

Chief Executive Officer's Report



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY**

May 2005 A Monthly Report for our Board, Staff and Friends

Tanya Hoxsie

NEW PLAYGROUND At the Huntington Beach Branch

The HB Branch playground, located in McCallen Park, is under construction. Thanks to a partnership with the City of Huntington Beach and grants from the HB Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) and the Safety Grant Program a new playground is under construction. City crews demoed the outdated equipment last week. Two new playgrounds, one designed for primary ages and the other for school age, and an ADA ramp will be installed in the next two weeks. CDBG funds will pay for the purchase, installation and groundcover for the school-age playground. Safety Grant funds will pay for the purchase of the primary playground and groundcover. Installation of the small playground is Boys & Girls Club's responsibility. Woodchips will be the new ground cover for both play areas. A small area will be left with sand for digging and sand play activities.

After several years of working on this project, we are thrilled to report that we will accomplish our goals with minimal expense to the organization.

AND THE WINNER IS... Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference

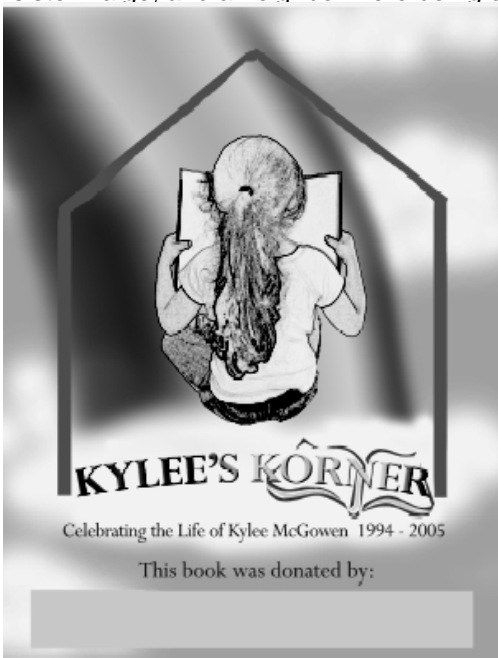
The Boys & Girls Club of America 99th Annual Conference was held last month in San Diego. Five Board members and eight staff participated in the training. The sessions were good and the energy of Boys & Girls Clubs of America was very positive. The general theme of the conference stressed the importance of family support programs, which is in line with strategic plan.

As always, a conference highlight is the awards given out by the National organization. This year, Huntington Valley came home with the following recognitions.

For Marketing & Communications (MAC Awards) we received a GOLD in the web site category, a SILVER for in the publications category, and a BRONZE in the category of comprehensive marketing strategy. For Honor Awards, we received a MERIT award in the Arts category for the programs offered by our ClubHouse Theatre. The awards came with \$2,000 in cash awards.

CONGRATS to everyone that helped make this happen!

KYLEE McGOWEN — On April 25, 2005, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley lost one of its members, 10 year old Kylee McGowen, to a fatal car accident approximately ¼ mile from the Club. Kylee, her 7 year old sister Paige, and a neighbor were being driven to the Boys & Girls Clubs' Kingston Branch by their aunt. The accident took place at the intersection of Brookhurst Street and Heil Avenue. Kylee was killed at the scene. The driver and other passengers were injured and transported to nearby hospitals. All three are now recovering. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley is devastated by the loss of this vibrant and energetic young member and has worked with her family to plan ways to carry on Kylee's memory and celebrate her life. A Mulberry tree will be planted at the Kingston Branch, a constant symbol of life and growth, and will be marked with a dedication plaque. Because books celebrate life through their characters and stories, the reading corner of the Club's Education Center will also be dedicated to her and named "Kylee's Korner."



The Club and the McGowen family ask that community members who wish to honor Kylee purchase their favorite children's books for youth ages 5 to 5 or make a donation to be used for "Kylee's Korner." Donated books or those purchased with donated funds will become part of "Kylee's Korner," with a bookplate honoring Kylee's memory. To date, nearly 900 books and \$1,200 have been donated. Because Kylee loved parties, the children participating in the Club's reading program in the new "Kylee's Korner" will celebrate Kylee's life with an annual birthday party to celebrate her life.

The official dedication of Kylee's Korner and Tree planting will be held in June. Everyone is invited to attend.

CLUB Updates

HB BRANCH Tim Nolan — One of our outstanding events this month was having our primary kids paint one of our staff member's car. Brian one our primary staff volunteered to have his car decorated with tempera paint. The kids had a blast each one of them was able to paint a special section of the car.

During our week of Spring Break, we were able to get more than half of our members to attend our field trips. Also, the last day of spring break we had a small carnival for our kids. With the help of about 7 volunteers and our staff members the "Spring Spectacular" included a bounce house, root beer floats, face painting and a variety of carnival games and prizes.

We also had our first annual jump rope contest. The contest was held outside and became a two-day event. The different contests included; length of time, jump rope tricks, running while jumping, and double Dutch. The kids had a great time competing, and the winners of the various competitions won prizes.

Finally, we entered our 35mm film photos into the Image makers photography contest. Our photographer entered two of her photos. One we named "Old Glory" and the other photo was entitled "Spanish Guitar". We are looking forward to seeing the results on BGCA to see if any of our photos were acknowledged.

KINGSTON Shannon Voigt — The month of April was filled with excitement. We welcomed 32 new members to the club in addition to the 72 new members that joined the month before. These new members were able to get a glimpse of what fun the summer will hold through our spring break program. The week was filled with many exciting activities and was finished up with a very successful carnival that nearly every child attended.

KID CONNECTION Sara de Boom — The month of April brought some changes for the Kid Connection Branch. Long time professional, Nicole Cryan stepped down as Unit Director. She will be greatly missed by kids and staff. April also brought many exciting events and activities. Our members are getting ready for the First Annual Big Orange Unity Day. They have been practicing daily to improve their Table Tennis, Pool, Foosball, and Bumper Pool skills in hopes of bringing home the trophy for Huntington Valley.

Club Tech has been busy learning how to create and submit a Web Page for the Web Design portion of the Digital Arts Festival. They have also tied this into the upcoming Graphic Design project. There is much to learn and the kids are having fun!

We also finished up our pictures for the Image Makers Photography Contest. Seeing life through a camera lens was a great learning experience for all that participated

CLUB Updates Continued...

LEARNING CENTER Chelo Loshak — It was a very busy month, we celebrated the Week of the Young Child April 4-8, this special week was dedicated to all children ages 0 – 5 throughout the nation. We did fun activities with the children, including bagels, coffee and juice one day so parents could enjoy breakfast with their children before going off to work. The week's celebrations ended with a carnival and ice cream.

Preschool portraits were taken April 12 & 13. We also had three professionals come out and observe classrooms of new staff that had gone to trainings in applying NAEYC criteria, and their comments were very positive. Our waiting list for pre-k is still long and we have had many inquires for summer

ATHLETICS & PERFORMING ARTS Tynisha

King — It is definitely spring time! The month of May is scheduled to be an exciting month for the Athletic and Performing Arts department. During the first weekend of May, we will hold our first All-Star Basketball game. We have rallied much enthusiasm from our participants and their families and plan on incorporating this event as a season-ending event for our basketball league. In addition, this month we are hosting our 1st Annual Spring Basketball Tournament. There will be a total of eleven teams participating, including four Boys and Girls Clubs from Orange County and Los Angeles County.

Our Performing Arts program is doing exceptionally well, with several upcoming performances scheduled. In the month of June, look for "Disco Knights" and "Friday Knight Fever," two live and upbeat plays performed by our Acting Class. It doesn't stop there- we will be having recitals for Dance and Gymnastics. Finally, we will cap off the month with our seasonal Tae Kwon Do competition. We encourage everyone to come out and

CLUBHOUSE THEATRE ENTERTAINERS

Performances Scheduled for June 2, 3, 4 & 5

The ClubHouse Theatre continues to grow. There were so many aspiring actors and actresses at the last audition that two casts were formed. The advanced group, ages 10 and older perform the full version of the selected show. The beginning group, ages 8 and older perform a one-act version of the same show. The two groups perform over the same weekend sharing evening and matinee times. The cast of both shows have worked very hard and I encourage you to join us at one of the performances of "Disco Knights" (one-act) or "Friday Knight Fever" (two-act) to be held at the Kingston Branch theatre. For show times, call 531-CLUB