

**September 17, 2007**

**Message From the Chair Emeritus—Richardson Johanson**

I would hope that as many as possible who read this weekly bulletin will plan to attend the FBC's quarterly membership meeting on Thursday morning, Sept. 27. Guests are most welcome. The session will convene promptly at 7:30 in the Alice Peters Auditorium at the Craig School of Business on the CSUF Campus. Parking will be relaxed in the UBC lot. Attendees will be among the earliest to receive a first hand report on the Human Investment Initiative. This impressive document is a roadmap for reinvigorating depressed areas of the region through reinvesting in educational and social opportunities for those most in need. The Fresno Business Council played a major role in its creation. Please confirm your attendance to Deborah at [dnankivell@fresnobc.org](mailto:dnankivell@fresnobc.org) or to me at [rajoho@comcast.net](mailto:rajoho@comcast.net) if you prefer. We hope to see you there.

**“The Case For National Service” TIME Magazine—September 10, 2007**

In case you missed it, TIME Magazine a few weeks back offered an inspiring cover story about the millions of Americans who want to help their communities, country and the world. The article mentions some of the innovative hybrids that apply business principles to community challenges. The separation between charity and philanthropy is closing as more people recognize that charity alone is not a solution. Only systemic and policy changes will provide a permanent solution to chronic problems. Government can't do for us (no matter how much it spends) what we can only do for ourselves—create community. States with the highest volunteer rates are Utah, Nebraska and Minnesota with over 40.4% volunteering. At the low end are Nevada, New York and Louisiana at 21.2% and below. In 2006, 61.2 million Americans invested 8.1 billion hours into volunteerism.

**“Creating Endless Possibilities for Children & Families Across Fresno County”**

Thanks to the tireless and outstanding leadership of Cathi Huerta and Andrea Sobrato in the Department of Children & Family Services, expectations and results have steadily improved for children needing special care. On September 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Fresno Convention Center, they will be hosting an informational and action oriented summit. Like all the other transformational work going on in our community, they understand that the challenges they face are beyond the capacity of their agency. They must build collaborative partnerships with health care, law enforcement, education and business. Business engagement is critical for transitioning youth who need apprenticeships, mentoring, job search skills, financial literacy and other support. 180 children age out of the system every year. A workshop from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. will focus on business partnerships. Call 253-9273 for more information or email [sobraa@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:sobraa@co.fresno.ca.us).

**Education and Workforce Preparation—the Path Between RJI and HII**

Recently, the Workforce Investment Board announced that there are 27,000 unfilled jobs in our community due to lack of skills, sobriety or work ethic. In some cases, the challenge is all of the above. Many employers have expressed concerns about drug and alcohol use by employees. How will we ensure pathways between various levels of education, training programs and job readiness efforts? How do we keep more kids in school and graduating ready for the next step? There are a series of papers that have been issued by the California Postsecondary Education Commission that are available on their website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov) and outstanding reports from the national level. However, it will be up to those at the local level to execute. If you have an interest in this area, please let me know.