

SAYINGS



Social Advocates for Youth · Winter 2010 Newsletter



There is a certain grim irony that seems ever present at SAY these days. At a time when the needs of the people we serve are increasing dramatically, the resources we have available to meet those needs are decreasing. It is the classic “rock and hard place.” Let me translate this into what we are seeing every day: Money for subsidized childcare has been cut, so the single mom has one more barrier to keeping her job. Families that six months ago were living in an over-crowded apartment are now living in their cars. We figure out that a family is hurting in little ways, like the kids begin to flunk PE because laundry detergent for their uniforms has become a luxury item.

I am in awe of the resiliency of the families, kids, and communities that we serve. The hits keep on coming, and they keep bouncing back. I am also in awe of the resiliency of the volunteers and staff that make up the SAY community. They got into this because they wanted to make a difference. They wanted families to be loving, and kids to be healthy and educated, and communities to be nurturing places for families to live. And like the families we serve, our staff and volunteers have just kept on... meeting needs, scrounging for resources, taking care of people despite the grim irony, despite the despair that lurks, despite their own fears.

When it's dark and you are cold, the tiniest ray of first light is a cause for celebration. And this is what I have seen happen — glimpses of light that point us forward towards the dawn. And it is you, our many partners, donors, and friends that have helped provide that hope. So give yourselves a pat on the back! This year's Adopt A Family was the biggest ever with 256 donors reaching out to 344 families and over 1,500 individuals. Our annual blanket drive, capped off by major support from the Padres, gathered more than 200 blankets. We have seen donations of in kind gifts come in from every quarter. Even amidst announcements of cuts in public funding, hope has come to SAY in the form of new support, as with federal stimulus money that will help find jobs for those hardest hit, and funding from Paradise Valley Hospital Fund to improve health access in Southeast San Diego.

These rays of light point us forward, encouraging us to keep on. Let us all keep digging deep... our families, our volunteers, our staff, our partners and friends... keep digging deep and very soon we will dance together in the morning light.

Thanks!

Michael Carr
Executive Director

SAY and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

In October 2009, SAY's Family Self Sufficiency program received nearly \$500,000 through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Funding is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession. The primary focus of the enhanced services is to provide job creation, job preservation, employment support and job training.

ARRA funding gives SAY case managers an opportunity to help clients directly impacted by the economic recession ultimately find employment. Services include helping clients build resumes and job skill enhancement; the program also offers a unique experience for some clients by providing paid internships and subsidized employment opportunities that will result in permanent job placement. Case managers coach clients to enhance financial

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SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE FAMILY, WHOLE COMMUNITY

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (Continued)

literacy, budgeting, nutrition, and setting budget priorities. Clients will additionally be provided an array of support services to assist them in the early phase of employment, such as child care subsidies, utility assistance, housing assistance and food assistance.

SAY has hired a job developer who serves as a liaison between clients and employers. The role of the job developer is to assist in creating new opportunities for clients to be placed in a paid internship/subsidized employment and to follow the client through the experience to ensure it is a good match that will lead to a permanent position. The job developer builds partnerships with the workforce development and staffing organizations while assessing the trends and opportunities of the San Diego job market.

This special ARRA funding is expected to last through October 2010. If you are interested in hearing more about the program or have a business that could benefit from a potential client match, please call the FSS program at 858-974-3603.

Tax Time - Free Tax Preparation Offered

SAY San Diego is currently offering free tax preparation to low-income clients at five locations in North Central San Diego. The purpose is to ensure that families receive all of their eligible tax refunds and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit. The program utilizes trained community volunteers to file the returns. Through this effort SAY anticipates helping over 1,000 individuals with their taxes, for an estimated total of over \$1.5 million in refunds. For more information call 858-974-3603, ext.241.

Community Events at O'Farrell



In October SAY San Diego hosted a one-day volunteer event at O'Farrell Community School in collaboration with Volunteer San Diego's annual Serve-a-Thon event. The project focused on campus beautification. 25 volunteers cleaned

and organized the thrift store, shelved books in the library, pulled weeds and even scraped gum from the main corridor. Thanks to all those who participated!

1st Annual Marching for Kiki's Red Ribbon Event

February 7, 2010 marked the 25th Anniversary of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena's abduction in Guadalajara. The events surrounding Special Agent "Kiki" Camarena's murder sparked a grass roots campaign to reduce the demand for drugs and encourage a healthy, violence-free lifestyle across the United States. Today the Red Ribbon Campaign symbolizes support for efforts to reduce demand for drugs through prevention and education programs.



In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Kiki Camarena's death, SAY has partnered with the Enrique Camarena Education Foundation and the City Heights Farmers Market to host the 1st Annual Marching for Kiki's Red Ribbon Event, to be held on March 6, 2010. This free walk begins at the City Heights Farmers Market and will be led by

Master of Ceremonies, Kimberly King, KFMB CBS Channel 8 Morning News. The walk ends at the Urban Village Park where participants will enjoy a resource fair, live music, teen and children activities, prizes and food. Pre-registration begins Saturday, February 5th at the Farmers Market and will continue each Saturday up to, and including the day of the event. For more information contact Marsha Lyon, 619-582-9056, ext. 2512 or via email at mlyon@saysandiego.org.



The O'Farrell Campus also hosted a Fall Health and Resource Fair. Over 22 community and health resource partners participated by providing information, screenings and referral services.

PROGRAM NEWS

SAY San Diego and Target Present Story Time

In partnership with Target, SAY San Diego held its first Story Time in December. The hour-long program allows children to sing, engage in an activity and hear a story in a fun, interactive way. Participating families are provided with literacy information and are connected with their local library. Each child attending Story Time receives a FREE book for his/her home library.

Story hours are presented in both English and Spanish and are taking place in Clairemont, Mid-City and Southeast San Diego. For more information, and upcoming dates contact Sheri Easterly at 619-582-9056, ext. 232. This program is made possible through a generous grant from Target.



Holiday Celebrations at Healthy Start Military Family Cluster

On December 16, Santa visited all the little Elves at the Healthy Start Military Family Cluster office in Murphy Canyon. While waiting for Santa, the children made Rudolph sandwiches, ornaments, played reindeer games and enjoyed a good book.

Dads on Duty, a program at HSMFC offering military fathers with children ages 0-5 an opportunity to meet and discuss parenting issues, also had a special holiday party. Dads and their children made holiday gifts for 'mom' and decorated Christmas trees for families at the Ronald McDonald House. Sponsored by Websense, a local tech company, the event was held at Angier Elementary School. A big thank you goes out to Websense for providing the craft supplies and over 20 volunteers to assist with the activity.



THANK YOU ADOPT A FAMILY DONORS

"Thank you for adopting my family, I wish I could hug you!"



2009 was a tough year for a lot of people.

Here at SAY we were bracing ourselves for a decrease in the number of people we would be able to help through our Adopt A Family program. But to our surprise, 2009 ended up being our biggest year ever! 256 donors/groups "adopted" over 1,500 people in need. This number represents over 344 families, 1,059 at-risk children and teens, and 444 adults - all who would have simply gone without gifts this year if it wasn't for generous donors from our community.

"Adopt A Family is a really wonderful reminder...

that there are still so many good people out there." This is a phrase we kept hearing over and over again throughout the Adopt A Family process. Thank you to all our sponsors for purchasing, wrapping, and delivering gifts for those in need, and for reminding us all how fortunate we are to be a part of a community that pulls together to make a difference for so many people, even when times are tough.

A heartfelt thank you to all volunteers

who donated over 230 hours to Adopt A Family - wrapping gifts, receiving donations and packing cars for deliveries.

We could not have done it without you!



"Thank you for the presents. I liked the movies and everything else,

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



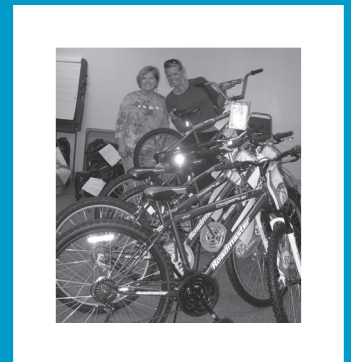
Countless community members donated new and gently used blankets at drop-off locations located at area libraries and SAY offices. The blankets were distributed to low-income clients, providing warmth and comfort throughout the winter months. A very special thank you goes out to the San Diego Padres and the Fifth Grade Class at Santa Sophia Academy for their significant contributions.

"Thank you for my bike, you made my dream come true!"

Donor Profile

Long time residents of Mission Beach, Robbie Green and Janice Stevens, have been passionate Adopt-a-Family participants over the past five years. Under their guidance the project has evolved into a community-wide event, encompassing all of Mission Beach and South Mission Beach. Robbie explains, "We are a fortunate neighborhood - a close community. SAY's Adopt-a-Family project gives us a chance to reach out and assist others as we strengthen our own relationships."

And reach-out they do! In 2009 this group of neighbors and local businesses came together to adopt nine families in need, many of whom are local military families. A local business, The Beach Comber helped out, holding fundraisers to help purchase gifts, which this year included seven bicycles. Over 50 friends and neighbors take part in the shopping, wrapping and merry making that has replaced the more traditional neighborhood holiday party and gift exchange that was held in the past.



SAY salutes the enthusiasm and passion that Robbie, Janice and the entire Mission Beach / South Mission Beach Community bring to this project. Countless families have been assisted through their generosity.

but what I liked most was that you made my family very happy."

VOLUNTEERING AT SAY

“Those who want to do good are not selfish. They are not in a hurry. They know that to impregnate people with good requires a long time. But evil has wings. To build a house takes time. Its destruction takes none.” ~ Mahatma Ghandi

SAY Volunteer Perspectives

We asked the following people to share why they volunteer for SAY and what they enjoy most about their experience:

Josh Izigzon – Reflections Program Classroom Tutor and One-On-One Mentor



I started my volunteer role at SAY San Diego as a classroom tutor in the Reflections program. This was a challenging position, trying to gain the trust of the class. However, eventually the students became familiar with me and are now quick to engage and ask for help when I enter the classroom. Over time, my role has evolved into a one-on-one mentor for two Reflections students. In this capacity it is all about trust – the students needed time to understand that I had no ties with the Reflections staff or their probation officer. I am there to listen and offer support.

The volunteer work I have been doing is extremely rewarding for me. Each time I leave the Reflections Program, I have a sense of accomplishment, and fulfillment - I know that I am helping students make a change for the better.

Jay Derris - O'Farrell Community School Classroom Tutor and Mentor

There I was almost a year ago: divorced, living alone, disabled and confined to a wheelchair (MS). I started looking for volunteer opportunities to “fill up some time”. I soon found a spot at O'Farrell Community School, tutoring and mentoring in a Sixth Grade math class. Almost immediately it was obvious that I had stumbled upon a golden opportunity! At first I spent Tuesdays and Thursdays there; with the start of the 2009 fall semester that changed to three days a week. Only my physical limitations prevent me from being there all five days of the school week.

I just love the friendly waves and the young, squeaky voices saying, “Hello, Mr. Jay!” I am touched by the kids who confide in me with their problems, or those who just need a kind word. In addition, I have been allowed to help in a few special-needs classes, a true blessing. Through my volunteer work at O'Farrell I am experiencing one of the most worthwhile times of my life. This experience is providing a joy and self-fulfillment worth its weight in--well, you fill in the blank.

Volunteers Needed for 18th Annual SAY Day at the Bay!

Saturday, May 8th brings a return of “SAY Day at the Bay,” the annual picnic that brings together over 800 children and parents from our before and after school programs for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship! This is SAY San Diego's BIGGEST event of the year and we will need VOLUNTEERS to help serve food and assist with games, crafts, set up, check in and clean up. All volunteers are invited to eat lunch at the picnic before or after their shift. Individual and groups of volunteers, such as co-workers and clubs, are welcome and encouraged to participate. Three-hour shifts will run throughout the day.

Participants always have a great time and volunteers are crucial to the event going smoothly.

Please contact Marion Liskowski, Volunteer Coordinator at mliskowski@saysandiego.org or 858-565-4148, ext. 261.

SUPPORTING SAY

Grants and Donations received since September

Hervey Foundation at Price Charities - grant of \$25,000 for the Price Community Builder Program in City Heights.

Jacobs Family Foundation - grant of \$32,000 for the Opening Doors Project.

Massey Charitable Trust - grant of \$7,000 for Teen Court.

Nico Insurance - donation of \$4,000 to support increased healthcare access for families.

Paradise Valley Community Health Fund - grant of \$143,438 for the Living Healthier in Southeast San Diego Project.

Price Family Charitable Fund - grant of \$48,800 for the City Heights Youth Council.

Price Family Charitable Fund - grant of \$1,000 for the City Heights Story Project.

Regular Cut-ups of North County, a local woodworking club - donation of a variety of hand-crafted wooden toys which were provided to children during the holidays.

Rolling Readers - donation of more than 300 new children's books.

San Diego Women's Foundation - holiday donation of \$1,215 for Project LIVE.

Sleeptrain Mattress Centers - donation of 24 mattresses per month for SAY clients.

United Way of San Diego - grant of \$30,810 for Financial Literacy.

United Way of San Diego - grants totaling \$10,383 for tax preparation services for low-income families.



Find us on Facebook

SAY is excited to inform you that we have joined the popular social media campaign, Facebook. We have made this push towards an online presence enabling us to reach out to a greater number of people and enhance our mission to strengthen the social and emotional well being of San Diego's children, families and communities. We hope you will join us online and become our fan!

Wish List

Please consider a donation of the following items:

For Children:

Diapers, formula & wipes
Clothes (all sizes)
Shoes/sneakers (all sizes)
Toys, puzzles & books
Infant playmats
Backpacks, school supplies
Art supplies
Nutritious snacks
Tricycles
Sports equipment

For Families:

Food (canned, cereal, pasta)
Linens: sheets, towels, blankets
Toiletries
Laundry soap & detergent
Small appliances
Family board games
Parenting books
Gift cards for groceries
Professional clothing (adults)

Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at
SAY's Administrative Office located at
8755 Aero Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123
858-565-4148

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SAY San Diego

Social Advocates for Youth

Strengthening the Whole Child, Whole Family, Whole Community Since 1971

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SAY's Mission

IS TO BE A
LEADER AND
A PARTNER
IN PROVIDING
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THAT ARE
EFFECTIVELY PLANNED
AND IMPLEMENTED
TO STRENGTHEN THE
SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL
WELL-BEING OF
SAN DIEGO'S
CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES.

THANK YOU ADOPT-A-FAMILY DONORS

Please accept our utmost appreciation for all donations and participants, and our apology for any unintended omissions.

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