

# Agency Highlight

## Antelope Valley Partners for Health

### Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) Food Pantry is Going the Extra Mile in Providing Access to Fresh Produce in the Antelope Valley

Jacqueline Brodrick, MPH, CHES, Champions for Change Program Manager, AVPH

Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) is a nonprofit organization located in Lancaster serving the needs of at-risk families and all community members through direct services and building community capacity. In serving the needs of the community, collaboration is a key ingredient in the success of AVPH's Food Pantry. In establishing partnerships with **South Antelope Valley Emergency Services (SAVES)**, **Trader Joe's in Palmdale**, **Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND) in Pacoima** and **Food Forward in Hollywood**, AVPH has been a recipient of an abundance of fresh produce that enables us to provide the community more access.



*"I accompanied three homeless folks from our community for your feeding last week. I must shout out and make you aware that it was dignified and done with such grace. Your organization should be aware that you had this prepared by a compassionate staff. Well organized, welcoming, and clean. To have your staff even help our homeless carry the food boxes to my car was the icing on the cake. My folks don't like to admit they need food and help but I had them take a chance and they stated 'I could do this again. They were cool to all of us.' This speaks volumes for me. I'm spreading the word. Thank you for being a wonderful community partner!"*

**- Pamela Jones, Personal Service Coordinator, Mental Health America**



This is just one of the many commendations that AVPH Food Pantry received from the hundreds of community members who participate in the bi-monthly food distribution program scheduled every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month. Since August of 2017, we have served 1,500 individuals and received donations of approximately 10,000 pounds of fresh produce through this program.

We have improved our food distribution system from the traditional "boxed" food distribution to "client's choice" where people can choose food items according to their needs and not be forced to take foods that they are not familiar with preparing. During food distributions, we have offered additional services such as healthy food demonstrations, nutrition classes, on-site Calfresh and Medi-Cal enrollment services and information on 211 L.A. County.

