

Community Matters

LLUH Covid Cares: Some Good News from the frontlines



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Institute for Community Partnerships

Black Lives Matter ...

Loma Linda University's Institute for Community Partnership's (ICP) mission is to ensure that our institution is both **relevant** and **responsive** to the needs of our community. The COVID pandemic has introduced unprecedented difficulties in which minoritized communities are disproportionately affected. While we've somewhat survived the first wave of the pandemic, at least in our region, we are bracing for future "peaks" and "waves" to come. Unfortunately, during the last few week's we've also experienced another "wave" of senseless killings of our Black brothers and sisters. These senseless losses of Black lives to police brutality continue to occur within the context of a history rooted in prejudice, systemic discrimination, and hostility. For the Black community, this is an inter-generational reality and a burden that Black families, parents, and children have had to carry. It has left many in our community weakened, discouraged, angry, anxious, and struggling to cope with a collective physical and psychological burden.

After the last string of shameful events, the senseless killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, many may be wondering, "Where do we begin to address this systemic disease that has afflicted our society since its formation?" "What if we say or do the wrong thing?" "Who do we turn to for these discussions and for guidance?"

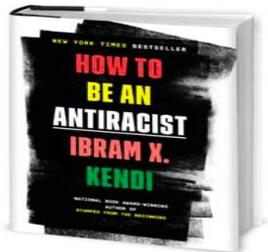
*In response, I find ICP's motto helpful:
Listen, Respect, Engage*

Books by Black Authors:

The New Jim Crow	Michelle Alexander
How to be an anti-racist	Ibram X. Kendi
The Warmth of other Suns	Isabelle Wilkerson
White Fragility	Robin Di'Angelo
Between the World and Me	Ta-Nehisi Coates



Start by **listening** to those closest to the experience. Ask yourself "How many Black friends do I have?" "Does everyone in my friend group look and think like me?" "How many books written by Black authors have I read?" We are a product of what we read, assuming we all still read!



Listening requires proximity. Only proximity will challenge our tendency towards *othering* the people who we perceive to be different than ourselves. Proximity allows listening and listening opens the door for **respect**. Without respect, we cannot have healthy relationships or overcome our biases.

Where do we go from here? How do we engage in the fight against injustice in appropriate and sensitive ways? Instead of concentrating on riots and condemning the responses of those who are hurting, let's begin by focusing on the root cause of the discontent and hopelessness. Let's work towards a future of respect, justice and safety for ALL members of our community. At a time when our country mourns the deaths of our

Black brothers and sisters, let's not detract with statements that belittle their experience. This is not the time to deplore the plight of the immigrant or the White Appalachian poor. Statements like "all lives matter" are not helpful. When Jesus went after the one lost sheep, the remaining 99 did not cry out "what about us?!" So, we say it clearly now, **Black Lives Matter**.

We, at ICP and CAPS are joining others on campus to support our students, and to facilitate and support conversations that will allow us to listen, respect, and engage in active ways that leads to healing and systemic change. Only then can we create whole individuals and communities. We cannot be relevant and responsive to our local community without first having these conversations on campus. Let's do so and begin by listening, respecting, and then engaging in a meaningful way.

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*A special note of appreciation to the students
(Kristoff Foster, Danae Smart, Karla Estudillo
Fuentes) and colleagues who reviewed this
statement, improved and sharpened its message.
It takes a village!*

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Racism is a Public Health Crisis - Health professions organizations who have made statements calling out systemic racism as a health and public health crisis:

American Association of Medical Colleges:

<https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-statement-police-brutality-and-racism-america-and-their-impact-health>

American Occupational Therapy Association:

<https://www.aota.org/Publications-News/AOTANews/2020/AOTA-Statement-On-Systemic-Racism.aspx>

American Public Health Association:

<https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/news-releases/apha-news-releases/2020/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis>

Other medical and health organization statements:

<https://www.mdmag.com/medical-news/us-medical-groups-share-front-against-racism-healthcare-disparity>

By the Numbers ...

LLUH covid response since March 23rd

The Month of May



40 Children

Received free online tutoring from LLU student volunteers



7 LLUH Students

LLU students volunteered to serve in the community



27 Children

Received free online music lessons from LLU student volunteers



745 Grocery Boxes

Delivered to families experiencing food insecurity



**9 Community Health Workers
750 Calls/week**

Average calls per/week to help community members connect to critical resources



Inspirational Stories

Masks for Community Outreach



When the first few weeks of the stay and work at home orders hit, **ICP** mobilized community health workers and **LLU Aid** mobilized students who were ready to make food deliveries to at-risk families in the community. Because of panic buying, low-cost and food-stamp eligible items disappeared off grocery market shelves and families within a two-three week period were experiencing critical food shortages. One of the most immediate needs the volunteer effort had was for masks and face coverings so they could go out into the community. When **Isela**, a local resident who works with special education children, was on her spring break saw the call on social media regarding the health system's immediate need for face covers to support the community effort, she braved the stores to find supplies. "When it hit I was home and I wanted to enjoy my vacation, but then, I realized I wanted to help out and do something rather than do nothing."

"I wanted to help out and do something good to reach out." Isela found as many supplies as were left in the stores, and quickly made 12 fabric masks and 35 disposable masks made of professional grade paper towels and delivered them to ICP. Because of Isela and other community members like her, the community response effort was able to happen quickly. This type of community support meant our volunteers had immediate access to non-medical supplies and over 80 families received food deliveries during the first week of panic-buying shortages. We work with community members to make a difference, together in the work of responding to Covid-19.



The Soil is Tilled for a new Community Garden

The Huerta del Valle project the SAC Healthy System Norton Clinic



On MLK Service day, LLUH Students help remove ground turf

community gardens fail to do, they have created a vibrant place for community. This Spring, the green space next to the SAC Norton Clinic started to undergo a transformation. The land is being tilled and families have been assigned garden plots at the new community garden off 3rd Street in San Bernardino. This is an incredible equity effort to bring organic, nutritious food to a food desert area of San Bernardino where the neighborhoods lack access to affordable, healthy produce. The community garden will be planted in the coming weeks, and has been named: **Huerta del Valle San Bernardino, Jardín de la Salud.** For more information on the Huerta project or to get involved, contact ICP office at x87754.



Residents of the neighborhoods near SAC Norton Clinic are already benefiting from fresh produce from Huerta. On May 10th, Volunteers gave out 100 boxes of fresh, organic food to local San Bernardino Residents! Additionally, 100 boxes from the food bank have been distributed to the SAC Norton local community.

Relevant & Responsive to our Community