

# 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



## Longfellow Middle School Graduation by Sue Berger

July 2008



Charlotte Martinez with  
Max Martinez Scholarship recipients  
Jaqueline and Napoleon

On June 13th at the Longfellow Middle School Eighth grade graduation, Charlotte Martinez awarded the *first* Longfellow Middle School Max Martinez Scholarships to Napoleon Samad and Jacqueline Verdin. Faith Network established this scholarship to provide educational assistance, mentoring and college scholarships to students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds with high academic potential. Both students will be freshmen at Berkeley High next year and were excited to receive their \$2000 scholarships (the monies to be held to apply toward school expenses for full time enrollment at a four-year college or two-year community college), and each will be assigned a mentor.

Eleven applicants applied by submitting an application that included two personal essays and securing a teacher recommendation. Five finalists were interviewed at the end of May. The applications and interviews were so strong that the scholarship selection committee was challenged to select five finalists, and then just two recipients!

This scholarship honors and carries on the legacy of Max Martinez. Max was employed at UC Berkeley for 20 years, and worked in the

Incentive Awards Program until his sudden death in 2003 at the age of 56. The Incentive Awards Program is an outreach to promising disadvantaged youth, encouraging them to go to college and helping them navigate the University of California admissions standards and procedures. While there is a Max Martinez scholarship at Dewey High School, this is the first year for the Longfellow Middle School Max Martinez scholarship. Charlotte, Max's widow, was the perfect choice to present the first scholarships as she is also known to the Longfellow community as the Longfellow WriterCoach Connection site coordinator. The scholarship selection committee was led by Rebecca Buckley and included Art May, Lynn Gastellum, Sue Burger and Trish Singleton.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for our inner city kids who are going to camp this summer -- a special time to enjoy the great outdoors and experience God's love through caring counselors.

### CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us:

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

### Our 1st annual *Benefiting Our Children* Golf Classic was a success!



Aaron Paterra anxiously hopes for a birdie

Thank you to everyone who attended the golf tournament, silent auction and dinner at the Metropolitan Golf Links. Thank you also to our sponsors and donors. Because of the generosity of our supporters, Faith Network raised over **\$20,000** for programs that will serve our inner city children.

Congratulations to Sarag Ago who won the grand prize drawing of 2 roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines!



RANDY ROTH

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear friends,

My heart is filled with joy and gratitude as we complete our 7th school year. What gives me joy is to see how disadvantaged children from tough neighborhoods, hurting families and ubiquitous violence somehow maintain their resilience. And you can't help but smile as you see them respond to a caring tutor. We have just completed our Excel Reading Clinics testing, and the results show that many who were reading below grade level are now at benchmark. Some of our kids advanced three grade levels in one year.

And I'm grateful...for those who keep investing in Faith Network financially...for new donors who've just come on board...for the growing number of foundations that invite us to submit grant proposals because they believe our work is making a difference...for our public school teachers who serve tirelessly in the trenches.

Finally, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for our compassionate and committed volunteers and community partners. As I've said repeatedly, without them Faith Network would be but empty words on a letterhead. As Steve Daubenspeck, principal of Lockwood Elementary put it so succinctly: "It's not just money that we need; we need human capital." Volunteers don't offer easy answers or polished programs; they offer themselves. They offer the time and attention it takes to build a relationship with a hope-starved child. Bill Milliken, founder of Communities in Schools, underscores this principle when he says, "Programs don't change kids - relationships do. Every child needs one adult who's irrationally committed to his or her future."

Please join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for all those listed in our special Volunteer Appreciation insert in this newsletter. They are our unsung heroes!

Blessings,

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

"For these are all our children, and we shall all profit by, or pay for, what they become."

- James Baldwin

"You'd be amazed by what a difference it makes to simply get adults into the school building."

- Bill Milliken

## 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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## Dewey Graduation by Ann Gilbert

For the past 4 years I've served on the Dewey High School Max Martinez Scholarship Fund interview team. The scholarships are awarded to students who have overcome tremendous hardships in their young lives. Meeting with the students, reading their applications, and hearing their stories have been both gratifying and personally challenging.

Our team (*Xavier Martinez, Charlotte Martinez, Norman Brooks and myself*) had the difficult task of selecting two students, from a strong pool of applicants, for the four-year scholarships. We are pleased to award this year's scholarships to two very promising students, **Sophal Veth** and **Christopher Evans**. Sophal is a single mother who has been able to balance motherhood, two jobs, and achieve a strong scholastic record in her senior year. She has aspirations for a career in the medical field. Christopher is a highly motivated young man who has been accepted into Texas Southern University, and who aspires to be a journalist.

It continues to be a privilege for me to be a part of the Max Martinez Scholarship team, and to be able to help socio-economically disadvantaged students achieve their post-high school education goals.



Sophal and Christopher showing off their Max Martinez Scholarship Awards