



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VENTURA

Spring 2010

A Letter from the President, Leon Rousso



Our Power of One Campaign is in full swing and we're looking forward to surpassing our goal. All of you are welcome to attend our Power of One Campaign Breakfast/Thank You on March 25 at the Derby Club on the Fairgrounds property.

Now that our Great Auction is history, I'm very happy to announce we exceeded our goal and actually succeeded in making the 42nd Auction the most successful in its 42 years. I know Jymme Hitch was smiling down on all of us as this auction was dedicated to her. We all love you Jymme and thanks for spurring us all forward.

Although we hit a grand slam at the auction, we still face great challenges in 2010 and beyond. The Power of One Campaign is just what it says. Each of us, one by one, have the power to create and sustain this Positive Place for children. I have personally set some aggressive goals for my tenure as president.

My most important objective is to develop a Boys & Girls Club Alumni organization. All universities have Alumni which help enormously as a funding arm, as a great wealth of knowledge and also great support group in building a movement. There is absolutely no reason our club can't function the same. We have already reached out to nine current Alums in our community and each of them are eager to support our plans. Many will be attending our Breakfast and I hope to start putting the pieces together to form a powerful group of partners.

Alumni can help our club in many ways. Being mentors to our kids, helping us raise money, but most importantly in my mind, spreading the word of what it is we do. We are definitely not a day care organization. The programs we provide, which are at the core of what we do every day, help children build character, self confidence, success in school and much more. Children who become Alumni of Boys & Girls Club everywhere become productive, caring and responsible citizens. All of us know how much we need these kind of people in our society.

If you are an Alumni of any Boys & Girls Club nationally or are a home grown Alum please contact our club directly, or better yet contact me personally so I can share with you my vision. You can reach me by email at leon@leonrousso.com or directly by phone at 805-676-1110. I welcome your call and look forward to working with you to build the greatest club in America.

It's not cheap running five clubs in Ventura and with the challenges ahead we need to be running on all cylinders. The board is made up of the best our community has to offer. Some are Alumni themselves. Please help be part of the solution to make America and our community a better place to live, with caring and productive citizens. WE need to stop the spiral downward that seems to be affecting all of us in many ways. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Ventura have been doing this one child at a time for over 100 years. Now, more than ever, each of us needs to be part of the solution. Please help the staff, the board and our donor base build the best place on earth for children to blossom.

My second goal is to build up our board. Many of our board members have been carrying the load for decades and they need help. A seat on our board is one of the best places to directly impact the success of our club and community. My goal is to increase our board membership by 10 new board members in 2010. We don't just want bodies. We need dedicated, hard working individuals, who want to roll their sleeves up and get involved. For those of you who are or have been members of non-profit boards, I know you will agree with me when I say it is such a rewarding job. Giving back is such a big part of a full and successful life. I invite those of you who are interested to set up a tour of one of our clubs and find out what we are all about. I guarantee you that when you meet our club directors, our staff and children; you'll ask yourself why I didn't do this sooner. Once you have had a tour, I invite you to attend one of our monthly board meetings and learn what we do and who we are. Again, I guarantee you will be impressed. If interested in a tour or to find out more about board membership please call or email me and I will refer you to one of our board development committee chairs. Thank you for all you do now for the club and I look forward to your expanding roll.

All my best,
Leon Rousso, President

Alumni Spotlight- Larry Ehrhardt



Larry Ehrhardt, along with his wife, Laurie have been the owners of AWS (Avenue Wheel Service/www.awsautomotive.com) in Ventura since 2002. The VC Reporter recently voted AWS the #1 auto repair shop in Ventura. Larry was only six years old when he joined what was then just the Boys Club. When asked the most important thing that he learned at the Club, he chuckled and replied, “how to build a go-cart.” It appears that the seeds that fed his interest in auto mechanics were actually born at the Boys Club. His few hours of spare time are spent off-roading, cooking and involved in photography.

He is a certified scuba diver, belongs to a divers club, BNI (Business Network International) and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. He believes the Club’s work in encouraging high school graduation and training members in the fundamentals of money management are important in assuring their future success. Larry and Laurie are generous benefactors to the Club. He offered Club support to the community with this business offer, “bring your car, van or truck to AWS for service and mention the Boys & Girls Club and we will donate 5% of the total bill back to the Club.”

Board of Directors Spotlight Mike McBain, Vice President of Finance

A successful businessman with a warm smile and an ever-ready joke, new Board member Mike McBain is 2010’s Co-Vice President of Finance. He was born in Los Angeles to a family of entrepreneurs and amazing athletes. His father is still healthy at 92 and once held the national record for the 400 meter hurdles, but unfortunately he missed competing in the 1940 Olympics due to the cancellation of the games during World War II. In his youth, Mike competed and excelled in the steeplechase race.

He has a wife named Pat, one sister, Susanne, two daughters, Melissa in Hawaii and Jennifer who lives in Camarillo. He also has nine grandchildren, one of whom is a member of the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo. Mike holds two graduate degrees, an M.B.A. from Cal State Northridge and an M.A. from Cal State Los Angeles. Thirty-two years ago he founded Central Courier, Inc. that now has 45 employees in the tri-counties. He loves his work and his few extra hours of spare time a week are spent with family, reading and writing children and business books.

In addition to the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura Board, he serves on the boards of both the Downtown Lions Club and the Employee Advisory Council. He likes the long history and wide ranging legacy of the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura. He is particularly proud of the Club’s emphasis on academic achievement and community partnerships that help support members making good life choices.

Welcome, Mike! We are honored that you have joined our team.



Staff Spotlight

Kyle Velarde, LeFevre Learning Center Director



Kyle Velarde is a second generation staff member of the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura. His dad, Ralph Velarde held multiple positions with the Club. He began as the Gym Director for both the Bill LeFevre Center and the Robert Addison Center and advanced to become the Branch Director at the Bill LeFevre Center. A point of pride for him was coordinating the JUMP (Juvenile Mentoring Program). Kyle was born in San Diego but moved to Ventura County before elementary school. He has an older sister who teaches Honors English at Rio Mesa High School.

He says, “The aspect I enjoy most as an employee is when I go home at the end of the day, I know that I have given back to the community I grew up in. There are many jobs out there but very few this internally rewarding.”

He became a Club member in kindergarten and attended the Club all the way through high school. Today he runs the Learning Center at the LeFevre Center.

He was in the first graduating class who attended all four years at Foothill Technology High School. He graduated from Ventura College and received his Bachelors Degree in Sociology from CSUCI in 2007 where he played LaCrosse. His long-term plans include studying for a Masters Degree.

When asked about his favorite after-work activities, he responded, “Besides hanging out with family and friends, I enjoy going to the gym. I like to break a sweat at least once a day.” Thank you, Kyle, for continuing your family tradition at the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura.

INDICATORS

- Participation in Homework Help/ Tutoring
- Positive attitude toward learning
- Regular grade advancement through HS graduation
- Consistent and Club attendance

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Power Hour
- Project Learn
- A.S.E.S.
- 5 Day a Week Policy

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

INDICATORS:

- Positive behavior
- Participation in Volunteerism
- Positive choice of friends
- Staying out of trouble with the law

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Boundaries (Club Policies)
- Keystone Club
- Torch Club
- Leader's Club
- Sports Leadership Club

GOOD CHARACTER & CITIZENSHIP

OUR MISSION

"We provide a positive place for all youth, and quality programs to help them become healthy, responsible, confident and productive members of our community."

SUCCESS COMPONENTS



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF VENTURA

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

INDICATORS:

- Supervised, daily physical activity
- Provide the foundation for making healthy lifestyle choices
- Opportunities for healthy leisure activity skill building

KEY STRATEGIES:

- Nutrition Education
- Smart Moves
- Passport to Manhood / Smart Girls
- Triple Play
- Physical fitness activities



Since 1932

FASHION FORMS



Fordney Foundation Sponsors Ballroom Dance Program



February 3rd sixty-four members of the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura began group ballroom dancing lessons under the professional guidance of Patricia Monaco at the House of Dance studio. Thanks to a grant from Marilyn “Winkie” Fordney, Founder and Director of the Fordney Foundation for Dancesport, club members are learning the art of dancesport. She describes it as a “combination of art, sport, competition, achievement and partnership...that adds many positive dimensions to children’s lives. It gets them to eat right, exercise, work out...develop rhythm, appreciate music and increase their physical strength...thereby enhancing social development.”

In addition to the dance lessons, the Fordney Foundation, along with the House of Dance and Very Fine Dance Shoes are providing the young dancers with leather-soled dance shoes and dance bags. Professionals from Monaco’s House of Dance are working closely with the Fordney Foundation to create the dance program. “Winkie” Fordney hopes to help create team matches, and adds “if dancesport becomes an Olympic sport one day...we are hoping the Fordney Foundation will be a part of that...”

Many thanks to “Winkie” Fordney, Patricia Monaco, and Very Fine Dance Shoes for spearheading this wonderful program for our kids. For more information on the Fordney Foundation, visit www.fordneyfoundation.org.

Club Kid Spotlight by Linda Acosta, Saticoy Center

“Hello, my name is Linda Acosta. I am 16 years old and attend Buena High School. At a young age I lost my mother. I was only eight years old and in shock, but then I began to notice the scarring effect that left my family unequipped to understand the true meaning of loss.

My father is my hero. He has gone through several obstacles that life has thrown at him. After my mom’s death he became a workaholic to be able to keep up with the never ending bills and other living costs. He then became overworked and deprived of sleep which, as a diabetic, does wonders on your body. The summer of 2006 became the worst time of my life because my dad contracted the disease gangrene, which resulted in the amputation of his left leg. That is why he is currently unemployed. My older sister lives in Texas and I hardly see her at all. My younger sister is just amazingly “sisterly,” to say the least.

These last few years have been a test of endurance and character. My brother left my house at 19 to join the Marines because he knew that my dad couldn’t financially support him any longer. My other brother, however, turned to drugs as a result of my mother’s death and currently doesn’t keep contact with my family. Yes, it does bother me but I don’t want to be in those situations so I see it as a reason to not do drugs. I want to become a third grade teacher and have stability in my life. I do not want to do drugs. The funny thing is that, at first, my father was really skeptical about letting me attend the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura in Saticoy, but then he began to trust all of the staff. Now, they have become part of my family and a huge part of my life. I am eternally grateful for their kindness.”



Keystone Speaker’s Bureau Series



Veterinarian, Dr. David Payne with Kids

Board member, Susanne Lammot M.D., is continuing the Speakers Series for Club teens at both the Bill LeFevre and Robert Addison Centers. Upcoming featured speakers include: Dr. Diane Sanson, Marriage and Family Therapist; Jim Graves, retired history teacher and world traveler; an EMT from Fire Station #1; Dr. David Payne, Veterinarian; Dr. Vega Sankur, chemical engineer from Turkey; Karl Keller, electrical engineer and jazz musician; Bill Danforth, Meteorologist; Dr. Ruth Boyle presenting a special talk for girls only; Dr. Dennis Longwill, dentist; Don McMann, x-ray technician and Improv Theatre actor; Judge Shirley Thayer; Dr. David Harris, anesthesiologist and private pilot.

Welcome New Administrative Staff



Joy Marin
Director of Special Events



Royce Siggard
Director of Finance
and Human Resources

Board of Directors

as of February 2010

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Amazing Results of Boys & Girls Club Study

By Diane Koranda, CEO

Over a period of the last six months a study was commissioned to identify the impact of Boys & Girls Clubs in Ventura County. Our researcher is Dr. Jamshid Damooei, Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting, Co-director, Center for Leadership and Values School of Business, California Lutheran University.

Over 3,000 parents and Club members were questioned in an extensive survey conducted in both English and Spanish, and the information gained is quite amazing.

What parents said: Their greatest challenges with school age child care is the cost of care and the Boys & Girls Club provides a safe place with low fees.

Some of the questions asked:

“Since going to the Boys & Girls Club my child has...” Acquired a greater ability to make friends – 91% agree; Is showing more confidence in him/herself - 91.9% agree; My child is talking more about future educational plans – 69.6% agree; Ability to communicate with family has improved – 81.9 % agree; Is demonstrating a greater ability to get along in the family – 82.7% agree; Has shown improvement in school performance – 85.3% agree; Shows me completed homework more often - 82.7% agree; Seems to enjoy going to school more – 85.2% agree; Grades have improved – 77% agree; Has made it easier to keep my job – 87.7% agree; Made it easier for me to go to school – 53.7% agree; My child is sure he/she will attend college – 84.2% agree.

Club members answer the following questions:

How often do you attend the Club? 91% said three days or more; Are those who help you at the Club knowledgeable? 76% agreed; Do you feel the programs help with your needs? 71% agreed; Do you like participating? 70.9% said “yes”; Do you like the staff? 80.5% said “yes;” Do you like the homework program? 83.5% said “yes;” Does the staff go out of their way to help you? 69.6% agreed; Does the staff treat you with respect? 81.9% yes; Do you think that playing sports at the Club is helping you to become physically fit? 59% yes – 33% not sure; I am sure that I will attend college after high school – 69.3% “yes.”

Dr. Damooei further states in his report that, “The total economic output generated by the Clubs across the County through it expenditures total \$27,934,592. This economic activity supported about 429 jobs in a variety of industries beyond those employed by the Clubs. Such activity also generated \$3.9 million in tax revenue including \$710,589 in indirect business taxes.”

Those of us who work at Boys & Girls Clubs have always known that we make an impact, but now this study shows us just how much we are influencing the lives of families in Ventura County.

For more information about our Clubs and how you can get involved, visit our website at www.bgclubventura.org.

**More economic data to come in the next issue.*

Yes, I want to Invest in 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 # _____

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

I am a Club Alumni!

Please mail response to Boys & Girls Club of Ventura: 6020 Nicolle St., Ste. D 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
Royce Siggard - Dir. of Finance
Nancy Gregg-Keller - Dir. of Development
Joy Marin - 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

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~Academic Success
~Good Character & Citizenship
~Healthy Lifestyles



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