

Summary of Dialogue with Vietnamese-speaking residents of San Rafael and Novato on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Answers have been summarized in order of priority, based on popularity.

## WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY HEALTHY?

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- Employment, asset building and economic development
- Affordable housing and owning a home
- Affordable childcare
- Good schools
- Access to health care
- Close relationship with neighbors
- Safe, violence-free neighborhoods
- Absence of racial discrimination

## WHAT ARE THE ISSUES PREVENTING YOUR COMMUNITY FROM BEING HEALTHY? WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WE WILL FACE IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

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- Equal access to affordable, quality education - every student should have equal opportunity to go to college
- Affordable, more accessible childcare so parents can go to work and school
- High cost of living and food shortage
- Government running out of money, no more social security for seniors, or health care equipment programs for those who need it. Government assistance/Medicare program to be reduced
- Energy challenges (fuel, gasoline)
- Natural disasters
- Gender inequalities
- Depression

## WHAT CHANGE NEEDS TO HAPPEN IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

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- Stimulate economic growth by buying goods.
- Open small businesses to get the economy going
- Save money! Otherwise, when we are in debt we'll need government support
- Spend tax money on necessities: roads and bridges, as opposed to raising toll. No more war!
- Appropriate use of vehicle – use only when needed.

- Ride shares, carpooling, bicycle commuting and use of public transit to reduce air pollution and increase energy conservation
- Educate people on how to prepare for major disasters
- Domestic violence/spousal abuse education for men and women
- Educate parents on the importance of both taking turns taking care of children, not just moms
- Support the collapse of Vietnam's communist government, so seniors who live in the U.S. can return home and use their U.S. pension to make ends meet.