



# FAITH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

**Our mission** is to give hope to disadvantaged children by showing them God's unconditional love and by guiding them into becoming whole persons - socially, intellectually and spiritually.

January 2005

Faith Network of the East Bay, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

## THANKS FROM

"We so much appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving us the chocolate basket. It just so happens that chocolate is one of our staff's favorite things. They were very excited when I passed them out...It definitely gave us a boost."

Tram Nguyen, Principal of EnCompass Academy

## THANKS TO

- David Monk for computer tech donation
- So many of you who helped us provide Christmas baskets, toys, turkeys, Safeway and Target gift certificates to over 70 needy families.
- Shiloh Christian Fellowship for donation of several hundred boxes of Gubor Espresso Macchiato Truffles which were included in Christmas gift bags for teachers.

## CONTACT

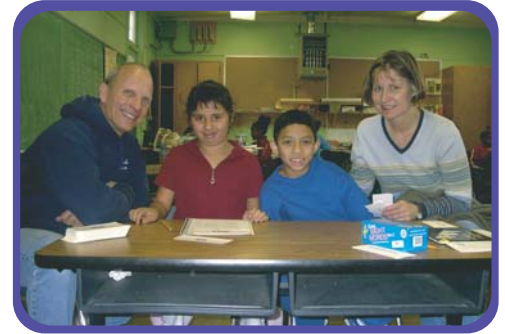
Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us :

email: [info@faith-network.com](mailto:info@faith-network.com)

phone 510.336.7055  
fax 510.336.7055

## Build a Bridge That Will Go Both Ways

In April, 2002, Creekside Community Church adopted Cox Elementary and began sending volunteers to the campus as tutors. Over time the quiet, supportive presence of Creekside volunteers has in effect built a relational bridge of trust and goodwill with the principal, staff, teachers and parents. Now, as of December 1, the bridge is going both ways with the launching of an after school program for Cox students on the Creekside campus.



Creekside Pastor John Bruce and his wife Laurie tutor children weekly at Cox Elementary.

## A New Venture: Creekside Kids After School Program by Kathy Greer

Creekside Church has had the joy of partnering with E. Morris Cox Elementary School for 3 years. Every outreach - tutoring 2nd graders in reading, teacher appreciation events, washing clothing from the lost and found, providing Thanksgiving dinners to 120 families - has been fully supported by the Creekside staff and members.

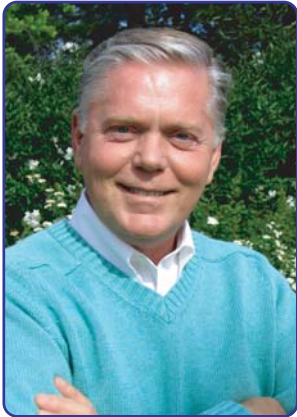
In December 2004, a new venture started: Creekside Kids After School Program. Each Wednesday (early release day at 1:30) thirty-one second and third graders from E. Morris Cox Elementary are transported to Creekside Church (1.6 miles away) for an afternoon of homework tutoring, healthy snack, Bible Story, worship time, crafts and basketball.

Fifteen Creekside Church members and two ladies from nearby churches volunteer to love, nurture, tutor and have a great time with these precious children! It's an incredible blessing to the volunteers, and of course the children greatly benefit too! Each child has a "sponsor" from Creekside Church who is committed to praying for the child's welfare and spiritual growth this school year.



San Leandro H.S. softball coach Mitch Miloslavich leading sports activities at Creekside after school.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

Anticipation and excitement are emotions I'm feeling because tomorrow Diane and I (accompanied by Katie and Chelsea) will fly to NYC to meet our new grandson, Eli Hudson Roth, born November 4 to Dave and Jen. We can hardly wait to hold this baby in our arms and to capture the essence of his personhood. We also get to celebrate grandson Samuel's 2nd birthday (Dec. 26). I'm told that Samuel often comes over to Eli when he's nursing, kisses his baby brother on the cheek and says, "Nice Eli" (which interpreted means, "I better be nice to Eli").

In the fall of 1997 our son David enrolled in the New York Medical College. Currently he is in his third year of residency in Emergency Medicine, with one more year to go. Hopefully the family will be relocating to the Bay Area in the summer of 2006.



Samuel holding baby brother Eli.

The New Year will present its challenges as the Oakland Unified School District intensifies plans to reconfigure city schools. More schools will be closed or be converted to small schools or semi-independent charter schools. Driving these changes are two powerful realities: First, Oakland public school enrollments are declining due to families relocating because of rising housing costs, and students transferring to charter schools. The second reality forcing the restructuring of Oakland schools is the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Schools are now required to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The failure of a school in meeting AYP for 6 consecutive years will result in sanctions and finally in restructuring. But the haunting question is, does restructuring alone address the District's underlying factors, e.g., family breakdown, increasing numbers of English language learners, lack of adequate funding, insufficient number of credentialed teachers. Heightening the sense of anxiety is the lack of local ownership in the important decisions that are being handed down by the State Administrator. All of these prospective changes leave our principals, teachers, students and parents feeling anxious. In such an atmosphere of uncertainty and mistrust, Faith Network will have an opportunity to be a stabilizing, encouraging presence on our campuses. I was touched when one of our teachers commented recently, "Faith Network volunteers are a peaceful presence at our school."

Thanks to so many of you for your partnership with us in reaching out to disadvantaged children through your prayer support, volunteer service and financial contributions.



### NEWS

There will be a tutor training workshop on Feb. 12th at Patten College. Look for the invitation in the mail later this month. Or call our office to reserve a space now!

(510) 336-7055