



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.

July 2005

Faith Network of the East Bay, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

Every Volunteer Counts! by Kendra Hazen

I'm one of 27 Mission Year team members living and serving the Lord in Oakland this year. One of my community service sites is Hoover Elementary School. I've had the privilege of spending my Tuesdays and Thursdays in Mr. Zucker's 4th grade classroom during the day, and then running my own music class for Hoover's after school program, Kids Rock. Recently I was able to take Faith Network's own Randy Roth on a mini tour of Hoover so that he could see what I do and meet those whom I've been able to work for all year.

When I brought Randy to Mr. Zucker's classroom to observe the last few minutes of class, Mr. Zucker allowed me to introduce my guest. Then, as a surprise to me, he asked some of the kids to raise their hands and share with Randy how I've helped them this year! Six or seven out of the 58 possible hands, belonging to the 29 students in the class, flew up into the air and waited to be called upon. First, I called upon Leon who is dyslexic and is one of the three who I work with the most often. He said, "Miss Kendra has helped me learn how to read, to rewrite things, and to write poems."

Then one of my favorite little hands went up in the front row and I called upon Mohamed. Mohamed is one of my ESL students; he is from Sudan and his native language is Arabic. When I first arrived at Hoover in October I worked mainly with him on increasing his vocabulary, comprehension, and decoding skills. He had begun the school year in September speaking only five or six words in English. And when I called on him last week he said, "Miss Kendra has taught me English. She help me learn to speak English, to read and to write." You can only imagine how proud I am of him and his progress. He really has come a long, long way!

I am blessed to be able to spend such a large quantity of time at the school thanks to Mission Year, Faith Network, and my friends and family who are supporting me from home (Columbus, Ohio), but don't think you have to spend as much time as I do at a school to make a difference! Every volunteer counts! Every tutor helps! Oakland Public School District needs the help! So, thank you for your partnership and support of Faith Network.



Mission Year Team member Kendra Hazen with Mohamed.

South Bay Community Church Adopts 40 Classrooms!

June 15 was a happy day for the schools whose classrooms (40 in all) were adopted by South Bay Community Church. That was the day computers (including laptops), rugs, tables, filing cabinets, learning games, CD/DVD players, student workbooks, art supplies, etc., were delivered to three elementary schools in Oakland: MLK Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and Grass Valley.

I wish you could have seen the faces of the principals, teachers and students with their varied expressions of disbelief, surprise, delight and curiosity. As wide-eyed kids were checking out the myriad boxes, one of our principals said, "This is like Christmas in June!" A heartfelt thanks to SBCC Pastors Stanley Long and Aleese Moore-Orbih, and to all who contributed to this practical outreach to Oakland Public Schools.



Marshall Elementary welcomed the gifts with cheers!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Randy Roth

Dear Friends,

The following is an excerpt from my Dewey High School commencement address, delivered on June 15 at the Allen Temple Family Life Center

It's an honor for a short white guy like me to be asked to be this year's Dewey High commencement speaker. After coming on campus and connecting with students & staff over the past 9 months, Dewey has gotten under my skin...



Dewey Graduates cheer each other on!

One thing our graduates have in common is that they've had more than their share of adversity, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Research indicates that what successful people consider the most important factors in their success are 1) they experienced significant adversity, and 2) they identified an encouraging parent, mentor or teacher who urged them on to achieve beyond what they thought was possible. Many of you graduates here today have in fact overcome obstacles because there was such a parent, mentor, encourager in your lives, and some of them are here cheering you on today.

Therefore, my challenge to the Class of 2005 going forward is: **CHOOSE YOUR MENTORS WISELY.** You will be profoundly shaped by who you hang around with. Keep seeking out responsible, caring adults who will help you navigate life's mine fields, who will spur you on to know what is important, what matters most. Cesar Chavez put it succinctly when he said, "You are never strong enough that you don't need help." I once heard an old black preacher explain his philosophy of ministry: "I hold a crown before my congregation and then watch them grow into it." That's the kind of mentoring I'm talking about, and the kind of mentor I want to be for the next generation, someone who will hold a crown before you and watch you grow into it.

Savor the moment, graduates...absorb the accolades, enjoy the applause...and then put your track shoes back on and keep learning and serving and growing. We salute you, Dewey High School Class of 2005 and **RISING!** May God bless you all!

THANKS TO

- Marilyn Rowe for the donation of a VCR.

PRAYER REQUEST

- Please pray for our 80+ students who are going to camp this summer. Pray that they will be kept safe, have fun and experience God's love.



Students Ride on Good Attendance!

Emerson 3rd grader, Demarea, proudly poses with his brand new bike. Thanks to the Gift World donation of First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, twelve students won new bikes for having the best school attendance. This was an effort by Principal Caporicci to encourage perfect attendance among her students. Twelve happy children smiled as they rode away on their new bikes!