicated to combating pediatric obesity. The Conference showcases the latest research, evidence-based best practices, and policy/environmental change strategies in the prevention of childhood obesity.

For more information about the Conference, please visit www.childhoodobesity2013.com. For more information on The Growing Experience, please visit www.growingexperiencelb.org, or call Jimmy Ng at (562) 984-2917. Members of the media may contact Elisa Vásquez at (626) 586-1762.

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