



Niagara Cares and A Place Called Home Partner to Transform Green Spaces in South Los Angeles

Volunteer Event Aims to Revitalize Urban Gardens, Expand Educational Opportunities, and Provide the Community with Fresh, Locally Grown Food for Over 20,000 Meals

Los Angeles (Feb. 22, 2025) – Today, **Niagara Cares**, the charitable division of [Niagara Bottling, LLC](#), the family-run beverage company that has hydrated America since 1963, joined [A Place Called Home \(APCH\)](#), the renowned youth development nonprofit in South Los Angeles, to create healthier futures for local kids and their families. Together, the organizations revitalized and expanded the urban gardens and green spaces at APCH’s campus in the heart of South Central, fostering community growth, sustainability and opportunity.

Niagara and APCH volunteers rebuilt existing vegetable and herb gardens, and built 225 square feet of California-native medicinal, culinary and butterfly gardens. These green spaces will serve as vital resources for APCH’s nutrition program, which provides over **20,000 meals** annually, and offer a sanctuary where young people can connect with nature, foster kids’ appreciation for their ability to grow and cook food, learn about sustainability and nurture their well-being.

“At Niagara, we strive to build stronger, healthier communities by making long-lasting improvements that benefit everyone’s overall wellbeing,” said Ann Canela, director of corporate giving at Niagara Bottling. “These gardens provide so much more than food. They are spaces of hope, learning and community. Together with A Place Called Home, we are proud to invest in the health and future of Los Angeles’ youth.”

APCH’s green spaces play an integral role in its holistic approach to youth development. In addition to providing fresh produce for meals and cooking classes, the gardens serve as hands-on learning environments where young people can develop life skills and explore sustainable practices. APCH youth members actively participate in gardening workshops, environmental stewardship programs and community events that connect them to the larger South Los Angeles neighborhood.

APCH’s innovative programs address multiple areas of socio-economic inequities by promoting physical and mental health, educational achievement, and environmental responsibility. The organization’s **Nutrition & Urban Agriculture Program**, a cornerstone of its wellness initiatives, teaches youth members to grow and maintain gardens while emphasizing the importance of fresh, locally grown food.

“Spending time outside in green spaces is a vital part of young people’s mental and physical health, especially for kids growing up in a densely urban neighborhood like ours,” said Norayma Cabot, chief executive officer of A Place Called Home. “APCH’s gardens provide kids with the opportunity to grow nutritious food and learn healthy habits, while also building social and emotional skills that will sustain them over the course of their whole lives. We are very grateful to Niagara Cares for their partnership and support.”

Niagara Cares is the heart of what we do and who we are at Niagara Bottling. For more than 60 years, we have been making a difference for our Team Members, consumers and communities through philanthropic giving, volunteering, water donations and disaster relief. As a family-owned business, we are committed to creating meaningful change for our communities through a spirit of giving back both big and small. For more information, visit niagarawater.com/niagara-cares.

Niagara Bottling, LLC has been family owned and operated since 1963. Headquartered in Diamond Bar, Calif., Niagara operates bottling facilities throughout the U.S. and Mexico. As a leading U.S. beverage manufacturer, Niagara Bottling works closely with some of the largest retailers, grocers, club and convenience stores throughout the country. Niagara produces a variety of beverages including bottled water, sparkling, vitamin and flavored water, teas, sports drinks, ready-to-drink coffee, protein drinks and non-dairy milk products. For more information, visit www.niagarawater.com.

A Place Called Home inspires, encourages and supports the young people in South Los Angeles to achieve social, emotional and economic success. Since its founding in 1993, APCH has directly served more than 20,000 youth members through its core school-day, after-school and summer programming, and over 150,000 local residents through family and supportive services including food, clothing and holiday-toy distributions, counseling, voter education, and community organizing. For more information, visit apch.org.

Media Contact

Marvin Roca Jr.

marvin@therosegrp.com