

ing in your network, it's important to pick it back up. Check out these key tips to help you in your job – no matter how high up you are in the career ladder.

Join multiple organizations. You've heard the statement, "never stop learning." Well, this couldn't be more true. Networking with fellow colleagues at conferences or social events can keep you informed and up-to-date with current trends in your field. But, don't stop at groups that only pertain to your industry. Join other clubs or organizations that interest you outside your scope of employment. The more you know, the more your leadership will improve. And, opening your eyes to other job niches just might give you some bright ideas to help you succeed in the future.

Mingle with everyone. Whether you do this within your company or at networking events, make sure you talk to everyone – not just upper management. Talking with other leaders can help you learn new management styles, give you inspiration, and provide you with a sound board when you need advice. Don't limit yourself to just the leaders in your company. Meet with leaders outside your company who see things from someone else's view. It's always good to get an outside perspective to cover every angle of an issue and gain new insight. Also, speak with and listen to people who are not in management. This will help you get an idea of what people who aren't in upper management value in a leader, some of their concerns, and what kind of leaders they like to work for. To hear the unfiltered thoughts of individuals not in management positions, it might be best to talk to people outside of your company.

Join a committee. Don't just be a fly on the wall. Try running for a position on the board of an organization. Even though you're a leader in your company, this shouldn't stop you from becoming a leader in your community. This will not only increase your credentials, but it will give you an opportunity to give back to the organizations that helped you in your leadership quest by volunteering your time and expertise to help others in your market.

The truth of the matter is that no matter how far up the career ladder you climb, people are observing you and will follow you as long as they believe in you as a leader. This means that it's important to continue to grow in your knowledge. And, networking may just be the right opportunity that can help you become

the best leader you can be.

To find out about your leadership style, go to www.myleadershipinstinct.com, or contact your local Express Employment Professionals office.

Kim Mundell, President/Owner of Santa Maria, CA office. 805-349-7200 ■

BBQers Unite to Support Santa Maria's Foster and High-needs Children

■ Time to taste some of the best dog-gone BBQ in the west! On Saturday, June 26th, 2010 the Family



Care Network will host its 2nd annual Wild West BBQ Bash, a family-friendly event benefiting foster and high-needs children and families on the Central Coast. This year's exciting addition of the People's Choice award will afford guests the opportunity to taste and vote on world class BBQ prepared by top-notch competitors! "People's Choice" BBQ tasting tickets will be sold for \$2 each at the event and prior to the event at any Central Coast Farm Supply location. Admission to the event is free and funds earned through BBQ tasting tickets and food & beverage sales benefit the Family Care Network. The event will run from 11:00am to 4:00pm at Preisker Park at 330 Hidden Pines Way in Santa Maria. All are invited to enjoy live entertainment and world-class BBQ as dozens of BBQ teams from Santa Maria and around the state compete for the Wild West crown in this competition sanctioned by the International Barbeque Cookers Association!

Last year's competition included seasoned competitors such as Harry Soo, of "Slap Yo Daddy BBQ" featured on TLC's hit show "Pit Masters" along with local rookies such as Jim Leuthold of Central Coast Smokers and Ron Fleenor of R&R Catering in Santa Maria. Central Coast BBQ enthusiasts and seasoned pros alike are encouraged to join the competition this year by contacting the Family Care Network at 805-781-3535 or Lburleson@fcni.org. The BBQ teams will compete in six categories including: chicken, beef brisket, pork ribs, pork shoulder, "People's Choice", and of course, tri-tip.

In addition to the exciting BBQ competition and tasting, the Wild West BBQ Bash will feature local musicians, including the country sounds of Solomon Creek, and live performances by groups such as the Bucket Busters, Shockwave Cheerleaders and the Aztec Dance Troop. The event will also include other family-friendly activities like face painting, cultural displays, balloon animals and more. A vendor fair will also allow guests to pursue local produce, products, and services. Such vendors include but are not limited to the Center for Employment Training, the Dunes Center, Graceletts, In-Shape City Santa Maria, Jewelry by Leonor Torres, Scentsy Wickless Candles, Veggie Zapotec Arts, and others.

One of the main motivations behind the Wild West BBQ is to provide a new way for the Santa Maria community to support foster and high-needs children and families living in their community. Through the event, the agency aims to increase awareness, spotlighting services as well as informing the community of the need for volunteers, mentors, tutors, donors and foster families to serve the children in our community. It is expected that between 2,000 – 3,000 people will attend this afternoon affair, with proceeds benefiting the children, youth and families being served by the Family Care Network. These proceeds will help to ensure that those we serve receive the long term stability and support they need to become successful and thriving individuals and families. The Wild West BBQ is especially important this year, as the Family Care Network, a private children and families services provider for over 22 years, is facing a \$300,000 deficit due to recent state budget cuts. With over 1,800 children and families served annually, there are many needs that would go unmet if the agency did not receive unrestricted dollars. These funds are critical to the Family Care Network's mission of enhancing the lives of the Central Coast's foster and high-needs children and families.

The community's support is more important than ever as the agency tackles an increasing need to provide safe and loving homes and therapeutic services for local children and youth in need. For information about the Wild West BBQ Bash or on volunteering with the Family Care Network to serve local foster and high-needs children and families, please visit FCNI.org or call (805) 781-3535. ■