METRONEWS

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BLACKWOOD CORNER

“You have within you right now, everything you need to deal with whatever the world can throw at you.” - Brian Tracy

So I’ve got some good news, and some not-so-good news.

Let’s start with the not-so-good – Change is brutal. Change is constant. And there is more coming our way than we ever thought we’d have to tackle all at once, with no instruction manual, and a seemingly limitless timeline.

But!

Here’s the good news: No matter what may come - the things we can plan for and the things we can’t – I promise you that you have everything within you right now to handle it.

It may not feel that way all of the time but if these last two years has taught us anything, it is that your human spirit has a strength, resilience, and ability to handle far more than we give ourselves credit for.

As we close out the month of learning, guessing, and figuring it all out together – ground yourself in this – you may not have it all figured out right now but **you will**.

For tomorrow will come and you will be stronger for it. You always are.

In partnership -
Amanda Blackwood, President & CEO

ADVOCACY DEFINED

How does the Greater Sacramento define advocacy?

Through action.

On April 30, we invite the region's advocates to join us in Washington, D.C., as we advance policies and solutions that benefit our region, our communities, and fill your advocacy bucket. The relationships we form with each other and with our national leaders will make your advocacy experience like no other.

So, shall we save your seat for an advocacy experience like no other? **Register** today!

SOLUTIONS FOCUSED

Last week, the Metro Chamber announced our support of a **Proposed Ballot Measure to Reduce Homelessness** which demands an immediate and urgent response from the city of Sacramento, requiring the city to increase shelter space and enforce current laws regarding unauthorized camping.

As many of our members know, a vibrant community where outcomes spur economic vitality in the region is one of our top-line initiatives for 2022, and therefore, identifying workable solutions for businesses navigating issues related to the homeless crisis is at the forefront to deliver on this promise.

By showing our strong support for this proposed measure, the Metro Chamber sits at the table, a willing partner to advocate for the interests of our business community members and applaud sensible comprehensive solutions that are needed to meet the region's challenges.

As a strong voice for business in the region, the Metro Chamber is committed to helping to bring business back to the central city after a difficult few years. To read more about the Chamber's actions click **here**.

LEADING THE WAY

On March 15, 2022, Equal Pay Day, the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls announced 135 recipients of the Women's Recovery Response Grant across the state. The $5 million grant program to fund organizations serving women and girls who have been disproportionately affected economically by the ongoing pandemic.

We are thrilled to announce that the Metro Chamber Foundation and the MetroBusiness Center was selected as a recipient!

This award will directly assist in women's economic recovery experienced as a result of the pandemic. Stay tuned for more information on how to engage, help and lead the way for women in our community. Click **here** to access more information about the Women's Recovery Response Grant.

A PRICELESS OPPORTUNITY

On March 24, the MetroBusiness Center and First Citizens Bank invite you to a non-taxing finance experience!

Finance Day is focused on connecting resources with entrepreneurs and small business owners. Those in attendance will receive a host of resources that will help you plan, grow, and succeed.

To make Finance Day even more accessible to you, we'll offer these resources virtually and free of charge! Click **here** to register.

Questions? Contact the **MetroBusiness Center** for all of your small business needs!

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

Have you heard about Sac4Micro?

In partnership with the County of Sacramento and the California Office of the Small Business Administration, Sac4Micro is the opportunity microbusinesses have been waiting for!

Sacramento County Microbusiness Grant Program is here to help supply funding to our local microbusinesses throughout Sacramento County to aid in the recovery from the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic to the microbusiness community.

If you are or know of a microbusiness that experienced hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, make sure to recommend they visit **Sac4Micro** today. Grants are available to help recover and succeed.

MAKE MARCH COUNT

We all know the feeling - the feeling of pure fulfillment after an act of kindness or paying it forward. That feeling of giving hope to someone else, of being the good in our communities - that feeling is in our DNA as business leaders and as residents of the Greater Sacramento Region.

March is many things, but today, we recognize March as American Red Cross Month. Started by female advocacy trailblazer, Clara Barton in New York in 1851, the first meeting included a Congressman, Senator, and future Vice-President. Clara's vision represented the need for pure good - to help, to assist, to support our communities.

As the curtain closes on yet another fast month, we encourage those that are able, willing and want to make a difference to support the American Red Cross. **Volunteer, donate** or attend their upcoming **BASH**. We are always so proud of our members who make a difference and push us to be kindness representatives throughout our community.

MEET YOUR METRO

Do you know who the business cheerleader of the Greater Sacramento Region is? It's Maria Baptista Soria, VP of Strategic Partnerships and Member Services!

Maria is one of those rare gems who make you feel like you've the won the lottery. Her sincerity and ability to passionately deliver for business "level up" the reputation of Metro Chamber.

A Sacramento native, hornet (Stingers Up!), wife, and new mom, Maria is driven to bring her best and deliver THE best every day. There's nothing she loves more than helping and building relationships with businesses that make our region stronger.

When not delivering excellence, Maria can be found relaxing with her family, eating, and shopping at the newest hot spots in town. We weren't kidding when we said she supports local business through and through! What more could you ask for in a business cheerleader after all?