Community Resources Presentation

September 17, 2013
UC Village

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About the BSPA

The UC Berkeley Spouses and Partners Association (BSPA) is an organization that welcomes and supports the spouses and partners of UC Berkeley students, post-docs, visiting scholars, faculty, and other affiliates. The BSPA plays an important role at UC Berkeley by increasing the role of spouses and partners and integrating their many talents into the wider community.

Our mission: Engage, Empower and Educate
Our mission is to enhance the experience of UC Berkeley spouses and partners by advocating for inclusion and involvement in the university community. We understand the challenges of relocation to the Bay Area and we are keen to provide support to our fellow Berkeley spouses and partners, especially those dealing with transition and cultural differences. We aim to offer creative opportunities to Engage, Empower and Educate our members as they adapt to this new stage in their lives.

Our Objective:
We seek to minimize our members challenges by providing opportunities for socialization and networking. We also seek to open more opportunities for our community by advocating for spouses and partners to have a voice on campus and to play a larger role in university life. We are dedicated to creating a space where spouses and partners can find continuous support in creating fulfilling lives through intellectual stimulation, supportive relationships and a platform to share their many talents with the UC Berkeley community.
Childcare Resources

Bananas / 5232 Telegraph Ave.
Oakland

- Non-profit organization in Alameda County. Providing free parenting information, workshops and referrals to family child care, child care centers, preschools, babysitters, in-home caregivers, nannies and playgroups.
Daycare, Preschool, Parent Co-op

**Berkeley Parents Network** [http://parents.berkeley.edu](http://parents.berkeley.edu)
- “Finding & Starting Childcare” in a category of advice.

**Early Childhood Education / Berkeley Public School**
- Admission to the program is determined by income eligibility.
- 3 location in the neighborhood. (Franklin / King / Hopkins)

**YMCA Albany / 1216 Solano Ave.**
- YMCA provides their own preschool, activity programs for children.

**UC Village**
- Village Parent Child Care Co-op
- Eligible from children aged 2.5 to 5 years (potty trained required).
**Activity, Moms Meetup**

**The Center YWCA / 2600 Bancroft Way**
- Every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- Organized by volunteers of the University Section Club.
- Networking with other moms and kids.

**Berkeley Moms Meetup**
- Organized by the member of Berkeley Wives.
- Totland / Live Oak Park / Veterans Park
- Facebook Group Page
UC Affiliated Options:

- University Village Day Care Co-op. This day care program is located in the village and is operated by parents. To find out more visit: http://www.ucvillagecoop.weebly.com

- UC Berkeley offers early childhood education programs. Depending on your income level, you may be eligible for subsidized child care. To find out more visit: http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/child/aboutus/application.htm or http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/child/SUBSDIZED_APP.pdf

- Back-Up Child Care for Student Parents: A new pilot program is now offering back up child care at subsidized rates. Student parents are eligible for up to 60 hrs per year. To find out more visit: http://grad.berkeley.edu/backupchildcare/
Financial Resources for Student Families

UC Parent Grant:
An $8,000 grant is available to registered UC graduate student parents (single, married, or registered domestic partners) who live with dependent children and demonstrate financial need. Download the application at: http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/student_family.shtml

Childcare Reimbursement Program:
Due to the contract negotiations of UAW Local 2865, the UC Student Workers Union, Registered UC students who work as an academic student employee (“ASE”: includes TAs/GSIs/associate instructors, tutors and readers/graders) are parents of non-school age children (pre-kindergarten) are eligible for childcare reimbursement of up to $900 per semester and $600 per summer session. Go to www.uaw2865.org and locate the steward for your department to request more information.
Food Assistance
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
(also refered to as: Food Stamps, SNAP or CalFresh)

Eligibility:
Benefits are based on financial need and family size. To see if you qualify you can use the following online pre-screening tool:
https://www.mybenefitscalwin.org/web/consortium/home#eligible
If the screening tool indicates that you qualify for food benefits, you can start the application process here:
https://www.mybenefitscalwin.org/web/consortium/signin?p_p_id=signinmybenefits_WAR_calwinportlet

US citizenship/ Immigration Status:
US citizenship is not a prerequesite to recieve these benefits. However, you must meet one of the following requirements:
- Permanant Legal Resident (Green Card holder)
- Conditional Entrants (Temporary Green Card)
- Refugee/ Asylum Status

Student and Tourist Visas do NOT qualify, however non eligible parents may apply and recieve benefits for children who are US Citizens.
For more information visit: http://www.gettingsnap.org/helpforimmigrants.html
Food Assistance
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Continued

How does it work?

Once you application into the program is accepted, you will receive an Electric Benefit Transfer Card also known as an EBT card. In California, it is known as a Golden State Advantage card. You can use this card at most grocery stores to purchase approved food items for your family. The card similar to a debit card. You will need to slide your card and enter your pin at each transaction.
Food Assistance

WIC/ Women Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Plan

Eligibility:

Benefits are limited to: low income families with children under the age of 5 and/or pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum mothers.

To see if you qualify you can use the following online Eligibility Assessment:
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Pages/WICEligibilityAssessment01.aspx

Contact your local WIC office to apply. The closest WIC office for UC Village is located in the City of Berkeley Public Health Clinic at 830 University Ave. They can be reached at (510) 981-5360. Alternately you can call the national WIC hot line at 1-888-WIC-WORKS (1-888-942-9675)

US Citizenship/ Immigration Status:

Non US citizens are eligible for this benefit
Food Assistance
WIC/ Women Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Plan—continued

How it works:

Once you are accepted into the program you will receive information on what types of food are covered. You will be issued checks that can be redeemed for these items at participating grocery stores.
Food Assistance
Free/ Reduced School Lunch Program

How it works:

Low income public school children are eligible for the Free/ Reduced lunch program.

Children enrolled in the program will receive the same food as those who's families purchase school meals.

In fact, your child will not even know they are enrolled in the program unless you tell them.

How to Apply:

- Paper applications can be picked up in the school office.
- On-line applications can be filled out at: https://secure.ezmealapp.com/Default.aspx

US Citizenship/ Immigration Status:

This benefit is available to all children regardless of immigration status.
Food Assistance
Food Banks and Pantries

Alameda County Food Bank
Available to all residents of Alameda County who are in need of food assistance.
To find a location near you call the Food Helpline at 1(800) 870-3663 or (510) 635-3663. Additional information can be found at http://www.accfb.org/

The Bear Pantry at Berkeley
- Located in the Cesar Chavez Student Center, the Bear Pantry provides emergency food packages to full-time UC Berkeley student parents, who are experiencing a shortage of food during the academic semester.
- For more information, contact Koko Mulder at (510)776-8486 or e-mail thebearpantry@berkeley.edu

The Berkeley Food Pantry
- Located at 1600 Sacramento St. in the basement of the Friends Church, the Berkeley Food Pantry is available to all residents of Berkeley and Albany who are in need of food assistance.
- Identification to verify a Berkeley/Albany address is requested.
- For more information call 510-525-2280 or email berkeleyfood@hotmail.com Additional information can be found at: http://berkeleyfoodpantry.vpweb.com/
Local Food Resources

Albany Farmers Market: Located at the intersection of Solano and San Pablo avenues every Wednesday from 3:00-7:00 PM http://ecologycenter.org/fm/

Full Belly Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA): This project is brought to the village by the Village Resident's Association (VRA) Affordability Committee. A box of fresh vegetables will be delivered to you here in the village for as little as $16.50 per week. To sign up go to www.fullybellyfarm.com/join-our-csa and then go to dft.ba/-csa to add your name to the village list. If paying by check, please write the words 'University Village' On the back. For additional information please contact VRA Affordability Committee Co-Chair Zoya Street at zoya.street@network.rca.ac.uk
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Counseling Services:

Belinda Hernandez Arriaga is a social worker from the TANG center who has office hours at University Village. She is available to provide free counseling and social service referrals to village residents. She can be reached at: (510) 528-5391

The Village Residents Association (VRA):

The VRA is a funding and advocacy association for University Village residents. The VRA holds monthly meetings to discuss issues of importance to residents and student families, funds community workshops and events, and communicates with the University to try to achieve family-friendly policies. All Village residents, including students, spouses, and partners are invited to participate in VRA by attending meetings, helping to plan events, joining committees and speaking out on important issues in addition to making friends and a new home away from home while enjoying serving your community. For more information please go to: http://www.ucberkeleyvra.org/

The Student Parent Association for Recruitment and Retention (SPARR):

SPARR is an organization of UC Berkeley student parents, supported by staff and faculty, who are dedicated to providing access to higher education for underserved, nontraditional and underrepresented students.http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~spa/

Nature Village

Nature Village is a group of University Village residents committed to sustainable living. For more information visit: http://www.naturevillage.org/
Please Join BSPA
Berkeley Spouses and Partners Association
Official Website
- http://spousesandpartners.berkeley.edu/
- Click the green button to fill out the welcome form.

JOIN: Berkeley Spouses & Partners Association

To help us plan programs related to your needs and interests, please fill out this form. It will take about 10 minutes.

Like BSPA on Facebook Page
- https://www.facebook.com/ucbspa
Social Meetings

Friday Morning Intercultural Coffee Hour
- Every Friday at Cafe Strada from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. It is run by Yvonne
- https://www.facebook.com/groups/fulfillinglife/

Berkeley Wives Happy Hour
- Once a month, usually from 7-10 p.m. It is run by Doro
- https://www.facebook.com/berkeleywives

Language Café Berkeley
- Every Tuesday at Floor Cafe from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is run by Satu.

The Center/YWCA
- Every Thursday at YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Organized by volunteers of the University Section Club. You can come with children.