



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VENTURA

Winter 2009

A Message from the President, Marc Vertin

A new year for the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura brings with it the Power of ONE Campaign. To insure the future vitality and independence for our five clubs, the 2009 board of directors and staff have committed 100% to a new program for community participation and an investment in a Positive Place for Kids. The success of the clubs depends entirely on outside funding for all its activities and its facilities. We are asking our Community and business leaders to make a financial commitment to support our mission that ONE PERSON can make a difference. Concentrating on children who need us most we provide each child who comes to our Club the tools to make positive choices. But we cannot do it alone. This year promises to be a test on our economy and our children's future. I have no doubt that many families will be financially pulled and stretched at this time, so we need more than ever to pull our resources together and support the clubs.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Becky Harmon
Fashion Forms

Becky Silvertrust
County Commerce Bank

*We appreciate your time,
energy and dedication to
the Boys & Girls Club of
Ventura.*

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura is part of a nationwide affiliation of more than 4,000 clubs. We provide after-school and summer programming to an active membership of over 3,000 youth annually with an average daily attendance of 600 members in five different locations. In addition, over 6,500 kids and families received benefits from our programs last year. Locally, annual membership fees are only \$20 to \$25 per child. The ACTUAL cost is \$600 per year to provide programming to just one child. The membership fee is low because many of the Club's members cannot afford after-school care; they also rely on free/reduced government subsidized lunch programs at school. The Club provides its services by fundraising this gap.

A recently released economic impact study revealed that for every \$1 invested in the Boys & Girls Club, \$4 is saved by the community- a 400% return on investment. The study measured the amount of money saved by investing in children early to insure the development of healthy, happy and well-balanced adults who will be a positive influence in the society of the future. Without after-school and summer programs like the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura, many young people whose parents work become "latch-key kids" without adult supervision. They are left exposed to drug use or gang involvement that often leads to crime and violence. ONE PERSON can make a difference in the life of a child. So, when you are contacted by a member of the Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors, please take the time to listen to what they have to share with you about our greatest resources- our youth, our future. Be that ONE PERSON. If you would like more information or a tour of one of our clubs, please contact our staff at 805.641.5585 or www.bgclubventura.org.

Marc Vertin
President, Boys & Girls Club of Ventura



Marty Robinson, Ventura County CEO, with Club Kids.

Where is YOUR Card?
Support the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura,
the "Positive Place for Kids!"

Board of Directors Spotlight

President Elect, Leon Rousso

“The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura supports children the way they should be with love, kindness, understanding and most of all with guidance...” stated, 2010’s Board President Elect, Leon Rousso in a recent interview. He continued with “school can be very difficult for some children not only academically but also socially. The Boys & Girls Club is a safe place for a child to interact with other children without having to worry about the bullies of the world.”

Leon is a Vietnam veteran who grew up in the San Fernando Valley. Shortly after leaving the Army he started a band and spent 10 years on the road as a singer and professional musician. After starting a family he began a career as a Certified Financial Planner. Always positive and upbeat he declares, “I consider myself one of the luckiest people on earth.”



A three year Board member Leon leads with energy and enthusiasm for the Club and the kids. He is always a favorite of the young members because of his outgoing personality and big smile. He praises the staff with, “Our biggest strength...is the people who work with the children everyday. They are the foot soldiers who make us all winners by helping one child at a time, day in and day out.” His financial background and understanding of the unique economic challenges of today are reflected when he says, “Our biggest challenge today as Board members is to ensure we maintain a healthy bottom line so we can maintain and grow our vision.”

Volunteerism- A Salute to our Volunteers & Donors

Q: What do 60.8 million Americans have in common?

A: They are volunteers putting in over 8.1 billion volunteer hours a year for non-profit causes.

Wikipedia says, “Volunteerism is the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without being motivated by financial or material gain.” The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura salutes the generosity of our volunteers and donors. You are the reason that over 6,500 kids and families in the Ventura community were inspired by outstanding programs in a safe, positive place last year.

Scientists have recently discovered that the act of donating to charity stimulates the pleasure centers of the brain. What they see is a “glow” in the same brain areas that occur during a good meal. Evidence that the “joy of giving” is hardwired into the brain came last spring from The National Institute of Health neuroscientists as they studied brain activity in subjects who were asked whether they should donate money or keep it to themselves. When they chose the altruistic option, activity increased in the regions associated with pleasures such as food.

All of the great non-profit programs like those of the Boys & Girls Club exist because of the time, energy and efforts of you, our volunteers and donors. By investing in and sharing your talents with the community’s kids you have created positive role-models that help ensure a strong Ventura community today and in the future.

We would be honored to share a tour of one of our five sites with you or your group. There are a myriad number of volunteer opportunities also available including: tutoring, mentoring, sharing special talents, working at our special events, etc. G.D. Boardman said, “Sow an act, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny.” Thank you to each of you for joining our journey to help create a fresh destiny of possibility for the kids of the Ventura community.

Check our website (www.bgclubventura.org) for upcoming programs and events, or give us a call at 805.641.5585 for more information or to volunteer.

What others say about us.....

Pattie, the mother of a Bill LeFevre Center member wrote:

“I just want to say again how incredible the team is over at the Boys & Girls Club on Johnson Drive. Joanne Chaffin and Christine Martinez are two very positive influences on my daughter...I see how well they work with all the kids there, supporting them, encouraging them, leading them in the right direction. I am truly blessed to have them as part of her life.”

Donna Nelson, CPA, member of Soroptimist International of Ventura joined a group observing a Monday night ‘Smart Girls’ program and wrote, “I thoroughly enjoyed observing and interacting with the girls. They are so full of promise.”

Save-the-Date



Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's 16th Annual Garden Party

When:

Sunday, April 26th, 2009

Where:

...historic Pierpont Inn

What time:

2:00 pm-5:00 pm

...to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura and the vital programs in which they provide to the youth of our community.

Enjoy tastes from local restaurants, bakeries, confectioners, and wineries. Shop our popular silent auction while listening to the subtle sounds of Sax in the City. See you then!

-Invitation to follow next month-

Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please contact Amanda Martinez at 805.641.5585 for more information.

FASHION FORMS®

The Flue Doctor

Professional Chimney Sweeps



Adopt-A-Van Program



The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura is pleased to offer a unique opportunity to support the Club's transportation programs for elementary and middle school children through sponsorship of its Adopt-a-Van Program. Each of the Club's seven vans becomes a mobile billboard citywide five days a week creating visibility, recognition and name identification for its sponsor.

We still have vans available! If you are interested in adopting a van, please contact Diane at 805.641.5585 or dianek@bgclubventura.org.

Current Adopt-A-Van Sponsors:

Andria's Seafood
Alert Communications
Pierpont Racquet Club

Cost:

\$300 monthly
~ tax deductible, and renewable annually

Wish Lists

Robert Addison Center

- Gas Stove
- Quality Kitchen Supplies: pans w/lids, silverware, cookie sheets, towels, measuring cups & spoons.
- Cards, Games, Paper & Markers
- Motivational Posters for Teen Room

Bill LeFevre Center

- Office furniture set
- bulletin board
- paint for Offices
- New Carpet for games room & offices
- Hooks for backpacks
- Chairs

Oak View Center

- Rockband for Playstation II
- CD Player/Radio
- Computer Speakers
- Microwave
- Ball Pump

Saticoy Center

- Metal Storage container that locks for outside (10'X10' or 10'X12')
- Built in storage shelves for inside.

Westview Center

- Bulletin boards
- Kitchen supplies & utensils
- large area rugs for reading area
- Legos or K'nex
- Children's books in Spanish (grades 1-3)

Staff Spotlight

Lea Cobb, Branch Director at the Robert Addison Center



Laughter and tears erupt during a recent Club tour as Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's Unit Director, Lea Cobb recounts the story of a young member. The 9 year old girl came to her and confided that she was being beaten by an aunt. Lea called Child Protective Services. "They actually came to the Club that evening to put her in a safe place. She called me at home before she left with the social workers...She was scared but she knew in her heart it had to happen. We didn't see her for a few days but when she came back to the Club she gave me a huge hug and said, 'Thank you.'" She confided that, "I slept on a bed with clean sheets, had a shower in the morning and had pancakes for breakfast." This is but one of the amazing stories that Lea and the other staff at the five sites of the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura hear daily in their effort to provide the programs and nurturing that create the "safe,

positive place" for the community's kids.

Lea's warmth and compassion for the over 200 members at the Robert Addison Center is echoed by her staff. Annette Coleman, the Club's Assistant Unit Director has worked side-by-side with Lea for over 20 years and describes her as a "wonderful boss who is always there when we need her...She takes time to listen and has great compassion for the kids." A young Club member, Tanner shyly volunteered, "Lea adopted me for Christmas. She's nice, sometimes she lets me stay in the office and just talk to her." 10 year old Savannah shared, "She always has a smile and is friendly."

Lea has been a Club employee since August of 1988. She started as an aid in the childcare program and was promoted through the ranks to become a Unit Director. She describes it as "an awesome ride." She says, "my educational background is not extensive but years of experience with children and the ...fact that I believe in our mission is what motivates me." Her greatest joy is that "members I served years ago are now sending their children to us to be mentored and cared for. I think that says a lot about the integrity of our organization as a whole."

It's an exciting experience to arrive at the Club around 3:15 PM on any school day to see dozens of children from every ethnic and home background tumble from buses or walking from their schools in well-supervised long lines exuberant to be back at their Boys & Girls Club. Lea and her staff call each child by name as they sign-in for the day's programs. Her goals for 2009 are "to stabilize our teen program and provide more evening programs for our families. I am a firm believer that it starts at home and if we can involve and educate our parents more we will be one more step in the right direction."

Lea is an inspiring leader who leads by example and daily displays the dedication and energy that for 71 years has fulfilled the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's mission to "...provide a positive place for all youth and quality programs to help them become healthy, responsible, confident and productive members of our community."



Lea working with the kids after school at the Club.



Board of Directors

as of January 2009

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Leon Rouso

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* Past President

Club Spotlight The Keystone Club, LeFevre Center



Keystone President, Cody Garrett picking up trash in Montalvo.

The primary thrust of Keystoning is to help teens develop an understanding and appreciation of ethical standards as they cultivate leadership skills. Teens run their own meetings, elect officers and plan and implement their own activities. Leadership activities may include: team building, teen-run workshops on ethical leadership, public speaking, community outreach, as well as building sports teams. Cody says, "We want to be role models for

the younger kids in the Club. We try to hang out with them and read to them," says Cody. He has many plans for this year's leadership group. "We plan to do various fundraisers to earn money for the National Keystone Leadership Conference. We would also like to use the money to do some Club projects...like remodel the boy's bathroom."

Each year, the Keystoners choose a community service project. One of the member's grandfathers had recently been diagnosed with leukemia, so the Club researched and created an informational website focused on leukemia. The members then partnered with United Blood Services to hold a Saturday 'Blood and Bone Marrow Drive' at the LeFevre Center.

This year the Taco Bell Foundation awarded the Club a grant. The teens decided to invest the funds by installing computers for the use of parents in each of the five Club sites. Cody commented, "We thought parents could use the computers to get online and check their kids' grades, search for jobs or even take on-line classes."

Keystoners learn the importance of honesty, integrity, and ways to influence their peers as well as give back to the community. They develop an understanding of their role as contributing citizens. They host car show fundraisers to raise funds for special community projects. They volunteer for beach clean-up and recently the Club spent a Friday picking up over 20 bags of trash in the Montalvo area.

A golf tournament fundraiser is planned for Saturday, March 28th, 2009 at the Saticoy Regional Golf Course. The teens encourage all golfers to sign up for the tournament. The cost per golfer and cart is \$50 or \$200 for a foursome. There will be prizes and a 50/50 raffle with the proceeds benefitting the Keystone United Teen Leadership group's trip to the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. To register for the tournament or for additional information contact Randy Osuna, 805-340-5300 or Mark Michelson, 805-612-2920.



Boys & Girls Club member 3rd grader, Iovan Sedano from Saticoy School is the school spelling bee champion. He will represent the school on Feb. 20th at Blanche Reynolds School and placed 12th in the competition for the Ventura County Spelling Bee Championship. Iovan is a member at the LeFevre Center on Johnson Drive.

Yes, I want to support the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura!

Full Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of: Check MasterCard/Visa/Discover
 \$100 \$250 Credit Card # _____ CVV _____

\$500 \$1,200 Other _____ Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Please mail response to Boys & Girls Club of Ventura: 6059 King Dr., Ste. A, Ventura CA 93003

Your tax-deductible donation enables us to continue our mission - to provide services for Ventura's youth. Thank You! Tax ID# 95-2248919

Robert Addison Center
(805) 641-5588
 Bill LeFevre Center
(805) 641-5599
 Saticoy Center
(805) 659-3340
 Oak View Center
(805) 649-9000
 Westview Center
(805) 641-0523

Club Locations & Staff

Administrative Office
(805) 641-5585

Diane Koranda - CEO
 Patti Birmingham - Dir. of Operations
 Licette Maldonado - Dir. of Finance
 Nancy V. Gregg - Dir. of Development
 Amanda Martinez - Dir. of Special Events
 Leilani Schlick - Administrative Asst.

Turn Trash into Cash!

RECYCLE

Bring your used inkjet, laser and toner cartridges, and cell phones to any of our five club locations or the Administrative Office, to be recycled to earn cash for the Clubs!

Call Leilani for details (805) 641-5585 or email at leilanis@bgclubventura.org

**4th Annual
 Power of One Breakfast**
 Save the Date
Thursday, March 26, 2009
 The Derby Club
 For information contact Amanda at 805.641.5585 or visit
 our website at www.bgclubventura.org

Go Green!
 To receive future Newsletters by
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amandam@bgclubventura.org
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