

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 2009

REGISTER NOW!

**Our 2nd Annual
Benefiting Our Children**

**Golf Classic
&
Banquet/Auction**

Friday, May 15, 2009
**Metropolitan Golf Links,
Oakland**

For details or to register,
call or visit our website

www.faith-network.com
510.836.5100



THANKS FROM

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sincere kindness during my time of bereavement. This has been a very difficult time in my life. We were able to use your contribution towards purchasing flowers for the services."

-Kris Dixon, Laurel After-School Program

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us:

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

First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley Working Hand in Hand 1 Day, 3 Sites, 250 Volunteers - A Community Workday to Remember. by Natasha Hicks

"...a huge thank you for all the wonderful (First Pres) volunteers last Sat! We really appreciate all the assistance and the very thoughtful approach to supporting the schools. While there is still much work to be done, a large piece was accomplished that day with your help! I look forward to a continued partnership!"

-Caleb Cheung, Director SMART Science Center

"...On behalf of Emerson...THANK YOU for all of the absolutely amazing help your group gave to our wonderful school. I have never felt more support in my three years of teaching than I did yesterday...So often, public schools are overlooked, especially in urban areas. And it is in those urban areas where the schools, and the children need the most help...Thank you so much for all your support. It will never go unnoticed, and we are all forever grateful to everyone who lent a hand!" -Danielle Erwin, Emerson teacher



Thanks to **Nelly Stanelle**, **Mary Ellen Azada**, and **Aline Gram** of First Pres Berkeley for their incredible work of organizing the day's events. Thanks also to principals **Wendi Caporicci** of Emerson, **Pati Ceja** of Community United, **Steven Daubenspeck** of Futures Academy and **Caleb Cheung**, **Ricky Logan**, and **Anthony Cody** of the SMART Science Center for the endless ways they pour into the lives of students and for welcoming our volunteers onto their campuses!

Auction Donations Needed!

A handmade quilt, event tickets, themed gift basket, dance lessons, vacation rental in Tahoe....large or small, do **YOU** or someone you know have something to offer?



On May 15th Faith Network is hosting our second annual *Benefiting our Children Banquet and Auction*. We are requesting your help with the success of our event by making a donation of one-of-a-kind items for our live and silent auction. Creativity and ingenuity are encouraged!

All donations are tax-deductible. Proceeds from the auction will go toward our core programs: Succeeding by Reading, Health4Kids and Science Horizons.

For more information contact **Faith Network** (510) 836-5100.





RANDY ROTH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Most of our urban schools are already suffering from lack of material and human resources. And now with California's budget crisis, and cuts in allocations for education, our schools will be faced with even more difficult choices. For example, some of our schools will have to choose between a library clerk or a classroom teacher. It is mind-boggling that in Oakland we have a looming literacy crisis, with 70% of our third graders reading below grade level. And at the same time we have school libraries without librarians, thus making it difficult if not impossible for our children to access books. Something is desperately wrong with this picture. There is no magic wand or silver bullet. Systemic change is what is needed to narrow the achievement gap in our urban communities.

Going back to when Faith Network was launched in 2001, my hope was that as volunteers would come into our schools and see for themselves how resource-poor are our schools that serve primarily low-income children. And then start asking questions, and probe beneath the surface, and maybe, just maybe, consider working for change in public policy, in addition to providing direct services to our students.

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Sincerely,

Randy

THANKS FROM

■ "Dear Faith Network,
Thank you for the new glasses! You are so helpful. I will see better now."

-Denis, Kindergarten

■ "Dear Faith Network,
Thank you for my new glasses. They are awesome."

-Robert, Kindergarten

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*

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Lakeview Shines After Nat'l Charity League Workday by Natasha Hicks

"The teachers loved the lemon-fresh scent as they walked into their classrooms," **principal Clara Roberts** exclaimed as she reflected on previous workdays and talked with representatives from the National Charity League (NCL) during the planning stages for yet another workday. On Sunday, March 1, 2009 over 150 mothers and daughters from NCL gathered to deep-clean Lakeview Elementary School. They scrubbed floors, scraped out window sills, cleaned desks, sinks, hallways, and classrooms. The result surely left a fragrance of lemons and joy!



Thank you to the NCL planning team: **Becky McKeen, Susan Royce, Carolyn Ridley, Kathy Claussen and Anu Kritikos.**