

# 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



September 2008

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

### Faith Network Volunteer Director

Faith Network is looking for a Volunteer Director. Responsibilities include the overall administration of volunteer recruitment, screening and interviewing, orientation and training, supervision and coordination, retention and recognition.

This is a 15-20 hour a week part-time position with flexibility.

For a detailed position description contact Chelsea Boniak at Chelsea@Faith-Network.com or (510) 836-5100

## QUOTES

- "Helping youth is one of my passions. Finding time to do it is always the problem. However, knowing I might have made a difference in a child's life is its own reward."
- "Volunteering activates my need to share the goodness of life with impressionable young people."

## CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us:

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

## Working with Kids has Changed My Life by Tracy Valva

There are so many things I love about my church, Creekside Community Church in San Leandro. But it is the church's commitment to community service that has changed my perspective in the world. I have always wanted to help children in need but didn't know how to start. Then Faith Network of the East Bay partnered our church with Cox Elementary School in East Oakland. For four years my son and I have worked with the kids in our after-school program and last year my

husband became involved with the program too. What started as a once-a-week volunteer opportunity has become a passion. I love spending time with our kids.

For the third year in a row our Cox school kids got to go to Frontier Ranch summer camp at Mission Springs. This year I got to go too. It was wonderful watching them do lots of fun things and make new friends. One of our boys made it to the top of the tree climb because of the trust he had in his counselor. He was so proud of himself, smiling from ear to ear. There were so many moments like that at camp. I feel so blessed to have been a part of it.

I truly feel that God opened this door for me. In addition to the after-school sessions, our family has been taking small groups of Cox students on field trips - to a museum, a movie or playing at the park near the lake in town. Working with these kids is the best thing I do all week long.



Lennette, Dajaunae, Shanese and Adajah  
enjoy pool time at camp



Tracy Valva with Cox students at Fronteir Ranch

There are so many kids that need you. The more volunteers we have the more children we can reach. If you are interested in working with kids call Faith Network. I promise you it will change your life. It certainly has for me and our family.



RANDY ROTH

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

As we launch into our 8th school year, we are once again in search of volunteers desiring to make a difference in a child's life, put wind in the sails of a teacher, and support our schools. Faith Network is in need of reading and math tutors, writing coaches, classroom assistants, playground lunch buddies, teacher appreciation hosts, library helpers, and after school helpers.

Our mission is to *give hope to disadvantaged children by showing them God's unconditional love, and by guiding them into becoming whole persons - physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.* The way we accomplish our mission is by building community support for under-resourced urban schools. Scores of East Bay schools are welcoming volunteers to respond to priority needs. Our beleaguered teachers do not have the luxury of giving one-on-one attention to their most needy students. In every school there are kids who are slipping through the cracks, kids who need help with their reading, math and science. But our kids are not just in need of academic support. Many come to school hungry, fearful, emotionally upset by turmoil at home and violence in their neighborhoods. Besides an academic tutor, our children need a friend. They need to know that someone cares about them personally. Might that someone be you?

The Network currently serves 27 schools in Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, and Alameda. To obtain more information and get involved contact Chelsea@Faith-Network.com (510) 836-5100, or log on to [www.faith-network.com](http://www.faith-network.com). Click on "Volunteer Information" and you can download our Volunteer Registration and Screening form which, when completed and turned into our office, will get you started. The life that's changed may be your own!

Sincerely,

### PRAYER FOR THE CITY

We pray for the shalom of our city, for calm on our streets, for coherent, collective and effective strategies to stop the killings, by addressing both the symptoms and the underlying causes. May Oakland become known as Hopeland - a city where all of our sisters and brothers, youth and children can enjoy the blessings of peace, prosperity, health and wholeness. Gracious and merciful God, may it be so.

Amen.

### 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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## Help a Child Learn to Read

We have openings for tutors at our Excel Reading Clinics. Clinic Director Carolyn Piraino will be offering **tutor training on Sat., Sept. 27, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon** at the FN office, 2633 Telegraph Ave., #409, Oakland. All volunteer literacy tutors are required to take this training.

Topics that will be covered include: phonics, decoding and phonemic awareness, teaching sight words, fluency training and comprehension.

Call Chelsea at 510/836-5100 at Faith Network to sign up or email her at [chelsea@faith-network.com](mailto:chelsea@faith-network.com). *(Based on a sampling of the students enrolled in our Excel Reading Clinics, assessment results show 70% improved two grade levels by the end of the school year.)*



Carolyn Piraino, Director  
Excel Reading Clinics