



# 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.

October 2005

Faith Network of the East Bay, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

## THANKS FROM

- "Thank you so very, very much for such a wonderful luncheon - great music and wonderful company. All of you made us feel so special and appreciated. God bless you. Looking forward to our partnership."*

- J. Smith, teacher at Lakeview Elementary (And thanks to First Presbyterian Oakland volunteers who made it all possible.)

## NEWS

### KATRINA DAY OF RELIEF AT FRUITVALE ELEM. OCT. 7th.

Faith Network is collaborating with Fruitvale Elementary by becoming personally involved with victims of Katrina who have relocated to the Oakland area. We will be collecting food, NEW clothing, diapers, sundries, toys, educational materials, and especially GIFT CARDS for food, clothing and drug stores.

**Drop off hours are from 9am to 5pm at Fruitvale Elem. located at 3200 Boston Ave, Oakland, 94602.**

Volunteers are needed on Distribution Day, Friday, October 7, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please call our office for more information.

## CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us :

email: [info@faith-network.com](mailto:info@faith-network.com)  
phone 510.836.5100  
fax 510.836.5105

## Emerson Summer Reading Awards Ceremony

by Susan White, Faith Network library volunteer at Emerson Elementary

This week (Sept. 26), we had an awards assembly for our "Summer Reading Club" at Emerson-a satisfying culmination of a lot of work. When I proposed the idea of motivating students to read over the summer at a teachers' meeting, the reading coach, Michelle Latessa, took up the challenge. So we sent home reading lists, plus a reading log for students to complete over the summer. If they read 5 books, they would receive prizes and an assembly in the fall; if they read 8 books, they would get



Susan White with Emerson Elementary's Reading Award winners

a coupon for a free book (from Barnes & Noble), as well. We also gave the students a cute (homemade) bookmark after they signed up. Thanks to some pencil pouches from Kiwanis, leftover toy-prizes in Emerson storage, and writing journals and other gifts from Faith Network we were able to put together a nice gift bag for each student.

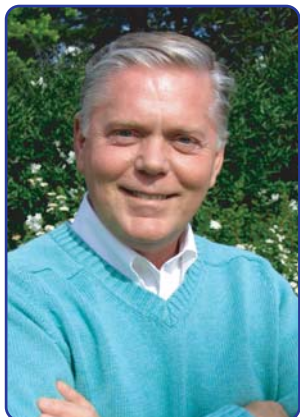
We held the assembly from 1:40-2:15 on Monday afternoon, with readings of "concrete poems," and Shel Silverstein. **The highlight was a reading of Dr. Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back* by our special guest, Randy Roth!** His oratory skill proved useful in keeping his audience in rapt attention. Children who are often squirmy and wiggly sat for 15+ minutes just listening-they said they didn't even ask to see the pictures!! Randy ended this time with a brief statement acknowledging the children and their accomplishment. He told them when they read, it is like letting light through the window behind them: letting in truth, beauty and imagination. We passed out colorful certificates and the bags of prizes. I believe these children truly felt special. It was great to see the smiles on these precious children's faces. Thanks again to all of you who make of Faith Network to make this possible!

## Updated Fall Tutor Training Opportunities!

The workshops will be lead by Zaretta Hammond, Director of the Community Literacy Initiative at Community Solutions Network, Inc. The workshops will be held at Bay Area Christian Connection at 810 Clay Street in downtown Oakland. Please register by calling Faith Network (510) 836-5100 or emailing [info@faith-network.com](mailto:info@faith-network.com).

|                       |                                      |              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Saturday, October 15  | Supporting Reading Development (3-5) | 9:00 - 2:00p |
| Thursday, October 20  | Tutoring Basics                      | 6:00 - 9:30p |
| Saturday, October 22  | Understanding Open Court             | 9:00 -12:30p |
| Thursday, November 10 | Tutoring Basics                      | 6:00 - 9:30p |
| Saturday, November 19 | Supporting Reading Development (K-2) | 9:00 - 2:00p |

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Randy Roth

Dear Friends,

Faith Network is collaborating with Fruitvale Elementary by becoming personally involved with victims of Katrina who have relocated to the Oakland area. Fri., Oct. 7, has been designated KATRINA DAY OF RELIEF. The plan is for Fruitvale to become a Relief Collection Center for survivors of Hurricane Katrina, including the 50+ children who are now enrolled in Oakland public schools. We will be collecting food, NEW clothing, diapers, sundries, toys, educational materials, and especially GIFT CARDS for food, clothing and drug stores. Immediately we will be collecting, separating, categorizing and storing the items collected in the Fruitvale Elementary School auditorium until Distribution Day Oct. 7.

DONATIONS will be accepted between 9am - 5pm daily. The school is located at 3200 Boston Ave., Oakland 94602 510/879-1170.

VOLUNTEERS are needed on Distribution Day, Fri., Oct. 7, 10am - 4pm

Thank you in advance for doing more than you have done already to help children and families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Blessings,



P.S. A special tribute to the victims of Katrina will be featured at our Bear Fruit Benefit Concert Nov. 12. Come join us and invite your friends!

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is the glue."  
- Eugene O'Neill

### WEBSITE

Check out our updated website! You can do the following by going to [www.faith-network.com](http://www.faith-network.com):

- Make an online donation
- Buy Bear Fruit 3 tickets
- Read about upcoming events
- Download volunteer resources
- See our video
- View photos from past events
- Read about who we are!

[www.faith-network.com](http://www.faith-network.com)

### Parents Flock to Burckhalter Back to School Night

On Weds., Sept. 28, some 300 parents, students, teachers and staff showed up for the event. Veteran teacher Jason Whiteman said, "This is the largest parent attendance in my 10-year history at Burckhalter." Principal Dhameera Ahmed recognized several guests, including representatives from Branagh Inc.,



Bill and Tom Branagh working the BBQ at Burckhalter's Back to School Night



Back to School Night at Burckhalter Elem.

builders of the original school. Built in 1949, the school is named after Charles Burckhalter, an astronomer and science curriculum advocate, who directed the Chabot Observatory from 1885 to 1923.

Festivities began with a BBQ dinner for all, sponsored by Faith Network. Kudos to our dedicated volunteers who put on a fabulous spread: Bill & Nancy Branagh, Tom & Diane Branagh, Jean Crockett, Jan Crum, Glory Katsumata, Lou Ann Roth & Diane Roth.