



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.

May 2005

Faith Network of the East Bay, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

THANKS TO

- Chris Lasack for donating his landscaping expertise
- Christina Piona for the donated printer

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Faith Network's **4th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event** will be held June 6, 6:45 - 8:15 pm at the Joaquin Miller Conference Center. Save the date!
- Summer Camp for City Kids: June 28 - July 2, Oakland Boys/July 5 - 9, Oakland Girls.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for Oakland public school students as they face the pressures of the testing period, April 27 - May 6.
- Pray for the selection of students and recruitment of counselors for Summer Camp for City Kids.

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us :

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Joys of Tutoring at Webster Academy

By Jennifer Nixon

I am simply a representative of the dozens of other people here at Piedmont Community Church who tutor, cook, work on the playground, donate sports equipment, etc. For me, one of the best parts of all this involvement is the time I spend every Monday afternoon with Ashley and Vili. I know I'm not going to change the world helping a small handful of kids to read. More than 80% of 3rd graders at Webster read below grade level. But if Ashley and her cohorts there could one day soon be reading at or above grade level by 3rd grade, we together would have made a difference.



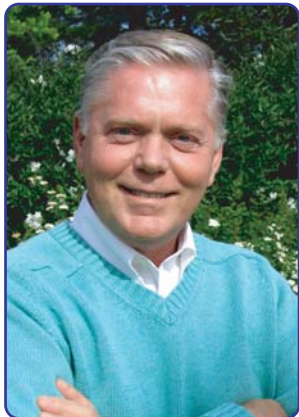
Often our tutoring sessions are filled with a variety of activities - flashcards, word Bingo, simple books, spelling or worksheets. One day last month I decided to try Ashley, a 1st grader, with *Green Eggs and Ham*, a classic Dr. Seuss book about a younger creature trying to get a bigger, older creature to try something new to eat - a delightful book full of silly scenarios and adamant refusals. Well, Ashley started out slow..."that Sam I am, I do not like that Sam I am." But then she picked up steam - and confidence - as she continued, and soon she was into the rhythm and rhyme, reading loudly and clearly, so that the other tutors and students turned to listen. She turned to me in the middle of it, her eyes shining, and blurted out, "I can really read! I'm reading a big book!" She was filled with the thrill of reading, and I was there to share it with her. It was a good day!

Vili, a 2nd grader from Tonga, read a book to me last week, holding it up for me to see the pictures as he turned each page. "Some day," he told me shyly, "I want to be a teacher." I told him I thought he'd make a great teacher.

Together we can all help children like Vili and Ashley fulfill their dreams.

Jennifer Nixon lives with her husband and two children - Elizabeth, 10, and Chris, 8 - in Piedmont, CA. Her eclectic academic background includes a B.A. from UC Santa Cruz, M.B.A. from Harvard and M.A. from Chicago Divinity School. A member of Piedmont Community Church (PCC) Mission Action Team, Jennifer serves as PCC liaison to Faith Network with Maureen Molmen, and coordinates quarterly Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheons at Webster Academy and EnCompass Academy.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

Summer Camp for City Kids is just around the corner. Faith Network is again teaming up with Today's Youth Matter to provide 88 summer camp scholarships for students from 9 of the schools we are serving. 80 elementary students will experience 5 days of intense camping (in tents!) at TYM's camp in the Santa Cruz mountains, east of Pescadero; 8 high school students will have the opportunity to go backpacking in the High Sierra near Lake Tahoe.

Perhaps for the first time in their lives, urban youth will experience hiking in the wilderness, cooking over an open fire, fishing, canoeing, rock climbing, morning devotions and nightly campfires. The heart of TYM's program is year-round individual and small group follow-up.

Other summer camp opportunities are being provided by Faith Network partners. For example, Oakland First Covenant is extending an invitation to Laurel Elementary students to attend "J-Force" Kids Camp the weeks of July 11th, 18th and 25th for kids entering 1st through 5th grades. New this year is a "Kindergarten Camp" for kids entering kindergarten in the fall.

Call or email the Faith Network office if you are interested in volunteering as a camp counselor or driver, or would like more information about Summer Camp for City Kids.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing prayer and financial support through the spring and summer months. That support is needed in order to sustain and expand our outreach to our children, parents and teachers.

Blessings,



NEWS

Oakland schools seen as 'dropout factories' – Only 48 of every 100 freshmen in Oakland eventually earn high school diplomas, according to the California study by the Harvard University Civil rights Project. *(Our schools are in crisis...the next generation is slipping through the cracks. Oakland youth need our support - now! - Randy)*



Once upon a time...

Storyteller Janet Ellman mesmerizes Kindergarten through 3rd graders at Burckhalter Elementary April 25th. Storytelling assemblies, organized by Faith Network tutor coordinator Carolyn Piraino, were also held at Webster Academy.