

October, 2011

Child & Youth Development Services

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

Thursday October 20th, 2011

Every day in America over 15 million, or 1 in 4, children leave school and return to empty homes. Unsupervised youth are at a higher risk for a variety of challenges such as dropping out of school, promiscuity, participating in or becoming victims of violence, and experimenting with drugs and alcohol. Afterschool programs provide a safe haven for youth and opportunities to grow and develop into successful, well-adjusted adults.

Since October of 2000, Lights on Afterschool has become an annual national celebration established to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for youth, families and communities. The annual celebration is a project of Afterschool Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. Today more than 7500 Lights on Afterschool events and over 1 million participants will take part in the celebration.

We encourage each of our sites to join the cause to raise awareness of the importance of afterschool programs in your communities. Let's join the million and raise our voices!



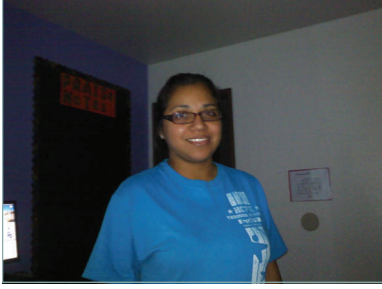
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Explore ways to encourage children's self expression
- Quick games to keep kids engaged and busy during transitions
- Get info about our upcoming trainings as well as how to earn a Rocker Coin or two

MEET OUR STAR STAFF



Veronica Garcia at her site, Monterey Village

Congratulations, Veronica Garcia!
(Monterey Village, Rancho Cucamonga, CA)

Veronica is our October Star Staff. As one of our veteran staff, she is exceptionally reliable, creative and fun. Here is what the youth in her program have to say about her: "Mrs. Veronica is patient, she has been here for a long time helping all of us with homework and she follows our room agreements."

Thank you, Veronica, for your dedication and hard work!

Get to know Veronica:

- Favorite color: **Green**
- Dream Destination: France
- Favorite food: Italian
- She is most proud of her decision to quit her full time job to go back to school so she can help children as a school psychologist.
- Her favorite part about working with youth is seeing the children grow as individuals and become better people.

"If we would listen to our kids, we'd discover that they are largely self-explanatory." -Robert Brault

PEACE CORNER

Notice and Speak Up About Hurts

- Form a secret PB Posse to identify & befriend at-risk kids.
- Create a "Noticing Hurts Box." Have kids write about hurts they have noticed or caused. Read the notes at the end of each week.
- Implement a "Speaking Up" award for kids who positively intervene on a hurt that they notice.
- Have kids go through newspaper articles, music lyrics or books and identify stories that illustrate noticing hurts.

-Submitted by Lamar Simmons & Debra Viola

PEACE BUILDERS SPOTLIGHT

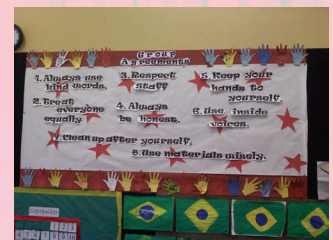
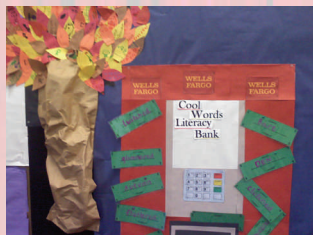
Citrus Grove- Rialto, CA

Congratulations to our October Peace Builders Site!

Staff and youth work together to make their site peaceful by incorporating many aspects of the Peace Builders program. Along with the daily reminders of the pledge and praise notes, Citrus Grove utilizes the peace rug and other activities with the older youth to teach them non-violent alternatives to handling conflict.

In addition to the Peace Builders curriculum, staff incorporate other program components, such as KidzLit, play time and group agreements (see photos below) to enhance their peaceful environment. As you can see in the photos, staff have done an excellent job in making their site engaging, inviting and a fun place to be for youth as well as staff!

We thank Citrus Grove for a job well done in keeping the peace!



THAT'S A BRIGHT IDEA!

A LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HOPE

Bravo Community
Riverside, CA

Right: Praise Notes & Peace Builders activity board
Below: September's Virtual Vacations Did you Know board



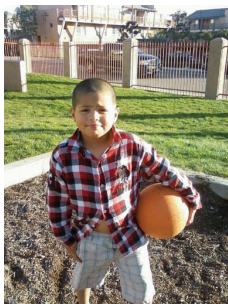
Sunset Heights
Alta Loma, CA



Top Left: An inspiring KidzLit bulletin board
Top Right: Staff and Youth posing after creating a collaborative Indian Dance
Left: Youth enjoying a basketball game
Bottom: A colorful Virtual Vacations & Peace Builders banner



Paseo de Oro
San Marcos, CA



Youth on the playground having some fun in the sun

10 WAYS TO ENCOURAGE SELF EXPRESSION

1. Move Your Body– crank up the music & dance!
2. Use Your Words– create newsletters or a blog
3. Art Studio– offer new activities like painting a mug, braiding bracelets or creating faux stained glass
4. Celebrate Style– implement themed dress-up days
5. Support Sports– encourage determination, stress relief, camaraderie and cooperation
6. Be The Teacher– mentor youth and help them articulate difficult concepts
7. Capture Snapshots– practice poses and experiment with shadows, light & color
8. Go Outdoors– plant a garden or sketch the skyline
9. Take A Tour– ask kids to give you, parents or visitors a guided tour and talk about the “inside scoop”
10. Go Digital– create a documentary on a topic kids are passionate about such as endangered animals or the new skate park in town

- Article by scholastic.com

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

5- 10 Minute- No Materials Needed
-Transition Games

- Bird, Beast or Fish?

Standing or sitting in a circle, a staff person points to a youth and says the word bird, beast or fish. The youth has 5 seconds to say the name of a creature from that category. Youth are “out” or the game starts over any time a creature is repeated or a name is not given within 5 seconds.

- BUZZ

Going around in a circle, count in order from 1-10. When a youth gets to 7, the student must yell “BUZZ.” Anytime that youth forgets to yell buzz or yells buzz out of turn, the game starts over.

- Traffic Patrol

Standing in a circle, face to back, the “traffic officer” says one of the following commands: Green (the group moves quickly to the right), Yellow (the group moves very slowly), Red (the group stops), U-Turn (the group does an about-face and moves in the opposite direction). The challenge is to see how smoothly and quickly the group can move together!

- Mr. Spider

Mr. Spider sits with eyes closed, head down in the middle of a circle. The bugs (other players) ask, “What time is it Mr. Spider?” Mr. Spider says, “It’s ___ o’clock” so the players take that many steps forward. When Mr. Spider thinks the bugs are close, he says, “Dinnertime” and chases the bugs. The first bug he tags becomes the next Mr. Spider.

- Birds Can Fly

The leader says something true about animals, for example “birds can fly,” and youth act it out. When the leader says something that is not true like, “cats can bark,” youth who move or speak are out.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Dreams Honesty Kindness Community

Values keep us connected to our higher purpose, our mission. We have values as individuals, in our families and even in our communities. What we value in our afterschool programs will be communicated to kids intentionally or otherwise. What are the values you want to communicate in your program?

As part of our celebration of Lights on Afterschool, we will be hosting a poster contest. The theme, as you may have guessed by now, is on values. Kids’ artwork is a great tool for

gathering insight into how they interpret and internalize feelings, connections and ideas. Collecting their artistic interpretations of the values we hope to impart will speak a great deal about the work we are doing and the impact we have on kids.

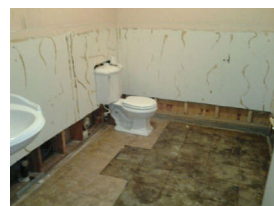
Be on the lookout for the entry form and guidelines, which will be distributed by email.

All entries are due by 6pm on Thursday October 13th. For questions, comments or more information, please contact Laura Fitzpatrick: lfitzpatrick@hthf.org.



OCTOBER’S BONUS STAFF TROOPER AWARD

We’ve got our Star Staff Award and our Peace Builder’s Spotlight, however there is another person that truly deserves some acknowledgement this month. This leader has been faced with some extreme site challenges but has not let this deter him from providing service to youth in some very creative ways. For this reason, we are adding the Staff Trooper Award as a way to acknowledge and honor Salvador Nuno for his dedication! Sal is the Site Coordinator at La Quinta Apartments in Palmdale, CA. During the weekend of September 10th, less than a week after his program started, the High Desert was highly impacted by a severe storm. The La Quinta Leasing Office and Learning Center were very badly damaged. Since that weekend the site has been, and remains, closed for repairs. Despite not having a space to hold program in, Sal continues to serve kids by having a modified program outdoors. He is constantly brainstorming ideas to serve those affected in the community.



Needless to say, Sal’s level of commitment and perseverance deserve a shout out this month!

Thanks

DISNEYLAND OR BUST

Monday November 7th marks the date for Hope through Housing's 13th Annual Gala. The event, being held at the Disneyland Hotel, will feature special guest and speaker Antwone Fisher. After spending years in an abusive foster home and a brief stay at a YMCA as an emancipated minor, Fisher joined the Navy to escape homelessness. Following the



11 years he spent with the Navy, Fisher began working as a security guard for Sony Pictures Entertainment. It was during this time that Fisher began looking for his biological family and starting writing what would become the screenplay for a biographical film. The film Antwone Fisher, directed by Denzel Washington, was released in 2002. We look forward to hearing Mr. Fisher himself share his inspirational story.

The entertainment for this special night continues with a



*“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”
-Frederick Douglass*

READY, SET, SACERS

Each day, we are getting closer and closer to SACERS evaluation time. We hope that the series of SACERS Cheat Sheets have helped you prepare your site. We'd like to take a moment to give you some reminders and pointers as you make final preparations for your evaluation.

- Keep in mind that there are some items in the tool that are out of your control. Spend your time preparing for those items you do have control over.
- If you find your site lacking in a certain item, ask yourself what is the intention behind that item? Is it to keep kids safe? Provide a variety of experiences? If you cannot address the item as it is directly stated in the tool, brainstorm some other ways to address the same intent. For example, your site may not have fence around the playground, but you can set up a series of cones to mark the boundaries.
- Pay attention to the details. The scale is progressive. This means that in order to move your score up the scale, you MUST have everything listed in the lower scales. For example, if you have everything you need to score a 5, but are missing 1 item from number 1, you will score a 1.



special appearance by Eisenhower High School's Dance Troupe, Choir and Jazz Band. The Gala will also be proudly featuring art work created by our After School & Beyond participants through the Lights on After School poster contest.

The Annual Gala is a collaborative event spearheaded by Michelle Nathanson, Director of Philanthropy. As always, Michelle, George Searcy (Executive Director of Hope Through Housing) and Jill Van Balen (Grants Manager), work tirelessly to make sure each Gala is more successful, impactful and inspiring than the last. Their efforts raise a large portion of the funds required to run Hope Through Housing's child, youth and adult services programs.

This event requires countless hours of work and preparation which in turn requires the help of volunteers to succeed. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Michelle Nathanson (mnathanson@hthf.org) by Wednesday October 19th. Volunteers will be notified and will attend an informational meeting prior to the Gala.

We hope to see you there, as this event is sure to be a night to remember!



IMPORTANT DATES

- 10/4– SC Meeting
- 10/7– City Span Training
Corporate Office; 12-2pm
- 10/14– All Staff Training
Building Positive Relationships
Rancho Verde Village; 1-5pm
- 10/18– SC Meeting
- 10/19– Homework Help Webinar
WebEx; 1-2:15pm
- 10/20– Lights on After School
Poster Contest Winners An-
nounced
- 10/21– Annual Employee Day
Etiwanda Gardens; 8:30-5pm
- 10/25– SC Regional Meeting
- 10/27– Peace Builders Training
Details TBD
- 10/28– KidzLit & Virtual
Vacations Training
Details TBD
- 10/31– Happy Halloween!

*Bring your Staff Binder to the All Staff Train-
ing on the 14th & get a Rocker Coin!

OCTOBER DAYS OF INTEREST

We all know about Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Halloween. But have you ever hear of Talk Like a Pirate Day (9/19)? ARRRRR!!! The year is full of celebrations, some are silly and just for fun, some are historic, and some are designed to draw attention to important issues. Here are a few of October's (AKA: Pretzel Month) lesser known special days!

- 1– Vegetarian Day
- 2– Intergeneration Day
- 4– Toot your Flute Day (AKA: Bragging Day)
- 9– National Children's Day; Also– Leif Erikson Day
- 11– Bring your Teddy Bear to Work (or school) Day
- 13– Train your Brain Day
- 23– TV Talk Show Host Day
- 24– International Forgiveness Day
- 27– National Music Day
- 28– Make a Difference Day

TRAINING LOCATIONS

Corporate Office
9065 Haven Avenue
Suite 100
Rancho Cucamonga, California
91730

Phone: (909) 483-2444
Fax: (909) 476-5912
Email: lfitzpatrick@hthf.org



HOPE through HOUSING
FOUNDATION

Rancho Verde Village

8837 Grove Avenue

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Parking: Any uncovered spot

Paseo de Oro

432 West Mission Road

San Marcos, CA 92069

Parking: In staff lot (east side of leasing office). The west side lot is 90 minute parking only. Additional parking on the street

Villaggio on Route 66

10220 Foothill Boulevard

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Parking: Any uncovered spot

Etiwanda Gardens

7576 Etiwanda Avenue

Etiwanda, CA 91739

Parking: Open Lot