

# 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



OCTOBER 2010

## FAITH NETWORK BLOG



[FaithNetworkEB.blogspot.com](http://FaithNetworkEB.blogspot.com)

Faith Network has launched a blog! Visit to get staff and volunteer posts, articles, photos, announcements and more!

Subscribe to get notifications when the blog is updated.

## THANKS FROM

"We could not have done science camp without you! Our state test scores increased, due in part to the reading tutors you provided for us. The recent cuts in state funding and the increase in class size has widened the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', and we're counting on you!"

– **Principal Jan Goodman**,  
Ruby Bridges Elementary

## CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us:

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## Horace Mann & St. John's Partnership Success

by Laurie Bennett

In July and August, **St. John's Episcopal** families donated 50 backpacks filled with the basic school supplies to its partner school, **Horace Mann Elementary**. The Excel reading tutors started their Thursday afternoon sessions on September 30. Now in its third year, the reading tutors have been one of the factors resulting in dramatic double digit test score improvement at Horace Mann. It's one of three district schools that completed the difficult task of emerging from Year 5 of Program Improvement. Statewide, just 28 schools accomplished this feat.



*St. John's Tutor  
with Horace Mann student*

"We were thrilled to learn that our school emerged from Program Improvement status," said **Principal Alanna Lim**. "It's a testament to the hard work of our students, staff and families and indicative of the kind of progress we've made to boost student performance and increase equity. We've created a culture of high expectations that also facilitates social growth and we're seeing the results in terms of improved school climate, higher proficiency rates and fewer students testing at the below basic level. It's incredibly rewarding to see the efforts of our community validated as well as the idea that, given the proper conditions, all students can achieve."

## St. Augustine Joins Faith Network

by Deacon Frank Sterling

Faith Network of the East Bay's president, Randy Roth, spoke at last Spring's Lenten Supper series when it was hosted at **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church**. The outcome is five new volunteers from St. Augustine's parish have joined the St. John's Episcopal reading tutors at **Horace Mann School**. **Jeri Robinson** has been trained and she also joined our team for the September 30 start date. The remaining four from St. Augustine's were scheduled for training, fingerprinting and TB testing and expected to be in place soon. The new St. John's/St. Augustine's team will total 10 people in October and hopes to add new recruits from both parishes.



RANDY ROTH

THANKS TO

- **Kim Farnham** and fellow **Safeway Human Resources** employees for providing 50 bags of school supplies for Oakland students served by Faith Network.
- **Ann Butts** and **Jennifer Chapman** for their donations of school supplies and books; **Michael & Martha Chan** for their donation of decorative pens; **Wayne Glenn** for the donation of a Toshiba laptop computer.

STAFF

- Randy Roth  
*President*
- Chelsea Boniak  
*Executive Administrator*
- Norman Brooks  
*Director of Science Horizons*
- Rebecca Buckley  
*Associate Director*
- Natasha Hicks  
*Volunteer Director*
- Charlotte Martinez  
*Director of Health4Kids*
- Carolyn Piraino,  
*Literacy Specialist*

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# PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Dear Friends,

**Norman Brooks** who directs our Science Horizons program is so in love with the great outdoors that he couldn’t help but convince his family to be nature lovers too. In fact, every summer for the past several years Norman has led an outdoor science camp for his entire family.

On Sept. 18th I received news of the death of Norman’s father, **Norman Brooks Sr.**, who would have been 92 on Oct. 4th. In Norman’s own words: “Last week my Dad called from LA to tell me goodbye and how much he enjoyed being my father. It was very interesting to watch him move from fear to acceptance to relief. We then had a great time reminiscing about the many good times and appreciating him for the special gifts he gave to me and his offspring. My Dad came to the last five Family Summer Science Camps. He loved to be in the outdoors with his many offspring. He was with us just a few weeks ago which made it difficult for the young ones to realize that was his last camp. I especially appreciate him for passing on his belief about dreaming big. It continues to influence my life and the lives of the children I love to support.”



*Norman Brooks Sr. with great-grandsons*

In honor of his life and sheer enjoyment of Family Summer Science Camps, the **Norman Brooks Sr. Science Camp Scholarship Fund** has been established to give East Bay urban youth an opportunity to explore the great outdoors and spark their interest in natural science. Contributions should be sent payable to Faith Network of the East Bay and earmarked for Norman Brooks Sr. Science Camp Scholarship Fund.

Sincerely,

*Randy*

## The Medium is the Medium by DAVID BROOKS

*Excerpt from a New York Times article published July 9, 2010*

Recently, book publishers got some good news. Researchers gave 852 disadvantaged students 12 books (of their own choosing) to take home at the end of the school year. They did this for three successive years. Then the researchers, led by Richard Allington of the University of Tennessee, looked at those students’ test scores. They found that the students who brought the books home had significantly higher reading scores than other students. These students were less affected by the “summer slide” -- the decline that especially afflicts lower-income students during the vacation months. In fact, just having those 12 books seemed to have as much positive effect as attending summer school.

This study, along with many others, illustrates the tremendous power of books. We already knew, from research in 27 countries, that kids who grow up in a home with 500 books stay in school longer and do better. This new study suggests that introducing books into homes that may not have them also produces significant educational gains.