

Chief Executive Officer's Report



July 2006

A Monthly Report for our Board, Staff and Friends

Tanya Hoxsie

UNITED WAY

Scores of Orange County nonprofits that feed the poor, shelter the homeless and care for the elderly anxiously waited to hear if they will receive funding this month from the United Way.

For the first time in its 82-year history, the Orange County United Way told its member organizations it will stop funding programs that can't prove concrete results. Traditionally, the agency has automatically approved some funding for all organizations in its system.

As it turns out, half the 168 programs that applied for a piece of the United Way's \$5.4 million allotment for "safety net" programs learned they are out of the running. United Way officials say the change is part of a new strategy to invest better in programs that can prove they change people's lives. It's part of a national trend among charities to prove to donors that their money is changing lives.

The United Way studied its member agencies and realized that for the majority, the funding made up just 5 percent of their budgets. "We think we can have a greater impact by putting significant money into fewer programs," said Colleen Sandrin, the United Way's executive vice president. "I think there will be some happy people, and some disappointed people."

HUNTINGTON VALLEY FOLKS ARE THE HAPPY PEOPLE! We learned this week that all three of our grant proposals were funded! In the last funding cycle we received \$145,608 to fund school-age, preschool and Twilight programs plus designations and Success By Six program scholarship funding. This cycle we will receive \$150,000 plus designations and we plan to reapply in September for Success By Six scholarship dollars.

We are proud to be a United Way agency and encourage YOU to support the United Way.

LEARNING CENTER Preschool

After the dust settled, the Learning Center Preschool students, teachers and administration are beginning to enjoy their new home. All nine classrooms are organized, the training and resource rooms are fairly organized and overall, everyone is pleased with the new location.

Historically, this is the time of year we lose a majority of our students as they leave our preschool to begin Kindergarten. Fortunately the drops have been outnumbered by new enrollments and we are pleased to have 110 students at the site. Every day new families stop by for tours so we are confident that our September enrollment will be strong.

Once again, many thanks to Director Chelo, Assistant Director Samantha and their teaching staff for seeing us through this process. Also, thanks to our Board, administrative staff and donors that helped make our dreams come true.



CLUB Updates

LEARNING CENTER Chelo Loshak — The months of June and July have been very hot! Water play has been set up daily for the children. The classrooms are looking better and better every day. The teachers keep organizing and decorating the classrooms in their spare time. A few weeks ago the Infant Room got a new stroller, and the teachers have been taking the older infants for stroller rides around the park and the preschool. Also, the fall protection for the infant yard was just installed along with the shade structure and it looks really awesome. We have been exploring our new environment and most recently our Pre-K classrooms walked to Carl's Jr. for lunch. We are still receiving lots of calls and continuing to give many tours. The numbers are increasing in our new toddler room as well. The Learning Center would like to extend an invitation to our Board of Directors to come and take a tour while the children are here; you are not going to regret it.



KINGSTON Shannon Voigt — In the Education room, we have been overwhelmed with interest in our computer graphics courses. The kids have been working on assignments such as creating the world from their eyes as well as using their own imaginations to create castles, horses, schools and more. The kitchen has been celebrating diversity by teaching the children how to make food from all over the world such as pasta, teriyaki chicken, nachos, baked potatoes and gyros. As they cooked, they also learned about protecting the environment by properly disposing of plastic bags, soda can rings, aluminum and other plastic containers. In addition to celebrating culture and a clean environment, an emphasis was made on consuming healthy foods such as whole wheat, fruit, and vegetables. The playground has been busy changing games so that they revolve around throwing water on each other due to the recent heat. They have created a game called duck duck splash, where instead of tapping the goose on the head you dump a cup of water on them as well as many other creative variations. We also have recently started an Ultimate Frisbee Golf league and are proud to report that we have 35 kids signed up to start this Friday.

CLUB Updates Continued...

HB BRANCH Tim Nolan — Going into summer we knew that with Kid Connection closing our numbers would grow, but with the amount of new members to our club the numbers are shaping up great. For June we have 293 full-time, 44 part time, 38 as needed, and walk-ins average around 42. Each day we continue to sign up new families. Wahoo. It is great to see that the staff is really stepping up and doing an excellent job with the new surge in numbers. Way to go gang!

Our special events are going great. The Sock Hop was a huge hit with 145 members taking part. The event was based on a fifties diner with a carnival outside. There were root beer floats, ice cream Sunday's, and for the carnival we had games, face painting, dance contests, costume contests, and everyone's favorite the bounce house. It is safe to say fun was had by all.

On 7/15/06 Al Guidotti, 12 club members, and I took part in the grand opening of the Wells Fargo Bank located at Brookhurst and Adams. It was a great event with food, games, and fun. Scott Shields from the Angel's and the Laker Girls were in attendance signing autographs and taking pictures with everyone. The ceremony was capped off with the Boys & Girls of Huntington Valley receiving a check for a thousand dollars.

GWC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER Susan

Bixler — Its summer time and the children have been enjoying the beautiful warm weather by doing water play to stay cool. Swimming pools, sprinklers and water tables have provided a fun relief from the heat. Many classrooms have incorporated an under water theme to their lesson plans. Teacher's have provided books, sensory items and art projects that are linked to our under water friends. The children have also enjoyed picnics outside and long nature walks around campus, their favorite place to visit is the garden center where they can see and smell all the fresh flowers.

Infant/Toddler staff started their Programs for Infant Toddler Caregivers (PITC) training on June 19th, which is free training funded by the Children and Families Commission. There will be three modules for this training that will focus on a broad range of great topics from brain development in a child to different temperaments and how to incorporate individual needs into curriculum. We are looking forward to these valuable trainings.

Surprisingly our numbers for summer are at 85 with 92 being at capacity. Campus is very quiet but that has not stopped the enrollment!