

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



August 2008

THANKS FROM

■ "It is sheer joy to serve the children at Burckhalter. It can be challenging, but they are delightful. Our Excel Reading team members are dedicated and enjoyable to volunteer with. Nancy Branagh is a real blessing to us and to Burckhalter. Thank you Faith Network for all you do - known and unknown."

- Joan Morrow

■ "I'm volunteering in the summer school program at Bayview Elementary, San Pablo, as yard supervisor at lunch time and then as a 1st grade teacher's aid, 5 days a week, 10 AM until 2 PM. I'm having a great time with the kids...Just as long as I can help just one child I am happy. Never thought I would be working in a school, but you never know what God has planned for you."

- Earlene Husted, member of Community Alliance Church in Richmond.

■ "Glad to support this great organization. Pleased to hear the Golf Classic was so successful."

- Jonathan Mayes, Safeway, Inc.

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?

Contact us:

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A Kid Started It

Reflections on Day Camp involving a 3-way partnership between Faith Presbyterian Oakland, First Presbyterian Berkeley and Faith Network, serving children of both congregations including kids in the neighborhood of Emerson Elementary.

"For everyone on the Day Camp planning team, the outcome was worth it. Just like the children who said, 'I made some new friends,' I found myself saying the same thing. The Holy Spirit just encamped about us all week and showed us what marvelous things we can do together. Thursday came around and it was my responsibility to find a service project for the children. The plan was to work in the weed-infested backyard of the Church. Bobbie showed up with plants, soil, ideas and workers. I could do nothing but cry with joy. Children swept and scrubbed and planted. The result was a wonderful new place to sit and relax. Faith Presbyterian is so grateful. Thank you for everything!" - **Norma Sherman**, member of Faith Presbyterian and Day Camp planning team



Kids make new friends as Day Camp

"I was thrilled to see First Pres and Faith Pres members at Day Camp this morning sitting with the children in circles, giving instruction in the rooms upstairs, playing with the children in the parking lot or making preparations for the next activity. I am so proud of the First Pres families who decided that distance would not prevent them from being involved and for the many volunteers who are actively making the program a reality. What made my heart sing is that what happened throughout this week is so very rare! We are two very different congregations, in two different areas, coming together because we realize God's love for us. You all are doing what my deepest passion longs for, racial reconciliation for the sake of the gospel." - **Mary Ellen Azada**, Assoc. Pastor of Mission & Evangelism, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley



Randy with Emerson Elementary students, **Joemar** and **Erik**, happy recipients of new bikes for best attendance



Emerson **Principal Wendi Caporicci** flanked by volunteers **Dave Hendsch** & **Milt Latta** who grilled dogs and burgers for the year-end BBQ Celebration



RANDY ROTH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Today I met with representatives of Caltrans, Bay Area Toll Authority and California Transportation Commission. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss their proposed collaborative School Outreach Program aimed at Bay Area school children from elementary through post-secondary levels. For starters, they would like to adopt two Oakland schools in partnership with Faith Network: Lockwood Elementary and Westlake Middle. Hopefully this embryonic partnership will gestate during the summer and begin producing volunteers and other resources by late September.

A key Caltrans staffer, **Margena Wade** of the Public Information Office, will be the liaison to Faith Network. Margena is a member of First Covenant and headed up our Bear Fruit for the Children Concerts in times past.

Like so many other believers in the marketplace, Margena is putting her faith to work, at work, consistent with our Lord's expectations: "You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world."

Blessings,

P.S. Thanks for your continued support during the summer months.

EXCEL TEST RESULTS

Year-end test results show **Excel Reading Clinics** are boosting student achievement. Based on a sampling of the 70 students enrolled, assessment results show:

70% improved two grade levels and **25% improved 1 grade level** reading ability.

The Clinics, staffed by 54 trained volunteer tutors, use a multi-sensory, phonics-based approach to reading, but also tailor lesson plans and methodology to fit the needs of the individual learner.

- **Carolyn Piraino**, Director, Excel Reading Clinics

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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Windermere Works

On June 20 Windermere Properties of the East Bay, based in Pleasanton, sent out some 30 real estate agents for a hard day's work, in scorching temperatures, to MLK Jr. Elementary in West Oakland. Projects outlined by **Principal Tracey Washington** included painting, packing, moving, cleaning and gardening. This is the third time Windermere has partnered with Faith Network to serve under-resourced schools in Oakland. Windermere volunteers are to be congratulated for their can-do work ethic and many jobs well done. Special thanks go to Windermere project coordinator, **Ailynne Pebenito**.



Windermere representatives with **Principal Tracey Washington**

Windermere's Community Service Day was established in 1984 to offer agents and staff a chance to volunteer an entire workday to give back to the neighborhoods in which they live and work. Windermere's Community Service Day has been recognized nationally as a model hands-on volunteer program and has been adopted by other real estate companies and businesses around the country.