

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



December 2008

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

**Our 2nd Annual
Benefiting Our Children
Golf Classic**

Friday, May 15, 2009

**Metropolitan Golf Links,
Oakland**

Stay tuned for more
information!



THANKS TO

- Dan Danzig for donating two TV/VCR units to Laurel Elementary
- Bill and Nancy Branagh for the computer donation.

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us:

Email: info@faith-network.com
Phone 510/836.5100
Fax 510/836.5105

Math Tutors Multiply at Emerson!

by Tom Love

What's a person to do with himself when his formal job of 38 years ends?

I've been thinking about tutoring kids in math for some time. I suddenly have time. After a couple of weeks I feel that this is a good fit. Kids are fun to be around. Their energy and smiles are contagious. Their struggles are real, not only in the classroom but in other parts of their lives as well. Tutoring is more than helping someone to learn, it's being a role model. We all need love, compassion, and mercy, kids as well as adults. Tutoring is a good way to share Christ's love with kids. The kids are so individual - their personalities, their needs and how they give back. They are real.

Kids are the "thermometer" of our society. If they are not doing well, it means we are probably not doing well as a family, a community, and as a nation. Being a tutor is the perfect place to impact young lives. I want to help these kids grow. I want to see these kids make it. I want them to feel that I care.

*A recently retired oral surgeon, **Tom Love** joined the math tutor team at Emerson Elementary. For some 36 years he has been an active member of the Oakland Rotary and has frequently taken leave from his medical practice to share his caring heart and skillful hand with under-served people in developing countries around the world.*



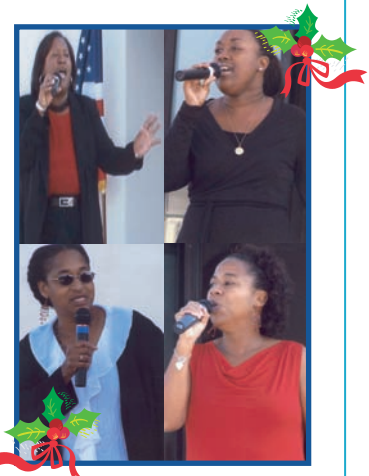
Math tutor Tom Love with Emerson students

Ruby Bridges Elementary Benefit Concert - Dec. 6th

The Daughters of Grace (aka "The Wade Sisters") have joined the efforts of Faith Network in providing support to Ruby Bridges Elementary School. On December 6, 2 PM and 7 PM, **A Gospel Christmas Celebration Concert** will be held at First Baptist Church, 1515 Santa Clara Ave in Alameda.

All proceeds will go toward Science Camp Scholarships for 5th graders at Ruby Bridges. Channel 2 news anchorman **Frank Somerville** and wife **Donna** will be the MCs for the occasion. Other featured talents will include **Ruby Bridges Youth Choir, Praise Dancers, Higher Purpose** and **Hand Praisers**.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Seats and child care are limited and on first come basis. So get your tickets now by calling the FN office: (510) 836-5100.





RANDY ROTH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear friends,

There is a time to dream, a time to put down roots, a time to grow, a time to look back. It has been an astounding year working on a small, yet significant scale, to help unravel the tight knots that hinder our children from achieving academic success and a bright future. More than ever, we firmly hold to our mission to offer hope to thousands of disadvantaged children in the East Bay community who face significant obstacles to achievement.

During the past year we experienced increased growth in the number of schools we serve (27 presently), expansion of services and the forging of new partnerships. We also:

- Operated 7 reading clinics with 54 trained tutors serving 73 children. Assessment results showed 70% improved their reading skills by two grade levels.
- Delivered 7,280 food bags to low-income children in 9 schools who without the food bags would go home to empty cupboards on weekends;
- Sponsored 236 fifth graders and 49 chaperones from 8 Oakland schools in Science Horizons;
- Channeled a variety of resources - from books, to bicycles, to scholarships, to classical concert tickets, to immunization services and much more;
- Increased our staff to accommodate new programs.

Faith Network is indebted to hundreds of dedicated individuals and the many, diverse community partners who have contributed their time and resources to invest in our children and schools in our community. We cherish the children that have been entrusted to us and are encouraged by their hard work and their progress. We pledge to continue to serve them to the best of our ability and to share in their joy as they overcome obstacles and open doors of opportunity.

Our staff team joins me in wishing you and your family a joyous Christmas filled with peace, hope and love.

Sincerely,



QUOTES

"The great moral test of a society is the kind of future it leaves its children"

- Reinhold Neibuhr

"We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love."

-Mother Teresa

STAFF

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

Benefits of Sharing Family Meals

Studies reveal that sharing family meals have social, emotional and even academic benefits. According to Christine Carter, Executive Director of The Greater Good Science Center, "kids who eat dinner with their families five nights a week or more get better grades, are much less likely to abuse alcohol and drugs, are less likely to be obese or develop eating disorders, they are more emotionally stable, and they have fewer depressive symptoms."

A Harvard education research group found that children learn seven times more words hearing conversations at the dinner table than when their parents read to them. Opening meals with a symbolic ritual such as a blessing, toast, grace or expression of gratitude give children a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves; a family team. The benefits of eating together will last long after your meal ends.

- Excerpts from "Family Value Meals," an article published in Bentley Parent Association NEWS & NOTES, by Beth Crowley, Head of Lower School (11/7/08).