



# Community Chest, Inc.

A Center for Resources . . . A Catalyst for Change

## 2nd Annual Social Justice Conference

The winners' of Community Chest's 2012 Social Justice Superhero award were: Rosa Molina & Dr. Susan Chandler.

## Upcoming Events

FALL  
2012

Dental van to come to HAWC – prescreening required. Call Sabrina @ 847-9311 for more information.

## Our Mission

To act as a catalyst for change and a center for resources to help people help themselves, as together we build strong and healthy families and communities.



Rosa Molina has made it her life's mission to be an advocate for recent immigrants for many years, first with Nevada Hispanic Services (NHS) and now with the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN). She has labored quietly to operate an immigration program that handles the bulk of the community's caseload and which handles all of the low- and no-cost deportation cases. This is especially remarkable given the recent increase in immigration enforcement which has increased the number of court cases compared to just a few years ago. It is because of her dedication that these vital services will survive the recent demise of NHS and continue in new offices under the umbrella of PLAN.

[Friend us on](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Follow us on Twitter](#)



[Forward this to a](#)

[friend](#)





Professor Chandler teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in social welfare policy, structural oppression, women's narratives, and community organizing. Her most recently published book, "Casino Women: Courage in Unexpected Places," takes an in-depth look into the lives of women who work in the casinos of Nevada and their strength to unionize in the face of corporate oppression. Her research interests include casino women in the context of economic globalization, the condition of low wage workers particularly in Nevada, social welfare history including especially its race, gender, and class dimensions, and social workers' relationship to issues of war and peace. Professor Chandler challenges her students to understand how oppression is historically ingrained into our society, as well as how it shapes the lives and experiences of individuals. She has encouraged hundreds of future social workers to become informed community leaders.

The conference was a success with over 200 people showing up and discussing issues like food insecurity and sexual violence.

Read what the [Reno News and Review](#) said about the conference:

The local and organic food movements are just as much about people as they are about the environment—especially when they can aid in tackling the food crisis in Nevada's rural counties. The food insecurity and nutrition workshop, held at the Joe Crowley Student Union on Sept. 7, was part of the Rural & Urban Nevada Social Justice Institute, and addressed how "food security is related to social justice," according to speaker Christy McGill,

director of the Healthy Communities Coalition. The workshop brought together local food and outreach leaders, including members from Urban Roots Garden Classroom, Washoe County School District, local food banks and area non-profits such as Justice for Immigrants. McGill and Freida Carbery, volunteer coordinator with Healthy Communities Coalition, spoke of collective impact and individual impact. The Healthy Communities Coalition focuses on the general wellness of Lyon and Storey counties, and has several food initiatives. According to McGill, much of Nevada is a “food desert”—communities in which healthy food is difficult to obtain, largely due to economic status—and many residents of Lyon and Storey counties rely on the food provided by the counties’ food closets. Carbery talked about the importance of empowerment, ensuring that residents know what to do with the foods they are given to make healthy meals for their families. “We want to empower the people using the services,” she said. “Who knows better how it feels than those who use the service? ... It’s about how a person feels when they walk out of that room [at the food bank]. We need to ask them, ‘Can you confidently cook those green beans?’” Many of the plans discussed at the workshop included collaboration between food banks, schools and farmers—providing farmers with a larger market by bringing their produce into schools and growing essentials needed by the community. In Silver Springs, children from the local schools collaborated with farmers to host a farmers’ market, where residents were able to use coupons distributed by the Northern Nevada Food Bank. An electronic benefits transfer (EBT) machine was also available, allowing for the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase locally grown produce. McGill talked about the goals for the “Good food for all” plan, which includes “access to quality food for the Western Nevada region; economic vitality for regional producers, manufacturers, distributors and purveyors; natural resources used well; [and] citizens are a part of a healthy food system where eating, growing and cooking healthy, sustainable food becomes more important in daily community life and common knowledge.”

McGill closed the workshop by saying, “A two track food system is not healthy or profitable for Nevada,” she said. A “two track food system” is often used to describe the imbalance between members of the public who can afford to buy healthy and organic foods, and those whose economic status prevents them from doing so. Ultimately, the message of the day was simple—Nevada needs more farmers and more individuals who can contribute to the state’s demand for healthy food. “Befriend a farmer,” McGill said. “It’s worth your time.”

By: Ashley Hennefer

ashleyh@newsreview.com

---

[🔗 Update subscription preferences](#) [✖ Unsubscribe](#)

---

