

# FAITH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to give hope to vulnerable children by showing them God's unconditional love, surrounding them with caring adults, helping them develop academic and life skills so crucial to their growth and fulfillment, and working together to meet the diverse needs of students in our East Bay public schools.



SEPTEMBER 2011

## TUTOR TRAINING



**Who:** You! Your investment of an hour or two per week can open the world of learning to a second grader. Reading is the key!

**What:** Literacy Specialist Carolyn Piraino will introduce the building blocks of reading and how to guide a child into becoming a successful reader.

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 17, 9:00 - 11:30am,  
or Saturday, Oct. 8, 9:00 - 11:30 am

**Where:** Faith Network Office, 2633 Telegraph Avenue, #409, Oakland

To sign up for this workshop, call or e-mail **Varetta Mayes** (510) 836-5100 or [Varetta@Faith-Network.com](mailto:Varetta@Faith-Network.com)

## CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us:

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

## Changing Lives, One Camper at a Time

by Kathy Greer, *Director of Community Services at Creekside Community Church*

You have done it again! The lives of inner city Oakland students have been forever changed by experiencing the wonders of creation during a week at Frontier Ranch.

Thank you Faith Network for providing scholarships to students from Creekside's afterschool program. We had three "first timers" this year and two returnees. It is a joy to partner with you to enable children who otherwise would not be able to attend a quality Christian camp.

The children relish telling us stories of how many friends they made, the loving counselors, the delicious food, the crazy skits and fun sport activities.

Your kindness is renowned; we are blessed by you all!



*Leonard showing off his cabin for the week!*

## An Experience of a Lifetime by Abraham Wordsworth

John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth is an experience of a lifetime! I was fortunate enough again this summer to join the compilation of brilliantly talented and gifted students from all around the world in this three-week-long college course program.



*Abraham Wordsworth*

Three things I enjoyed the most about the program were: getting acquainted with very interesting youth and having the honor of calling them my friends; getting to pick up a new style of writing since I took the course Writing by the Bay; last but not least, enjoying the majestic Redwood Forest and interaction between the wildlife, especially the deer, at University of California, Santa Cruz. Thanks to sponsorships by Faith Network and other mentors, I will be able to have more of these amazing experiences.

*We first met Abraham when he was a student at Burckhalter Elementary, having just arrived in Oakland from a refugee camp in the Ivory Coast. Last June he graduated middle school with a 4.0 grade average. He now begins 9th grade at Head-Royce School having been awarded a 95% scholarship!*



RANDY ROTH

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Making Strides for Students

We are inviting you, your family and friends to participate in our first annual [Champions for Children 5K Walk/Run](#) to secure a brighter future for children facing life-challenging circumstances. This event will take place on [Saturday, Oct. 29](#), at [Lake Merritt](#).

**You can make strides for students by raising awareness and funding to support:**

- One-on-one reading & math tutoring
- Books for children to take home
- Hands-on science lessons & field trips
- Enhanced nutrition
- Support for school libraries
- School gardens & campus beautification

**ACTION: Register now as a walker, runner, sponsor or volunteer.** Or take the challenge and register as a TEAM LEADER and recruit friends, family and colleagues. For more information visit [www.faith-network.com](http://www.faith-network.com) or call our office (510) 836-5100.

For the children,

*P.S. As we start the new school year, your support is much needed and appreciated!*

### THANKS FROM

“Oakland Firefighters Random Acts would like to thank Faith Network for your donation to assist the family of 7-year old Jah-Ress Combs who suffered fatal burn injuries while playing with a lighter in his home. Jah-Ress’ family was very touched and appreciative that so many people in the community who they didn’t even know reached out to them during their time of pain and need for healing.”

- Cindy Chin, Board of Dir.  
Oakland Firefighter Random Acts

### STAFF

Randy Roth  
*President*

Chelsea Boniak  
*Director of Development*

Norman Brooks  
*Director of Science Horizons*

Rebecca Buckley  
*Associate Director*

Varetta Mayes  
*Director of Volunteers*

Charlotte Martinez  
*Director of Health4Kids*

Carolyn Piraino  
*Literacy Specialist*

Madalyn Wong  
*Office Administrator*

## Faith Network mourns the passing of Jah-Ress by Madalyn Wong

Jah-Ress Combs was a student from East Oakland Pride Elementary enrolled in our Excel Reading Clinic. The news of his passing came in stark contrast to the joyous stories and pictures of our students’ year-end clinic celebrations, reading certificates, scholarships, and camp experiences. It was difficult to witness a life cut short. At the same time, there is hope as Faith Network is a part of the loving community that encouraged Jah-Ress’ as a student, joining friends and family that were similarly encouraging him in many other aspects of life.



*Jah-Ress with his tutor Chris Mani*

All the people present to support the Combs family at the funeral—from a firefighter who responded to the call to school teachers from East Oakland Pride—were reminders that there are communities out there that surround the children we see in school. Whether celebrating success or being present in mourning, Faith Network is privileged to be a part of this community and part of a palpable social network.