



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

December 30, 2010

Did you know that the early deadline for turning in a Russell Kantor Scholarship Application is **Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**? The absolute deadline is Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, but applicants are *strongly* encouraged to get their forms in early for review to ensure that all requirements have been met. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please encourage all of your constituents to get their applications in early. We are looking forward to another great crop of candidates for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!

### *Celebrating 25 Years!*



Cesar Garcia and his family

#### **When were you in the Corps and for how long?**

I was in the Brownfields Program in 2006.

#### **Please tell us about your life now, both professionally and personally.**

I am a full-time proud father, currently working for the Homeless Outreach Program-ICS/SSG as an Outreach Worker in the daytime and for the Winter Shelter Program in the nighttime. I often work out of the Drop-In Center, where people come to our office and we provide them with clothing, assist them however we can, and see if they qualify for one of our programs. I'm also out in the community a lot speaking to clients in the streets; letting them know about our programs and seeing how we can help them with emergency housing.

In my personal life, as I said, I'm a proud father and my biggest hobby is family. My kids are very aware of the work that I do – in fact, sometimes I take them to work with me and have them help feed the homeless. I make sure to talk to them about social issues and the importance of values. Otherwise, in terms of hobbies, I'm just a normal guy – I go to the gym and work out, things like that.

#### **How did the Corps influence who you are and what you are doing currently?**

I gained the structure, discipline and work ethic needed to succeed in life.

#### **Is there anything particularly memorable about the Corps that you would like to share?**

As a wise man named Alex Lopez once told me "it's a commitment that is *as real as it gets.*"

## Recycling Across LA



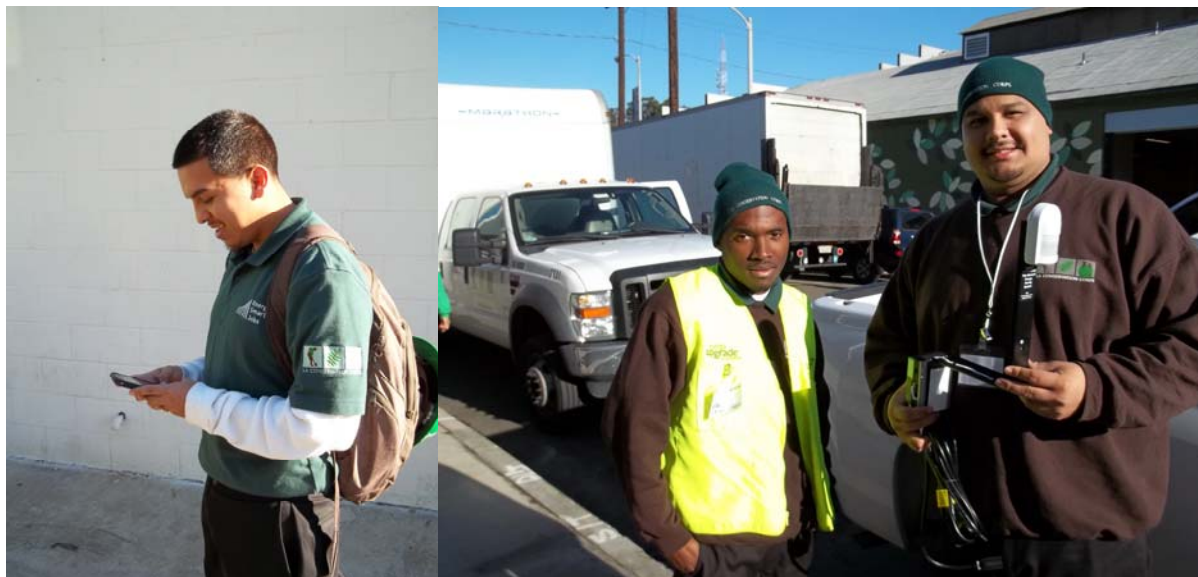
On New Year's Day RACLA crews consisting of 50 corpsmembers and 12 supervisors will be busy collecting recyclables at the Rose Bowl. A crew will team up with the City of Pasadena to collect recyclables at the end of the parade route. On January 2nd, 2 crews will also be doing a bowl pick of recyclables. If you are planning to attend any of the festivities, make sure to say hello to the hard-working corpsmembers!

## Vocational Training Programs

The PECL EnergySmart Jobs crew has gone all over Los Angeles introducing commercial retail outlets with refrigeration units to the EnergySmart Jobs program. Stores that participate in the program are eligible for a free energy audit survey by the LA Corps crew and a limited number of free CFLs and beverage cooler misors, which help them save energy on their reach-in refrigerators. After the survey, stores are eligible for larger rebates to improve their energy efficiency under the EnergyUpgrade California program. Crew members are responsible for promoting the program, helping the stores fill out paperwork and completing the energy audit survey!



*The PECL EnergySmart Jobs crew is ready to go out in the field; two beverage cooler misors that were installed by the crew*



*Crew Member Irvin Centeno is syncing his iphone to the EnergySmart Jobs database to input energy audit data; Crew Members Donald Clay & Pedro De La Riva with a beverage cooler miser*

On Wednesday, December 29, 2010, the Brownfields Job Training Program held its graduation ceremony at NELA for 22 program participants. The group went through 8 weeks of intensive training and each individual was certified in HAZMAT, asbestos and lead removal and environmental remediation. The participants spoke about how this program has helped them turn their lives around

and has given them real skills to get back into the job market and succeed. Even with the rain, family, friends and Advisory Board Members came out to support the graduates.



*Bruce Saito speaks at the Brownfields Graduation ceremony; Hop Hopkins (left), Denise Haynes & Bruce Saito with graduate Alejandro Baltazar*



*Congratulations Brownfields graduates!*

### Clean & Green

This Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, C&G crews will be assisting the community with recycling their Christmas trees at Harbor Park, La Cienega Park, Rancho Park, Balboa Park and Sunland Park from 10am to 3pm. If you need to recycle your tree, stop by one of these locations and say hello to our C&Gers!

