

Friends of Foster Children



San Gabriel Valley
P.O. Box 1105, Arcadia, CA
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May 2011

Issue 10

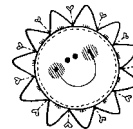
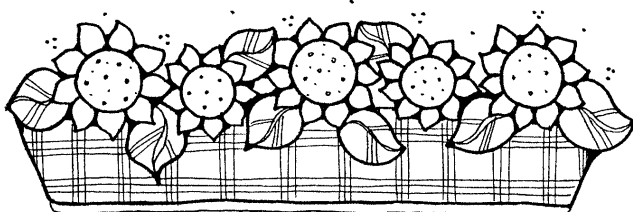
President's Message

Susan Wittmer

I just couldn't do it. I could not keep the exciting news under wraps until May 7th. I am talking about FOFC's association with the eight young men comprising Team SkateAcrossUSA.com. (See the complete announcement in this newsletter.) We will talk more about this unique venture at our Annual Meeting, and those attending will have the opportunity to meet several of the team members. The group is led by Marc Juvinal and Jared Davies - many of you will remember Marc as the son of Ed & Cynthia Juvinal (although you may be surprised at how grown up he is at age 25!).

I am thrilled that these young men will be ambassadors for Friends of Foster Children as they travel across the country. In the coming months, we will keep you posted on their progress and suggest ways in which you can offer them support. Stay tuned.

Cynthia Juvinal will be serving as our official liaison with the group. If anyone has contacts that would be useful in helping to outfit the trip with consumables such as gasoline, food, socks(!), etc. or the use of a motor home, please contact Cynthia at 626/458-3318 or eejclj@yahoo.com.



Calendar

Saturday, May 7, 2011 2:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting/Installation of Officers Home of Charleen Albee
Thursday, May 19, 2011 7:00 p.m.	FOFC Board Meeting Tentative—Details TBD
Tuesday, May 24, 2011 10:30 a.m.	Foster Caring Committee Mtg. Call Hanne Johnson at 626/795-8962
Saturday, June 11, 2011 8:30 a.m - 3:00 pm	FOFC Yard Sale 6005 Sultana, Temple City

Reminder: Join us at FOFC's Annual Meeting

FOFC Board of Directors

Important – the RSVP deadline for the upcoming Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers has been extended to Wednesday, May 4th. Please contact Susan Peralta at 626/798-2057 or peraltabb@sbcglobal.net now to reserve your seat.

The FOFC Annual Meeting 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 will be treating FOFC members and friends to a scrumptious dessert buffet, at no charge to attendees. Our program will include presentation of the Annual Report summarizing the activities of our various projects and activities for the year ended April 30, 2011. We will present our Dorothea Brown Award, FOFC's recognition for volunteer of the year. We will honor our outgoing officers and directors, and elect and install our slate of officers and directors for the new fiscal year.

Everyone, members and friends, is welcome to attend. But we especially encourage new members and those considering membership to join us. 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. We hope to see you there!

See's Candies Spring Fundraising Program

Bob & Carole Rodenbucher

Many thanks to all of you who bought and sold See's Candies. Our fundraiser was very successful and we sold 384 items. We sold 149 Eggs, 143 Fluffy Chick Boxes, 9 Gift Certificates and 83 of the other items offered this year, the most popular being the Gourmet Lollypops. We received \$1,196.55 over and above our cost.

Once again, Steve Wittmer sold the most candy items, 129 to be exact. Thanks to Jane Woods at LeRoy Haynes for selling 39 and Susanne Spangler for selling 27. Also kudos to the three homes that participated in our fundraising program, Hathaway-Sycamores, Helen Evans Homes and LeRoy Haynes Center.

"Friends Are the Flowers In Life" **2011 Spring Luncheon**

Carole Rodenbucher

With our 2011 luncheon behind us, we have much to be thankful for, and many to thank. I hope

those of you who attended had an enjoyable time, and those of you who missed out will make every effort to join us in 2013.

A few of the remarks offered by our guests about the luncheon:

"The Chicken Alfredo was delicious and there also was a meatless dish."

"A big "thumbs up" to the committee. Everything was super."

"It was so nice that what FOFC does helps so many foster children."

"The video brought tears to my eyes, it was wonderful."

"I have never seen such beautiful Opportunity Drawing Baskets, Silent Auction items and Second Time Around Items."

"The decorations went along with the theme so perfectly."

"The best FOFC luncheon I have been to since before or after I joined FOFC."

"How nice to see the first ever (1976) President & Vice President."

Our 2011 luncheon featured new ideas, including sponsorship of attendees from several of the homes, a slide show, a Boutique Table featuring hand-crafted items, and excess food sales. We also officially kicked off our 35th Anniversary year.

Back in October, 2010 I mentioned at our General Membership Meeting that I had an idea to ask for donors willing to sponsor a staff and youth attendee from each of our 6 core facilities. These donors would cover the cost of luncheon tickets and a spending allotment of FOFC Dollars, to be used like cash at the luncheon. I got an overwhelming response at that meeting and want to thank Aileen Koskovich, Donna Puccio, Hanne Johnson, Diane Perrow, Diana Grajeda, Marta Vizcarra & Cheryl Pascua for stepping up and opening up not only their hearts but their checkbooks too! You definitely made a difference in the lives of the youth attending. Thank you for your enthusiasm and generosity.

Helen Fairman put together a very entertaining slide show, using photos gleaned from our FOFC Historian's scrapbooks, and from the collections of Steve Wittmer and Cynthia Juvinal. This gave just a little taste of what FOFC does and continues to do. Many thanks to Helen for looking through ALL those photos and creating a presentation that touched the hearts of so many attending.

Our very special thanks to:

- Dan Bullard, our Master of Ceremonies, for a great job again this year.
- Di Pilla's Italian Restaurant, Rosemead, who provided us with the delicious lunch.
- Starbucks, Temple City, for donating the regular and decaf coffee.
- PepsiCo, Inc., for donating the water.
- Pasadena Chapter of the National Charity League mothers and daughters who baked and provided desserts, servers and helpers for the event.
- Boy Scout Troop 169, Temple City, for providing helpers.
- The homes for attending and bringing a youth along to the luncheon.
- All our FOFC members for helping out.

We were touched by the comments of Thomas G. Lee, M.A., Director, Hillside Youth Moving On, and Angel Monroe, YMO resident. Angel stepped in at the last minute (a few days before the luncheon) to be a speaker and we can't thank her enough for having the courage to stand in front of all those people and speak from her heart. It reminds us all that FOFC does really make a difference in the life of foster children and we need to keep up the good work.

A BIG thank you to my **hardworking and extremely creative luncheon committee**: Donna Bonorris, Candyce Columbus, Debbie Fairman, Cynthia Juvinal, Carole Kolla, Aileen Koskovich, Sherrill Leavitt, Marianne Milch, Debi Mistretta, Mick Mistretta, Stacy Nichols, Cheryl Peralta, Susan Peralta, Bob Rodenbucher, Frances Scorsone, Kathy Stokes, and Susan Wittmer.

A very special Thank you to Debi Mistretta, who took on the second Time Around Table in addition to her Reservations duties; to my husband Bob Rodenbucher, who took on Food duties; and to my dear friend Pam Greer for agreeing to sell See's Candies.

My sincere appreciation to all who attended and participated. Your generous donations of money and time have helped to enrich the lives of local foster children. On a more personal note often volunteer duties end up involving the entire family and friends. To all those who stood with me, and especially to my husband Bob Rodenbucher, thank you for all your patience, love and support.

I know that you are all wondering how we did. (Drum roll, please.) Friends of Foster Children had 155 people in attendance and made over \$8,000 dollars in revenue! Here are some approximate income figures excluding ticket sales: Second Time Around \$419, Opportunity Drawings & Silent Auction \$2,853, Boutique Table \$460, Excess Food Sales \$107, and Cash Donations \$679. The See's Candies Table did well also, bringing in \$464 for that fundraising project.

Thank you to our two secret donors, one of whom donated a Kindle and the other who provided numerous table favors and door prizes. And last but not least, Friends of Foster Children would like to extend its sincere thanks to all of the following for their generous support and donations (and we sincerely apologize if we have forgotten anyone):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Aileen Koskovich | Candy Puchta |
| Alex & Ellen Steele | Candyce Columbus |
| Alisha Schwarz & Adam Weber | Carole Rodenbucher |
| Amanda, Corinne & Carl Schwarz | Carolyn Pearson |
| Andre & Suzanne Kurti | Casa del Rey Mexican Restaurant and Cantina |
| Aquarium of the Pacific | Celia Farinella |
| Armstrong Garden Centers | Charleen Albee |
| Bahooka Ribs & Grog | Cheryl Weissend |
| Boston Court Performing Arts Center | Cindy Hurtado |
| Butterfly Effect Day Spa | Cindy Ward |
| | Cynthia Juvinal |
| | Dawn Sedam |

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Debbie Fairman	Marianne Milch
Debi Mistretta	Marit Hemsley
Di Pilla's Italian Restaurant	Margaret Asher
Donna Bonorris	Mary Ann McClain
Donna Scalia	Mary Nelson
Doris Kading	Monrovia Floral
Dorothy Bell	Natural History Museum –
Eva Arrighi	Los Angeles County
Fran Hermann	Necessites Nail Salon (April)
Franca Scorsone	Nick & Nancy Gladis
Fred Astaire Dance Studio	Noir Food & Wine
Frine Chavez	Pacific Asia Museum
Gen Van Houten	Pat Cashen
Geraldine Gagnon	PepsiCo, Inc
Grethe Petersen	Petersen Automotive
Harriet Leppke	Museum
Hot Shots Salon (Erin, Stacey, April & Roxann)	Rukie Harris
Huntington Library	Sally Miller
Ida Torres	Santa Anita Park
Ingerlise Haney	Sharen Cosby, Flowers By Sharen
Inside Out Window Cleaning, Inc.	Sharp Seating Company
Islands	Sherrill Leavitt
Joanne Mitchell	Stacy Nichols
Josephine Basile	Starbucks, Temple City
Joyce Locke	Steve & Susan Wittmer
Kathy Eginton	Sue Fisher
Kathy Stokes	Susanne Spangler
Kris Mathison	Terri Cambio
Linda Ruedel	The Richard Nixon
Lorraine Lefler	Presidential Library & Museum
Los Angeles County Museum of Art	Toyota Speedway at Irwindale
Los Angeles Dodgers	Vikki Wissema
Los Angeles Lakers	Zoological Society of San Diego
Lucy Cornell	
Luna Mexican Restaurant	

Can You Help?

FOFC Yard Sale

Carole Rodenbucher & Debi Mistretta

Please mark your calendars for the FOFC Yard Sale:

Date: Saturday, June 11, 2011

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Location: 6005 Sultana, Temple City, CA 91780
(home of Mick & Debi Mistretta)**

Donations Requested: We are collecting clean gently used clothing, books, shoes, and miscellane-

ous items (almost anything!) to offer for sale. If you are not sure about an item, call Debi or Carole at the numbers listed below. 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.

Items can be delivered starting now to either Debi Mistretta (6005 Sultana, Temple City) or Carole Rodenbucher (5936 N. Reno, Temple City), just call to make sure we are available.

Volunteers Needed: We are looking for a few good volunteers to help:

- Set up, starting on Friday, June 10th, after 10 a.m.
- Clean up on Saturday, June 11th, after 2:30 p.m. Work the Yard Sale on Saturday. We especially need volunteers from 8 a.m. through 11 a.m. (the busiest time) and starting about 2:30 p.m. for clean up.

Please call Debi Mistretta at 626/286-3305 or Carole Rodenbucher at 626/285-2030 to volunteer or donate items. Thank you.

Thank You For Your Help!

Susan Wittmer

Sewing projects: Many thanks to Bonnie Landsberg, Brenda Wakeland, Jan Seymour, Kathy Stokes and Ginger Loesch for sewing the colorful pillowcases used by the Special Friends Committee for their Easter project. The young men at Hathaway-Sycamores received their Easter treats in these custom-made pillowcases, which will then be used to brighten their rooms. Our talented volunteers also donated the fabric for the project, which was very much appreciated by the Special Friends Committee.

The young people at Hillside and Rosemary Children's Services received their Easter treats (provided by the NCL) in colorful fabric tote bags. These one-of-a-kind bags were created by Kathy

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Stokes, Ginger Loesch and Charleen Albee, with fabric donated by Kathy Stokes and Susan Wittmer. Better than a plastic Easter basket, these fun bags will no doubt see much use over the summer months. Thank you, ladies, for putting your talents to use on our behalf.

Our next focus is to sew laundry bags to be used for summer camp outings. Several volunteers have been lined up to assist with this project, and you will hear more about that as we progress.

Committee

Reports

Membership News

Hanne Johnson

Thank you to all the many members who have already sent in their membership renewals. We are still waiting to hear from some of you. Please respond NOW (deadline was April 29th) so we can get our 2011-2012 Roster completed.

We have 4 applications from new members as a result of our Luncheon. They will be introduced in our next newsletter. They have been invited to our upcoming Annual Meeting and Installation on May 7th to learn more about us and all the wonderful work we do. Let us all make them feel welcome as they join our FOFC family.

Special Friends

Sherrill Leavitt

As we begin our new year, we have another round of Bingo Nights at Hathaway-Sycamores to fill. This is an opportunity to get to know some of the boys we serve "up close and personal". The activity takes place on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month, except for November (3rd Wednesday). Our members provide refreshments, and NCL mothers and daughters are there to help. There is no Bingo in August or December. The time commitment is about an hour-and-a-half, beginning at 6:45 pm. If you are able to fill any of

these spots (5/25, 6/22, 7/27, 9/28, 10/26, 11/16) or are interested in learning more, please contact me at seriouslysillymom@gmail.com, or call Sherrill Leavitt at 626/791-8032. Thanks in advance for your support.

Foster Caring

Hanne Johnson

Our last meeting of the 2010-11 year was easier than most. Due to several refunds and the reimbursement from the Sugar Plum committee for our holiday expenditures, we found ourselves with more General Account funds to spend than usual. It was a nice way to end our year. We received \$6293 in requests and funded \$5657.

Ettie Lee Homes (60 Boys in 6 group homes) received **\$1040**. They had requests from 4 of their group homes. We funded **\$200** for art supplies so that the Eccles staff could purchase paints, brushes, canvas, beads, string, and clay for sculpting. Art is part of the treatment plan for many of their boys. Boys from another home requested **\$200** for new board and card games for their recreation time. One of their young men, who is going to his first Senior Prom, received the needed **\$65** to rent a tuxedo. The Brandes home wants to create an Honor Room like many of the other homes have done. Use of this room is to reward outstanding boy(s) who have demonstrated progress in their therapy, education, and home life. Our **\$275** will help purchase framed pictures, lamps, comforters and clocks. Staff requested **\$300** to purchase an XBOX 360 with speakers for the boys' computer. They need a new video console so they can listen to music and watch videos on the computer.

Hathaway-Sycamores (34 Boys in 2 cottages) received **\$1200**. Staff received **\$500** to purchase a large charcoal BBQ with a cover, cleaning equipment and utensils for each of their 2 cottages. There are a lot of boys in each cottage so this should be helpful for those hot summer weekends when they have so many to feed. They also received **\$300** to buy new sports equipment and/or water games. They are considering a volleyball

set, a Slip & Slide, Bocce ball, or other lawn games, to use for weekend and free time activities during the summer. The staff and boys are already thinking ahead to Memorial Day weekend and both cottages asked for \$200 each for outings over the holiday. They are thinking of going to such places as Raging Waters, Hurricane Harbor, or Soak City. Speed Zone, miniature golf, bowling or video arcades are also being considered, depending on the weather. We sent the needed \$400.

Hillsides (64 Boys & Girls in 8 cottages) received \$448. They only had small requests this month and we filled them all. A new, sturdy mixer (\$120) can now be purchased for Tradewinds cottage where the children and staff are trying to make some of their own snacks rather than buying them all. The Redwood cottage kids love Frisbee Golf. They needed \$133 to buy new disks and storage bags. This game allows the boys to get off campus, but to do something that does not cost money each time they go. The girls in Canyon cottage asked for \$110 to buy "Dance, Dance Revolution" and "Just Dance 2" for their Wii system. We like anything that gets the kids up and moving and were happy to help. The Boys' Satellite home requested \$45 to buy some replacement plants for spring for the special meeting area we helped fund earlier. Some of the plants did not survive the winter weather. Last, but not least, we sent \$40 for one young boy to buy supplies and stock up on food for his pet gecko.

LeRoy Haynes Center (72 Boys in 6 cottages) received \$900. They only had one request this month for \$900. They want to send their Residential Council boys on another outing in appreciation for all their hard work and the example they set for the other boys. These 12 boys volunteer to give tours and articulate the overall needs of the residential population. They help to draw up policy changes pertaining to the safety and well being of the residents. The boys would like to go back to Universal Studios or perhaps to Sea World, bowling, or a nice restaurant. They haven't decided yet. Those of you who went on our recent tour of

Leroy's will remember these young men as the ones who greeted us, spoke during the program and guided us on our tours of their cottages. They were very impressive.

Rosemary Children's Services (44 Girls in 5 cottages) received \$1205. In the past, attempts to provide driver training to some of the young women did not materialize because the proper clearances could not be obtained. This time, staff got all the paperwork through first and we were happy to send the needed \$405 for one young lady to learn how to drive and get her license. First she will do the on-line test and then have behind the wheel training. We wish her well. Staff asked for \$200 to buy incentive items to be used for good behavior and good grades. Both Bonnie and Green cottages need some new kitchenware. We sent the requested \$300. The same cottages also asked for \$300 to buy 12 Bed-in-A-Bag sets. This is an on-going need as both cottages have a high turnover. We were glad to be able to help once again.

Trinity El Monte (53 Boys in 4 units) received \$864. They had 4 requests and had all filled. We sent \$250 for board games, and \$200 to buy incentive items. Planning for summer, they asked for \$200 to buy new ice chests, and \$214 was sent to buy more arts and crafts supplies.

Scholarship/Emancipation Committee

Steve Wittmer

The Scholarship Committee is busy sorting through the new and renewal applications which have been submitted for 2011/12. The selection process will continue through the month of April and awards will be finalized and announced in May.

Our Emancipation Project has also been busy, assisting several young women preparing to emancipate from Rosemary Children's Services, and helping 2 young men at Youth Moving On (YMO) to furnish their apartments.

If you have been thinking about joining the scholarship committee, now is the perfect time to check us out. Once our new students are selected for 2011/12, we will assign sponsors to work with them. Our May meeting date has not yet been finalized, but interested members wishing to attend should contact Steve Wittmer at 626/358-2070 for more information on this great opportunity to encourage hardworking students in their educational endeavors.

Acknowledgements

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

The Angell Foundation
Kroger (Ralphs Community Contribution Program)
United Way, Inc.

In memory of Don Johnson
Michele & Bryan Bell
Geraldine Gagnon
Dianne Polver
Candy Puchta

Ongoing Projects

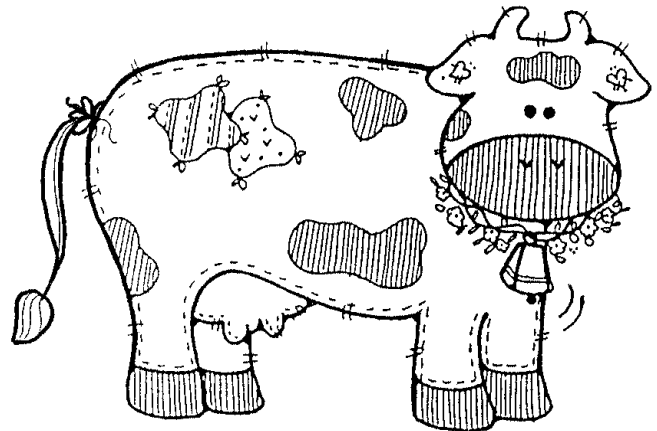
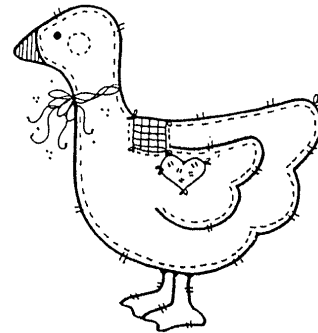
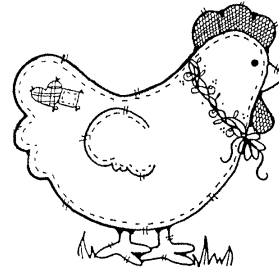
FOFC has several fundraising projects that continue on an ongoing basis. Here is a brief recap, along with a contact person.

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

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

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)

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



**FRIENDS OF
FOSTER CHILDREN**

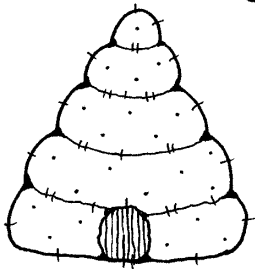
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Friends of Foster Children is a non-profit, all volunteer organization founded in 1976 to enhance the quality of life for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in the San Gabriel Valley.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Reminder: Have you mailed in your FOFC membership form and dues for 2011/12? We are counting on you!

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