

Friends of Foster Children



San Gabriel Valley
P.O. Box 1105, Arcadia, CA
91077-1105
626-445-4542



April 2011

Issue 9

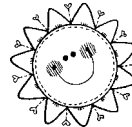
President's Message

Susan Wittmer

Last month, a group of 25-30 FOFC members and friends spent a lovely Saturday morning at LeRoy Haynes Center, or LeRoy's as we usually refer to it. Each year we offer an opportunity to tour one of the facilities that we support, to allow you the chance to see where our FOFC funds go, how they are used, and who we are helping. As a bonus, we are often allowed to meet a few of the residents and staff and hear from them firsthand what FOFC's assistance has meant to them. It would be a great understatement to say that, on February 19th, we were NOT disappointed at LeRoy's.

FOFC was treated to a delicious brunch, a brief program, and campus tours led by residents and staff. The young men in attendance even presented each of our attendees with a thank you gift. I think I speak for everyone who attended when I say that we had a wonderful time, we were very impressed with the young men, and we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of gratitude. They made US feel special, when that is what we try so hard to do for them. To Jane Woods, the LeRoy's staff, and all the residents who participated in making us feel so welcome, a big THANK YOU – it was an inspirational visit that we will not soon forget. And to those of you who were unable to attend, I hope that next year when the tour opportunity is offered, you will be able to join us. You won't regret it.

Thought for the Day: How do you respond when someone asks you to explain briefly what FOFC is all about? What do you tell friends and coworkers when they ask the question "What does Friends of Foster Children *do*?" I have been a member of FOFC for 20 years now, and I still find myself searching for the perfect answer to that question. It is not easy to describe



Calendar

CORRECTED DATE

- | | |
|---|--|
| Thursday,
Mar. 31, 2011
7:30 p.m. | Scholarship Committee Mtng
Home of Joan Renken
225 Sharon Rd., Arcadia |
| Tuesday,
Apr. 5, 2011 | Deadline to place orders for
See's Easter Candies |
| Wednesday,
Apr. 13, 2011
10:30 a.m. | Foster Caring Committee Mtng
Call Hanne Johnson
At 626/795-8962 |
| Thursday,
Apr. 14, 2011
7:00 p.m. | FOFC Board Meeting
Conference Room
36 S. Kinneloa Ave., Pasadena |
| Saturday,
May 7, 2011
2:00 p.m. | Annual Meeting/Installation of
Officers
Home of Charleen Albee |
| Saturday,
Jun. 11, 2011 | FOFC Yard Sale
Details TBA |

FOFC in 20 words or less. Our mission, as we officially state it, is to enhance the quality of life for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in the San Gabriel Valley. We provide goods, volunteer services, and financial support to foster children living in residential treatment centers (group homes) and to newly emancipated teens. In less official terms, we do what we can to help foster children living in group settings enjoy more of the 'normal' childhood pleasures and activities, when the

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facilities themselves often lack the funding to provide. If you are looking for a more emotional hook, you could say that FOFC funds wishes and hopes and dreams for kids who have not had many reasons to hope. I would love to hear your thoughts on this subject. Email me at wittmerbiz@altrionet.com or drop me a note at FOFC, P.O. Box 1105, Arcadia, CA 91077-1105 and share your ideas on what we do, why we do it, and how to better communicate that to others.

Announcing FOFC's Annual Meeting

FOFC Board of Directors

Our most important general membership meeting of the year is just around the corner. Please mark your calendars for the FOFC Annual Meeting, which will be held on **Saturday, May 7th** at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Charleen Albee, 2040 Midlothian Drive, Altadena. In honor of FOFC's 35th anniversary, the board of directors decided to do things a bit differently this year. Instead of holding this meeting at a local restaurant, our board members will be treating FOFC members and friends to a scrumptious dessert buffet, at no charge to attendees. While we dazzle you all with our baking prowess, we will also dazzle you with the details of our accomplishments for the fiscal year that will soon be ending on April 30th.

For those of you unfamiliar with the program of our Annual Meeting, think of it as a celebration of our past year's accomplishments paired with an ushering in of the new year's leadership. Our President will present the annual report, summarizing the activities of our various projects and activities for the year. We will present our Dorothea Brown Award, FOFC's recognition for volunteer of the year. We will also honor our outgoing officers and directors. Then we will elect and install our slate of officers and directors for the new fiscal year. We will follow all of this with a surprise announcement of an exciting upcoming venture – you won't want to miss this!

Please plan to join us on May 7th. All members and interested friends are invited. This meeting will really give you a sense of the "big picture" in terms of our organization's mission and how we work to fulfill it.

Since we are treating you and want to plan an appropriately abundant array of treats, your RSVP would be appreciated. Please contact Susan Peralta at 626/798-2057

or peraltabb@sbcglobal.net no later than Monday, May 2nd.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following members as nominees to serve Friends of Foster Children as officers and directors for the 2011-2012 year:

Officers:

President:	Susan Wittmer
Vice President:	Chi Nguyen
Secretary:	Carole Kolla
Treasurer:	Kathy Stokes

Directors:

Candyce Columbus
Carolyn Cota
Sherrill Leavitt
Mary Morales
Cheryl Peralta
Susan Peralta
Steve Wittmer

Any five FOFC members may nominate one or more persons to be officers or other directors for the coming year. If you wish to do so, please submit the names of such persons to FOFC's secretary, Mary Morales, at least 15 days before the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Wittmer, Ingerlise Haney, Cynthia Juvinal
Nominating Committee

See's Candies Spring Fundraising Program

Bob & Carole Rodenbucher

There are still a few days left to order your See's Candies for Spring. The final deadline is Tuesday, April 5, 2011 for pickup before Easter. Orders can not be guaranteed by See's after April 5th. They will have some product available beyond that date, but it may not be what you ordered. So please order now - we don't want anyone to be disappointed, and not receive what they really want!

To place your order, call Bob or Carole at 626/285-2030 or fax your order to 626/285-0070. All monies are due at the time of delivery.

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We have 12 items available for purchase: 4 oz. eggs (Peanut Butter, Milk Chocolate Butter & Bordeaux) at \$6.50 each; the 4 oz. Fluffy Chick Box, which contains an assortment of candies, for \$6.50; 1 lb. boxes of Nuts & Chews, Assorted Chocolates and Toffee-ettes at \$16.50 each; 1 lb. box of Truffles at \$18.90 each; 1 lb. 8 oz. box of Peanut Brittle for \$15.90; 8 oz. box of Assorted Molasses Chips at \$8.25 each; 1 lb. 5 oz. box of Assorted Gourmet Lollypops at \$15.80 each; and the One Pound Gift Certificate at \$16.50 each.

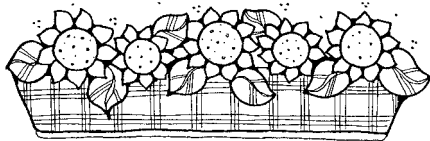
"Friends Are the Flowers In Life"

2011 Spring Luncheon

Carole Rodenbucher

I hope you were able to join us on Saturday, March 26th for the "Friends Are the Flowers In Life" luncheon fundraiser. A good time was had by all that attended.

Next month, look for the wrap-up article about the luncheon, a list of all our wonderful donors, and a few words from the attendees.



Save the Date – FOFC Yard Sale

Carole Rodenbucher & Debi Mistretta

Mark your calendars - FOFC will be holding a yard sale on **Saturday, June 11, 2011**. We will be accepting donations of clothing, books, shoes, and miscellaneous items (almost anything!) to offer for sale. We will also be selling those items remaining from our Second Time Around tables at the luncheon. All proceeds will benefit the programs of Friends of Foster Children.

The May newsletter will contain all the details of time, location, and when items can be donated. In the meantime, keep FOFC in mind as you start your spring cleaning.

We are looking for a few good volunteers to help set up, sell and clean up. If you are available on June 11th and interested in helping, please call Carole Rodenbucher at 626/285-2030 or Debi Mistretta at 626/286-3305.

Committee

Reports

Membership News

Hanne Johnson & Diane Perrow

Your FOFC Membership Renewal form is included in this newsletter. Our organization's membership year runs from May 1st thru April 30th. We hope that you will act promptly to complete your form and return it by the due date of April 29th. This will enable us to update our Roster and distribute it in a timely manner. Please be sure to fill out both sides of the form so we know what activities you want to be involved in this year.

After many years, dues have been increased by a small amount in order to help us cover more of our administrative expenses (printing, postage, etc.). We are also taking steps to keep our overhead low by offering newsletter delivery via email. Be sure to indicate your mailing or email preference on the form. (If you are on our Courtesy mailing list and receive our newsletter free of charge, you can also use the front page of the renewal form to indicate your mailing preference.)

While we do not require membership in our group in order to participate in our activities, your commitment to membership will help our organization's leadership to better plan future activities and projects. We have several categories of membership to choose from, and feel certain that you will be able to find one that fits your available time and circumstances. Won't you join us?

Foster Caring

Hanne Johnson

Spring was in the air as we were presented with the needs for the months ahead. Not only were there a few early requests for Spring Break activities, there was also a bit of spring cleaning and sprucing up in the cottages. Needs totaled \$9,397 and we were able to fund \$8,152.

Ettie Lee Homes (60 Boys in 6 group homes) received **\$982**. They received everything they asked for this month. We helped cover the costs (**\$157**) for a physical exam, dental appointment and prescription for a new boy with no insurance. Six young men at another group

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home received \$200 to buy needed winter jackets for this rainy, cold season. A new TV was needed to replace an old, damaged one. Our \$350 will get that for them. The last request was for a used or new video console (\$275) and some accessories. Their current system gets lots of really hard use.

Hathaway-Sycamores (34 Boys in 2 cottages) received \$1560. Hunter Cottage houses 16 boys (ages 10 to 17) and has 2 living rooms. They asked for \$300 to purchase decorative items including artificial plants, framed pictures and posters. The cottage was recently painted and got new carpeting. These items will be used to enhance the living space and create a more home-like environment. Their Spring Break is scheduled for mid-April. They want to plan daily outings for bowling, miniature golf, video arcades and Speed Zone. We sent the needed \$300 so they could get their planning started. Rowland Cottage has 18 boys and they too want to plan for Spring Break. Bowling, Speed Zone, museums and/or the zoo were on their list. The needed \$400 will cover the cost of admission, parking, snacks and video games. Two boys want to play in a community baseball league starting in March. They need \$160 to cover entry fees and jerseys. Both boys have already participated in other individual community sports programs and have demonstrated the ability to be safe and stay committed to the program. We wish them much success. The Residential Activities program received the needed \$400 to allow 6 boys to continue their once a week, private gymnastics program for another 8 weeks. This helps the boys increase their overall fitness and coordination. They participate in fun activities using equipment such as the trampoline, balance beam, high bars and foam pit. Sounds like healthy fun.

Hillsides (64 Boys & Girls in 8 cottages) received \$1785. Another cottage this month asked for a digital camera (\$75) for staff to use in taking shots of birthday parties, special outings and events. A portable DVD player (\$110) was requested for the girls' cottage. It will be shared and used when someone is ill, as an earned privilege, or when some quiet alone time is needed. With more fluctuation in the ages and sizes of the new children coming in, there is a need for 2 more, larger bicycles with adult helmets. Another 2 helmets were also requested by the Recreation staff for group rides. This totaled \$260 and we were happy to support all this healthy activity. One cottage asked for a new XBOX game (\$60). Some of the boys have their own but do not like to share and this causes a bit of friction. This will be

for all of them to share. Spring Break is going to be in mid-April. We approved \$20 per child for a total of \$1280 for activities. Each cottage can now start to think about and plan what they want to do the most. It will be a good incentive for some.

LeRoy Haynes Center (72 Boys in 6 cottages) received \$2450. The staff and a volunteer fitness coach are busy planning a new P.E. program in an attempt to help fight obesity and type 2 diabetes. They want the boys in non-competitive muscle strengthening activities 3 times a week. They had a wish list of needed equipment that totaled \$1695. We decided on the \$950 Bowflex Blaze Home Gym machine as the best item to start their program. They can do 60 quality exercises with it. Fortunately, we had a committee member well versed in the equipment so we feel we made the best choice. Their other large request was for Spring Break activities. Each of the 6 cottages had a list of things they would like to do. It included bowling, laser tag, amusement park outings, ice skating, the Natural History Museum, and the movies. Each cottage will receive \$250 for a total of \$1500 so they can plan their own activities.

Rosemary Children's Services (44 Girls in 5 cottages) received \$675. They had only 2 requests this month. We provided \$375 for 15 girls to go to the Pantages theatre to see "Beauty and the Beast." The remaining \$300 will buy some needed new sports equipment.

Trinity El Monte (53 Boys in 4 units) received \$700. We helped with \$250 for more craft supplies to help keep the boys busy. They received an XBOX system through our Sugar Plum Tree project and asked for \$250 to buy some games. The last \$200 was for some new backpacks.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, organizations and foundations for their recent donations to Friends of Foster Children:

Marshann Compfort
Jane Whitmore
Los Angeles Water & Power Employees' Association, Inc.
United Way, Inc.

Ralphs Community Contribution

Program

Susan Wittmer

Thank you to all those supporters who have already signed up to link your Ralphs REWARDS card to our organization as part of the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. For all the rest of the Ralphs shoppers out there who haven't yet signed up, it is easy to get started. Register your Ralphs REWARDS card to our organization, swipe it when you shop, and help FOFC earn quarterly cash.

Our NPO (Non Profit Organization) Number is **92558**.

Call one of our program coordinators (Susan Wittmer 626/358-2070 or Kathy Stokes 626/798-4536) for a copy of FOFC's scanbar letter. Take the letter with you to the store next time you shop and scan it within your order along with your REWARDS card or phone number and you will be linked with our organization.

OR

Register online at www.ralphs.com. Under "Services", click on "Community Contributions" and "Enroll". Follow the easy steps.

Depending upon your monthly spending, FOFC will earn between 1% and 4% of your eligible purchases. This doesn't cost you a dime, and does not interfere with any individual rewards that you might earn. The Ralphs REWARDS card is available at the customer service desk at any Ralphs store.

Can You Help?

Susan Wittmer

Sewing Volunteers Needed: If you find yourself with a little extra time on your hands and you have a talent for sewing, we can use your help. Volunteers are needed to sew pillowcases and laundry bags for distribution by our Special Friends Committee. The designs require only basic sewing skills, and patterns and fabric will be provided. Please contact Susan Wittmer at 626/358-2070 or wittmerbiz@altrionet.com for more information.

If you would like to donate fabric for our projects, we are always looking for colorful cotton prints in 1-yd increments in patterns that would appeal to teenagers.

Light-weight denim fabric would also be appreciated, as would gift cards to Jo-Ann's. Call Susan if you can help.

Ongoing Projects

FOFC has several fundraising projects that continue on an ongoing basis. Here is a brief recap, along with a contact person.

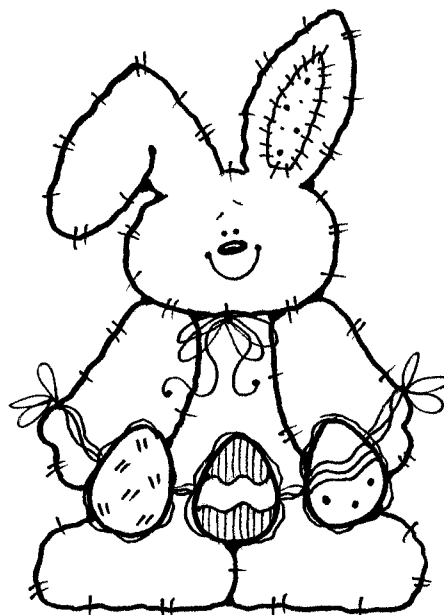
Used printer cartridges - Cartridges are turned in for store credits, which are used to purchase school supplies. (Kathy Stokes 626/798-4536)

Ralphs Community Contribution Program - Register your Ralphs REWARDS card to our organization, and Ralphs will donate a percentage of your spending to FOFC. (Susan Wittmer 626/358-2070)

Cell Phone Recycling - Used cell phones are recycled for cash, which supports our general fund activities. (Carole Rodenbucher 626/285-2030)

Hotel/sample sizes of soap, shampoo, conditioner & lotion - Collected for use in welcome kits assembled by the Pixie & Tiger project. (Ingerlise Haney 626/281-2054)

Suggestions for future fundraising projects, both large and small, are always welcome. Contact our Ways and Means chairman Carole Rodenbucher at 626/285-2030 with your ideas.



**FRIENDS OF
FOSTER CHILDREN**

San Gabriel Valley

P.O. Box 1105
Arcadia, CA 91077-1105
626-445-4542
FOFC@earthlink.net

Friends of Foster Children is a non-profit, all volunteer organization founded in 1976 to enhance the quality of life for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in the San Gabriel Valley.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Susan Wittmer
Secretary:	Mary Morales
Treasurer:	Kathy Stokes
Directors:	
Gigi Andrew	Chi Nguyen
Hanne Johnson	Cheryl Peralta
Carole Kolla	Susan Peralta
Sherrill Leavitt	Steve Wittmer
Immediate Past President:	Diane Perrow
Layout Editor:	Donna Bonorris



FOFC membership application is enclosed. Don't delay – renew today. Or make the commitment to join us as a new member. Together, we can do great things!

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