

# DISTRICT IX NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✳️ **Resolution Workshop**  
Jan 5, 5 PM PST | [Zoom](#)  
Learn how to have your voice heard through participating in this Resolution Workshop.
- ✳️ **AAP SOPT Course**  
Starting Jan 12 | Online  
Join a free, self-paced, month-long course entitled "Every Child, Every Voice: Bridging the Gaps in Pediatric Healthcare" to deepen your understanding of DEI in pediatric care. Learn more and sign up [here](#).
- ✳️ **Next District IX Meeting**  
March 11, 6 PM PST | [Zoom](#)  
Connect with District IX trainees, share updates, and plan our next district initiatives.
- ✳️ **AAP Advocacy Conference**  
April 12-14 | Arlington, VA  
Join pediatricians from across the country in advocating for child health.
- ✳️ **AAP-CA Advocacy Day**  
May 4-5 | Sacramento, CA  
Partner with fellow AAP-CA members to advocate for the health and well-being of all children. Apply to present your research at the conference. Learn more and submit abstracts [here](#).



### Advocacy Spotlight\*

## The CAres Food Drive

From November 17 to December 19, 12 medical schools and pediatric training programs across California participated in the **CAres Food Drive**, a statewide initiative aimed at addressing food insecurity. Together, participating programs collected 1,939 food items and raised \$683 in monetary donations. We commend all trainees for their generosity, dedication, and commitment to community service and advocacy. Thank you for CARing about others!

We are proud to announce the CAres Food Drive award recipients:

### Food Donation Champion:

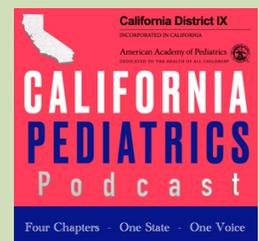
*Children's Hospital Los Angeles*  
Trainees collected 428 donations for the Hollywood Food Coalition.

### Monetary Donation Champion:

*Stanford Pediatrics*  
Trainees raised \$415 for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley and Feeding America. Every \$1 provided ~20 meals to families in need.

### Thank You to Our Sponsor: the California Pediatric Podcast

We are grateful for the California Pediatrics Podcast for its commitment to supporting pediatric trainees and advancing child health advocacy across California. Tune In [here](#).



Snapshots of Service

**Picture This: CAres in Action**



Canned goods, pasta, baby formula, and more – all donated by CHLA pediatric residents and hospital staff.



Dr. Elizabeth “Ellie” Volpicelli, UCLA DBP Fellow, District IX Fellow Rep, and leader of the statewide CAres Food Drive.



Dr. Hanh Do, Dr. Mallika Iyer-Horiuchi, and Dr. Tiffany Ju showcasing their incredible Food Drive contributions.



A beautifully stocked pantry filled with donations from compassionate and caring residents from UC Davis.

\*Featured on Page 1: Dr. Sally Oh from UCSF Benioff – Oakland

**Get Involved!**



Interested in advocacy, leadership, and amplifying trainee voices? Email us today at [sopt.ix@gmail.com](mailto:sopt.ix@gmail.com).

**Your SOPT District IX Reps**

- Ahana Chakraborty – Medical Student ADR
- Victoria Medina – Medical Student DR
- Radhika Patel, DO – Resident ADR
- Hanh Do, DO – Resident DR
- Ellie Volpicelli, MD, FAAP – Fellow DR



Community Grant Opportunities

**AAP CATCH Grants**

Deadline: January 20, 2026 | [Apply Today!](#)

The AAP Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) program provides funding for innovative, community-based projects that increase access to optimal health.



Trainee Spotlight

**Meet Dr. Erika Monasch**

A current PGY-3 at Stanford from Walnut Creek, CA. Passionate about medical education and public health, she is the author of the health-focused children’s book, *Josie Wears a Mask*. Dr. Monasch is very excited to be a primary care pediatrician following residency graduation. When she’s not caring for her patients or championing causes like the CAres Food Drive, you can find her crocheting, exploring her local farmers’ markets, and spending time with her family.