

# 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, physically and spiritually



April 2008

## CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

### Benefiting Our Children Golf Classic

June 13th, 2008

Metropolitan Golf Links,  
Oakland

For more info,  
call or visit our website

510.836.5100  
[www.faith-network.com](http://www.faith-network.com)



## THANKS TO:

Eleven visiting collegians from Denton, Texas who wanted to do more than sight-see in San Francisco. Hosted by Regeneration Church in Oakland, the students from North Texas University and other schools, put their faith to work by bagging food for low-income children and tutoring 4th graders at Lockwood Elem. Thanks also to Regeneration Associate Pastor **Albert Lee** for linking them up with Faith Network.

## CONTACT INFO

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us!

Email: [info@faith-network.com](mailto:info@faith-network.com)  
Phone: 510/836.5100  
Fax: 510/836.5105

## National (Charity) League Hits Home Run, Again

Last year they covered all the bases by giving the campus of Emerson Elementary a top-to bottom spring cleaning. This year, March 2 to be exact, some 75 mothers and daughters from the Piedmont/Oakland Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) stepped up the plate and delivered a second line drive to Lakeview Elementary.

Hitting the ground running, they divided into teams and went to work beautifying the school. They swept, dusted, weeded, cleaned carpets, washed windows, and even scrubbed floors on hands and knees - and all with a smile. It was a grand slam! When the children returned to Lakeview the next day, several commented: "Our classroom smells so good!"

On behalf of her teachers and students, Principal **Clara Roberts** extends a huge thank you to NCL volunteers for their labors of love. Special appreciation to **Debi Fitzgerald**, NCL project coordinator, who made a prior school site visit and developed a game plan.



NCL volunteers pulling weeds  
in front of Lakeview Elementary

made a prior school site visit and developed a game plan.

## Hillcrest-Lockwood Partnership Blooms



Hillcrest students scrubbing the  
classroom floor at Lockwood

It started last Fall, when Hillcrest School Community Service chair **Donna Wright Somerville** brought a group from her school to come plant daffodil bulbs at Lockwood Elementary in East Oakland. On a recent Saturday in March, amidst blooming daffodils, a group of 70 Hillcrest parents and kids re-assembled at Lockwood for another day of service. This time they spent the afternoon helping teachers with cleaning and organizing classrooms, along with some additional indoor scrubbing and outdoor tidying.

The work day provided everyone with a great boost. A Hillcrest student said, "My mom told me I had to come and I didn't want to, but it ended up being a lot of fun." Lockwood fourth grade teacher **Jen Sethasang** expressed gratitude: "We're really

fortunate to have people who care." **Principal Steve Daubenspeck** commented, "Our school doesn't just need money; we need human capital. We have never before experienced this kind of outreach from a school in the Oakland hills. I hope this partnership can continue." Lockwood office administrator **Mr. Pak** needs no words; he beams ecstatically whenever he remembers the day.

Thank you, Donna Wright Somerville and team, for a job well done. Thanks also to Faith Network volunteer **Kathy Dwyer** for coordinating and directing this event.



RANDY ROTH

### TEN MOST WANTED

1. Male Tutors & Mentors  
*(our boys especially need solid male role models)*
2. Food Baggers (3 hrs. every other Weds. am)
3. Excel Reading Clinic Tutors  
*(1 or more hrs. weekly)*
4. Excel Reading Clinic Coordinators (3 or more hrs. weekly)
5. Teacher Appreciation Hosts  
*(quarterly)*
6. Outdoor Science Camp Scholarships (\$200 per student)
7. Golf Tournament Sponsors
8. Golf Tournament Raffle & Silent Auction Items
9. After School Homework Helpers (1 or more afternoons weekly)
10. Playground Supervisors  
*(during the lunch recess)*

### STAFF

- Randy Roth, *President*  
 Jocelyne Birren, *Grant Writing*  
 Chelsea Boniak, *Executive Administrator*  
 Norman Brooks, *Director Science Horizons*  
 Rebecca Buckley, *Associate Director*  
 Charlotte Martinez, *Director Health4Kids*  
 Carolyn Piraino, *Director Excel Reading Clinics*

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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Those of you who have known Faith Network from the get-go will remember that the original idea was to tap the resources of the *faith* community for disadvantaged children. In July of 2001 Faith Network of the East Bay was founded to help build healthy children and families by rallying *faith*-based support for urban public schools. I believe that there's a lot of good will bundled up within the Church's four walls. Over these past seven years, hundreds of believers have put feet to their faith and stepped forward to invest in the next generation.

The faith community continues to serve as our primary resource. But in recent days we are experiencing an unforeseen infusion of support from other quarters. Surprisingly, we now have businesses and other groups knocking on our door. For example, three years ago, Windermere Properties of the East Bay chose Faith Network to provide volunteer service opportunities for their employees on the occasion of their annual Community Service Day. Two years ago the National Charity League contacted us about finding an inner city school where their members could provide needed services. Last year, Hillcrest School's PTA called us about directing them to an under-resourced school with whom they might partner. As recently as today, we are in exploratory conversation with the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce about helping the business community increase its investment in Oakland Public Schools.

What are we make of all this? *Common grace* is what I make of it. There are many, many caring people in the world, regardless of whether they identify themselves as "religious" or are affiliated with a church. We all serve with mixed motives. But deep down, even the slightest hint of genuine altruism is reflection of the divine image that is engraved on heart of every human being. Besides, it makes it more interesting when, in the course of serving together, church folks rub shoulders with those who may not share their spiritual convictions. Inevitably we discover that we have more in common that we might have guessed. *Common grace*.

*I ask for your prayers, your volunteer involvement and your financial support.* Together we can give hope to our children by showing them God's unconditional love.

Sincerely,

*Randy*

P.S. Please use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope to send your gift. Whatever amount you send, large or small, will make a difference. Thank you!

## Keep Oakland Beautiful

You are invited to the *Keep Oakland Beautiful* work day on Saturday, **May 17th**. Castlemont High School will be the focus of the workday and projects will include landscaping the school entry, painting over graffiti, clearing storm drains, stenciling, and litter clean-up. The workday starts at 9am and lunch will be provided. There is something for everyone to do. Even if you can come for just an hour, every effort will help!



If you are interested, please contact **Chelsea** at the Faith Network office by phone (510) 836-5100 or email [chelsea@faith-network.com](mailto:chelsea@faith-network.com).