

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



November 2009

Giving Update

Since July 1, 2009, the beginning of our fiscal year, the following report indicates total contributions received compared to budgeted donations.

Giving Goal, July 1 - Dec. 31:
\$224,746

Received through Oct. 20:
\$87,243

Giving needed by Dec. 31:
\$137,503

Thank you for your faithful response to our budgetary need. Whatever you send, large or small, will make a difference!

QUOTATION

On supporting student achievement:

"Making personal connections and sharing our stories - that's a gift we give kids!"

Tony Smith
OUSD Superintendent

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us:

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

Serving with Gratitude

"For me gratitude and service are inextricably linked. God has greatly blessed me with an amazing husband and four wonderful children. So during this season of my life while my kids, at least most of them, are still at home, my service revolves around them. This time with them will pass so quickly but I know serving God's kingdom in this way is what He has called me to do for this time in my life and for that I could not be more thankful."

Stacy Mattson, Volunteer

Health4Kids Food Bagger and Newsletter Assembly Team



"Service is the action part of gratitude. When I serve as a teacher or tutor it is, whether I think of it or not, an act made possible because of the generosity of others to me: their giving of what they know, of who they are; their willingness to be hopeful for me when I was less able to be hopeful for myself; their abilities to create places where I could feel secure, grow and venture out."

Jan Lewis, Volunteer

Excel Reading Clinic Coordinator & Tutor at at Horace Mann Elem.

"Being healthy has been my good fortune since childhood. I don't take it for granted so each day I'm given another opportunity to share my time, talent and energy with others - family, friends and community. To love, cherish and inspire is my purpose and Faith Network lets me do that each week at Hoover Elementary School."

Virginia Johnson, Volunteer

Excel Reading Clinic Coordinator & Tutor at Hoover Elementary



"Every time I leave Emerson I feel buoyed up by the kids. They're at such a formative stage of their lives that you can really make an impact, not only in the skills that you're teaching them, but also in their motivation for learning. I think that enthusiasm and motivation are equally important as the skills, maybe even more important."

Milt Latta, Volunteer

Math Tutor at Emerson Elementary

"Our Lord has generously provided for our family's needs. In response to that provision, I have enjoyed using my available time to volunteer. It is with a sense of gratitude to others who inspired me, and to God who has met my needs, that I enthusiastically donate my time in volunteering."

Marian McGaw, Volunteer

Health4Kids Food Bagger and Library Helper at Emerson Elementary





RANDY ROTH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Things have gotten a bit more complicated since we adopted our first school in 2001. We now are serving some 30 schools in partnership with 40 congregations and community-based organizations. Over 350 volunteers have come on board, and our staff team has grown to 8 members, two of whom serve pro bono. And it goes without saying that our budget has commensurately increased and is now at \$500,000.

Personally I feel the pressures of keeping abreast of a ministry that is growing organically and often surprisingly, while at the same time working on developing and maintaining an infrastructure than can support multiplying moving parts. Not to mention concerns regarding fundraising and financial viability.

In a quiet time yesterday, I realized that I needed to re-focus my attention and be reminded of our original vision. The main thing must be the main thing Faith Network is about. And that main thing is *to give hope to disadvantaged children, by showing them God's unconditional love and guiding them into becoming whole persons - physically, socially intellectually and spiritually.* And the primary way we do that is by pairing a caring, responsible adult with a potential-filled child. Our mission essentially is that of building relationships with the youth of our community, including their families and their teachers. I'll say it again: **programs don't change kids lives, people do.**

My heart wells up with thanksgiving for all the encouragement, the prayers, the hands-on involvement and generous financial investments over the years. Your ongoing support is much needed and appreciated!

Randy

QUOTATION

"There are at least four things you can do with your hands.
You can wring them in despair;
you can fold them in idleness;
you can clench them in anger;
or you can use them to help someone."

-Anonymous

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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Excel Reading Clinics Serve Struggling Readers and Upcoming Tutor Training!

In a flurry of fall activity, Faith Network reading tutors have re-assembled at elementary schools across Oakland to provide individualized reading instruction and practice for struggling second and third grade students. So far, eight reading clinics have gotten underway, with three more opening soon!



Over 70% of Excel Reading Clinic students advance two grade levels in reading with the assistance of a trained volunteer tutor. We hope to serve 125 students this year. To do this, we need more tutors to join our teams. Could you give 1-2 hours a week to make a profound difference in the life of a young student?

Our next tutor training takes place:

Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 - 11:30am at the Faith Network office.

To register, please contact **Natasha Hicks** at Natasha@Faith-Network.com or call the office at 510-836-5100.