

# A Camp San Luis Obispo and Achievement House Collaborative Effort

By Claudia Gambaro

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Camp San Luis Obispo (CSLO) Environmental Office teamed up with six participants from the Achievement House to celebrate Earth Day 2008. Thanks to the support of the CSLO Commander and the additional efforts of the CLSO LRAM and ITAM Offices, and California Men's Colony (CMC), we were able to plant six coast live oak trees in an area of Training Area H.



Oak trees are a vital part of the California central coast ecosystem. Birds, mammals, and reptiles alike use oaks for shelter, foraging, and as a food resource. Their presence in an ecosystem provides vertical structure and can help maintain microclimates. Unfortunately, many of the oak trees in California have been cut down for agriculture and development, and in many areas, they are not regenerating quickly enough to sustain current populations. Maintaining and planting new oak trees in California is critical in keeping the ecosystem intact and healthy.

The day was truly a culmination of several agencies and departments working toward a common good for the environment and the community. For several years now, Peter Waldburger (LRAM) has coordinated with and educated the CMC Vocational Landscape Department on proper propagation techniques of native plants. These plants are then used for restoration projects at CSLO.

