

Friends of Foster Children



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



June/July 2011

Issue 1

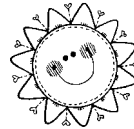
President's Message

Susan Wittmer

Welcome to our first newsletter of FOFC's new year. Each year on May 1st, we start over again, with new leaders, new goals and new ideas. On May 7th, we opened the year with our Annual Meeting and Election/Installation of officers and board of directors. We met three members of Team SkateAcrossUSA and heard about their upcoming trip, which will kick off in late July (see related article). We also met several new members, and together we all learned a lot about FOFC's accomplishments in the past year, and in its 35-year history. If you were unable to join us, you won't want to miss our next newsletter, which will publish the Annual Report. I promise you – the numbers will not disappoint.

The summer months will have no shortage of activities and projects this year. First up is the FOFC yard sale coming up on June 11th. Whether you support it as a shopper looking for bargains or as a donor, happy to get rid of last year's outdated wardrobe choices, we think you will want to check it out. In mid July, we hope you will join us at an informal party to show our support for the skate team. We will send them off on their trip well fed, and well-educated about FOFC, who we are and what we do. In August, we will hold our annual workday to prepare the Sugar Plum tags. There is nothing like a dose of Sugar Plum to make a hot day seem just a little more tolerably cool. And in the midst of all those activities, we have posted a preliminary school supply shopping list for those of you who want to take advantage of ALL the summer shopping bargains. Throw in a couple fun Special Friends activities, stir it all together, and you have a terrific recipe for summer volunteer opportunities.

HELP WANTED: At press time, I have one very im-



Calendar

- | | |
|--|--|
| Saturday,
Jun. 11, 2011
8:00 a.m. -
3:00 p.m. | FOFC Yard Sale
6005 Sultana, Temple City |
| Wednesday,
Jun. 29, 2011
10:30 a.m. | Foster Caring Committee Mtg.
Location TBD—Call Hanne
Johnson at 626/795-8962 |
| Thursday,
Jul. 14, 2011
7:30 p.m. | FOFC Board Meeting
Conference Room
36 S. Kinneloa Ave., Pasadena |
| Sunday,
Jul. 17, 2011 | Send-off Party for
Team SkateAcrossUSA
Details TBA |
| Saturday,
Jul. 23, 2011 | Skate Team Departs |
| Saturday,
Aug. 6, 2011
10:00 a.m. | General Membership Meeting/
Sugar Plum Tag workday
Location TBD |

portant position to fill in my roster of Committee Chairmen. I have not yet found a Sugar Plum chairman to lead the project for 2011. If you are interested in the job, or know of someone who might be, please contact me at 626/358-2070 or wittmerbiz@altrionet.com. The Sugar Plum chairman acts primarily as a supervisor, overseeing a team of chairmen who manage the volunteers and get the work done. This could be the job for you.

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FYI – FOFC Newsletter: Our publishing schedule for the FOFC newsletter will vary slightly this year. This issue will cover the months of June and July. The next issue will arrive in your mailboxes on approx. August 1st. Because we do have a lot happening this summer, we may rely on e-mail, if necessary, to bring you updated information. If you do not have email, but want to learn more about a particular event, please call the chairman or project leader to let them know of your interest. And for those of you who expressed a desire to receive your future newsletters via email, we are compiling a database, and plan to deliver the next newsletter to your email box.

Can You Help?

Support the FOFC Yard Sale

Carole Rodenbucher & Debi Mistretta

It is almost here! We invite all bargain hunters to join us for the FOFC Yard Sale, which is fast approaching.

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)**

There are several ways that you can help support our yard sale efforts; here are just a few:

Donate Sale Items: We are looking for clean gently used clothing, shoes, purses, and miscellaneous household items to offer for sale. Have you started your spring cleaning? Let us turn your discards into cash for FOFC. Your unwanted items may prove to be someone else's treasures. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of an item, call Debi or Carole at the numbers listed below.

Donate Snacks or Drinks: We will offer cookies (or other single-serving finger food snacks) and bottled water to our shoppers. These items, strategically placed at the checkout area, can generate significant sales. Bottled water will be a big seller if the day is warm. If you don't have any discards to donate, but want to help out with a donation of snacks or drinks, please arrange to drop off to Carole or Debi on Friday, June 10th.

Volunteer Your Time: We are still looking for volunteers to work the day of the sale, especially the peak hours of 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We also need helpers to assist with clean-up, beginning around 2:30 p.m. Many

hands make light work – please call Carole or Debi if you can help.

Come By and Shop: If you love a bargain, and want to support a great cause, drop by the sale and see what we have to offer. If you have friends that enjoy shopping at local yard sales, give them a tip and tell them to check us out.

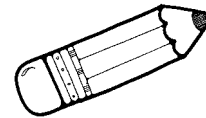
Please call Debi Mistretta at 626/286-3305 or Carole Rodenbucher at 626/285-2030 to volunteer or donate items. Your donations can be delivered to either Debi (6005 Sultana, Temple City) or Carole (5936 N. Reno, Temple City), just call first to make sure we are available.

Thank you, and we hope to see you at the sale!

Can You Help?

It's Never Too Early to Think Back To School!

Kathy Stokes



School Supplies: As the school year winds down, planning has already begun for the Back to School Supply drive! As has been in the past, the foster facilities and the over 300 children they serve have a need for an almost endless amount of school supplies throughout the year. Although we do not yet have a final list of requests from the facilities, you may want to get a head start. Watch the sale ads for your local discount and office supply stores, and take advantage of the great bargains offered this summer.

The basics are always the most critical:

Construction paper

Colored Pencils

Markers (Some facilities require washable markers)

Spiral Notebooks

Notebook Paper (College Rule Preferred)

Pencil Pouches

Pencils – Regular & Mechanical

Notebook Dividers

Pens

Erasers

Some of the needed "extras" include:

Back Packs

Calculators

Peachy Folders w/Pictures on the Cover (for both Boys and Girls)

Page Protectors

Composition Books

Spiral bound 3-5 Subject Notebooks

Water paint sets

Look for future updates from the Special Friends Committee on this project. Are you too busy or not a shopper but still want to help? You can help by making a donation to FOFC and volunteers will do the shopping for you. Please mail your check to our post office box and indicate it is for school supplies.

Donations can be delivered to any of the following committee members: Debbie Fairman (626/285-4305), Kathy Stokes (626/798-4536), Charleen Albee (626/798-6260) or Steve Wittmer (626/358-2070). **Please put your name on your donation.** We will be collecting until late August. Donations can also be turned in at any General Membership meeting.

Team SkateAcrossUSA Update

Cynthia Juvinall & Susan Wittmer

The 8 members of the skate team are currently training for their trip across the United States. They have selected Saturday, July 23rd as their departure date from southern California. Since most team members either work or attend school (or both), it was not easy to arrive at a date that accommodated everyone's schedules.

Although the team will be packing light, they do have a few needs that you can help them out with. Following is their wish list:

Wish list

- 4 multi-packs of low-cut black socks
- AA/AAA batteries packs
- 1 Power converter
- travel towels (sham wow style)
- As many GoPro batteries and chargers as we can get (for Helmet Camera)
- Visa / Master Card cash/gift cards for groceries and gas would be greatly appreciated. (Note from Marc: Because there are not consistent gas or grocery chains on the route, Visa gift cards would be best. We could label all the cards as to who they came from so that every time we use them we can post our thanks, for example: " We

are using *Martha and Jims* donation card today! Thank you so much! We just bought a loaf of bread, some deli turkey meat, a few apples and box of water... thank you so much Martha and Jim for your donation-it helped feed the Sk8+USA team today!")

We are still currently looking for a donation / loan of Van or RV if possible for the summer. We have a car to trade with you, to swap for the summer (a Honda Civic 4 door).

If you can help out with any of the team's needs, please contact "team mom" Cynthia Juvinall at 626/458-3318 or eejclj@yahoo.com.

We are in the process of posting information about the skate team and their trip on our FOFC website, www.fofcsangabrielvalley.com. You can also get more information on the team at their own website which is www.SkateAcrossUSA.com. They will be posting updates on their progress each day as they travel, so mark your calendars for July 23rd, and plan to join them on their 21-day trip.

Here is one more way you can show your support of these young men and their efforts. On Sunday, July 17th, FOFC members plan to host a send-off party to wish the team well, and send them off on their journey well-fed. Plans have not yet been finalized, but we are envisioning a pot-luck style dinner at a local park. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Cynthia Juvinall (contact info above) or Susan Wittmer at home 626/358-2070 or cell 626/244-4730. We will keep you posted as plans unfold.

Save the Date

Sugar Plum Tag Workday – August 6

Plans are being made for our summer General Membership Meeting, to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 6th. Please mark your calendar, and save the date. Final details will be included in the next newsletter.

The program for this meeting will be the traditional Sugar Plum tag workday. Everyone attending will join in to help ready the Sugar Plum tags, which will be distributed to tag writers in September and October. We expect to have approx. 2,000 tags on hand, so there will be plenty of work for everyone.

This meeting will also provide an opportunity for you to turn in any school supplies that you have collected over the summer. We hope you will plan to join us.

Committee

Reports

Membership News

Hanne Johnson

Our 2011-2012 Roster will soon be available. **Hurry** and send in your renewal dues if you have not done so yet. We want our Roster to be as accurate as possible. You will notice some new names on the Roster. Please welcome new members:

Paul & Dee Smith-Gibson – Paul learned about us from our friend Thomas Lee at Youth Moving On. Paul works at Hathaway-Sycamores, and is joining our Scholarship-Emancipation committee. He attended both our Luncheon and Annual Meeting so some of you may already have met him.

Jim Stevens was interested in our Scholarship program and has already attended his first meeting. Jim also came on our tour to LeRoy Haynes Center with Jan Seymour, and has sat at our Sugar Plum Tree the last 3 years.

Leona Nakayoshi has joined as an Associate member. She learned of us through our participation in the LADWP Charity Fair. She helped out with Sugar Plum before she was even a member. She hopes to continue helping with Sugar Plum and our upcoming school supply project.

Leah Thomson Snell has joined us as a Sponsoring member. She is a friend of Susan Peralta and hopes to help out with Sugar Plum as her time allows.

Joshua Van Vranken was a wonderful surprise. He is one of our former Scholarship recipients! He graduated from Occidental with a major in chemistry. He and his family now live in Connecticut. He joined as a Sponsoring member.

Cathy and Ross Manzo of Glendora were so impressed with our Sugar Plum Tree project they sent a generous donation and became Patron members.

Sandi Beebe is not new, but a long-standing member (formerly Sandi Yoshinaga) with a new name and address.

Last but not least, a BIG welcome to the "Skate Across USA" group. Marc Juvinal (son of Cynthia and Ed) will be our point of contact for this group of 8 young men. They have joined as a group and as a Patron donor. Read more about them in the newsletter.

We look forward to working with all of you throughout the year – WELCOME!

Special Friends

Debbie Fairman

The Special Friends Committee is always looking for helpers. We have several volunteer opportunities right around the corner.

Currently, the National Charity League (NCL) is collecting beach towels and sun tan lotion, which FOFC will divide and distribute among the facilities we work with. Last year's collection drive resulted in more than 250 beach towels and 245 bottles of lotion. We are hoping for similar or better results this year. The donations should be arriving around the first of June and delivered to the homes soon after. Ginger Loesch is the Special Friends committee member in charge of this event, and she could use some help sorting and delivering. If you would like to assist, please contact Ginger at 626/798-4062 or loesch.family@sbcglobal.net. This is a terrific activity and the homes love the lotion and the towels.

The committee has been busy planning a party for the 66 girls and boys at HillSides, to celebrate the end of the school year on Thursday, June 23rd. The party this year has a Rock Star theme. The youth will all receive goodie bags filled with treats and gifts. The tables will be decked out with stars and guitars. The children will have a fun photo opportunity – the chance to get their picture taken on a rock and roll stage with wigs and hats and musical instruments, pretending to be in the band. This annual party is always a fun event. The NCL provides volunteers to help set up and decorate for the party, and to take the pictures and help with activities as needed.

If any of these things sound like fun and something that

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you would like to be a part of now or in the future, please call or email me to join the Special Friends Committee: Debbie Fairman, 626/285-4305, Crafterdeb@aol.com

Scholarship/Emancipation Committee

Steve Wittmer

The start of the new scholarship year always brings a fresh start and hope for the students and their sponsors. This year is no exception. We expect three of our current students to graduate in May 2011 from their respective programs: Mark (MBA, Cal St. San Bernardino), Adam (Political Science, UC San Diego) and Sonya (Business, Cal Poly Pomona). Mark has found a job in San Diego and will be moving there to start his career in banking, while Adam has been accepted into three law school programs.

The Scholarship/Emancipation Committee is completing the final stages of the Scholarship Application review process. The Scholarship Award Announcements for the 2011/2012 Scholarship year will be made at the end of May.

Notes from our Students:

Friends of Foster Children, I would like to thank you So Much for making my academic dreams a reality. Thank You for all your support in the past and the future, I truly appreciate your support. Sincerely, Phylicia T.

Phylicia is in her final year at Liberty University. Mary Morales is her Sponsor.

This school year has been great. My experiences have come from getting good grades, staying focused on school, and not having to worry too much about money. The Scholarship has helped me a lot to have less worries and the support from Peggy, my sponsor/mentor has helped even more. P.S. Thank you to all who give a chance to a person like me to succeed without having to worry too much about other parts of life. I promise and it is my goal to give back to the community, especially with children and young adults so that they can have an opportunity to succeed like me. Tatiana D.

Tatiana is a fourth year student at Cal St. Los Angeles. Peggy Ulbrich is her sponsor.

Thanks FOFC for your help and support. It's highly appreciated. Bettyeruth D.

Bettyeruth is in her fourth year at Cal Poly Pomona. Sue Fisher is her sponsor.

I want to thank the FOFC Scholarship Committee for all your support. It really has helped me for school. Thanks Jawanna O.

Jawanna is her fourth year at Grambling St. in Louisiana. Candy Puchta is her sponsor.

I would like to very much thank you all for supporting me through my four years at the University of California San Diego. I really appreciate your help and I hope that you all feel happy that your investment in me was worth it. I fully intend to make sure to keep you all proud. Be sure to keep me in touch about the end of the Summer BBQ and other social events. Again I would like to thank you very much for everything. Sincerely, Adam R.

Adam is graduating this May and plans to attend Law School. Susan Wittmer is his sponsor.

Dorothea Brown Award Presented

Susan Wittmer

Every May, we present the Dorothea Brown Award to our FOFC volunteer of the year. This award is named after one of our founding members, is only given once a year, and you can only win one time. The winner is chosen by vote of the Board of Directors, and is only given when they feel that there is a deserving candidate. The Dorothea Brown Award was first given in 1977. There have been 3 years when no award was given and 4 years when a tie occurred and the award was given to 2 recipients.

The May, 2011 award reads as follows:

FRIENDS OF FOSTER CHILDREN
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
PROUDLY PRESENT THEIR
DOROTHEA BROWN AWARD
TO
CAROLE RODENBUCHER
WHO HAS BY HER ENTHUSIASM,
PERFORMANCE, EXAMPLE, AND
INSPIRATION MADE
AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
AS AN INDIVIDUAL
TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF
FRIENDS OF FOSTER CHILDREN

Two things come to mind when I think about Carole Rodenbucher:

- Good things are worth waiting for.
- When you want something done, give it to a busy person.

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Friends of Foster Children had our collective eye on Carole long before she ever actually joined our group. She was very supportive of us when we were using donated space at the Mayflower Church, and promised on many occasions that someday, when she had time, she would come join FOFC. That day finally arrived on March 27, 2005. Two years later, when she renewed her membership, she signed her husband up, and in that sneaky way that we wives have, enlisted his participation in many FOFC activities.

Carole was elected to our board of directors, and served as board secretary. She served this past year on our By-laws Committee, which was not a glamorous job, but certainly an important one. She has been active in Sugar Plum, serving as our Sugar Plum secretary, and most recently, found her niche as the Outside Group Chairman.

For the past 2 years, Carole served as our Ways & Means Chairman, and recently wrapped up a very successful luncheon which brought in over \$8,300 for FOFC.

We congratulate CAROLE RODENBUCHER, our Wizard of Ways & Means, our first lady of fundraising, as this year's winner of the Dorothea Brown Award.

Acknowledgements

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

Bonnie Landsberg
Callie Spilman
David Gravel
Harold & Cynthia Mitchell
Kathryne Beynon Foundation
Sara Lee Foundation
United Way
Wells Fargo Community Support

In Memory of Brian Andrew
Various FOFC Members

In Memory of Esther Martinez
David & Doris Kading

Many Thanks

Susan Wittmer

Thank you to the 2010/11 board for the lovely gift given to me at the Annual Meeting. You know me well, and made the perfect choice (restaurant gift cards)! Thanks to all of you, I will have at least three evenings to be pampered as someone else does the cooking, not to mention the cleanup. And Steve isn't complaining either!

Being a leader in this organization isn't easy, but it has glorious moments when it is so very moving and rewarding. I hope you all feel the same.

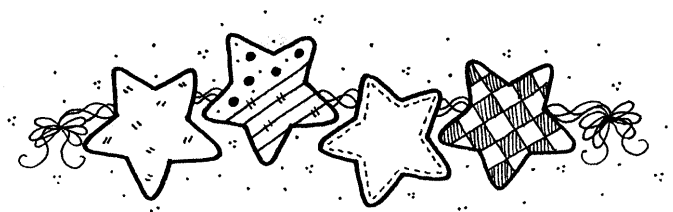
It is a pleasure to work with all of you,
Susan

Visit Our Website

Have you visited our website lately? We hope you will add us to your "Favorites" and check in regularly to keep up with the latest FOFC news. We encourage you to take a moment to visit us at www.fofcsangabrielvalley.com. The site features our newsletter, calendar of events, and photos of recent FOFC activities. For example, we have posted photos from our recent annual meeting showing the installation of our board of directors, members of Team SkateAcrossUSA, and our Dorothea Brown Award winner. Take a look – it's the next best thing to being there. We also have the capability of accepting donations via Paypal through this site.

If you have photos to share or information suitable for posting, contact Chi Nguyen at 626/466-7023 or chi-chi.nguyen@yahoo.com.

Coming later this summer: In honor of our 35th anniversary, we hope to post on our website some of the "historic" photos used in our luncheon video presentation.



Friends of Foster Children
Calendar of Events & Activities
May 1, 2011 thru April 30, 2012

May, 2011

- 5/19 FOFC Board meets
- 5/25 Scholarship Committee meets
- 5/25 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores

June, 2011

- Collection of School Supplies begins
- 6/11 FOFC Yard Sale
- 6/22 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores
- SF: Assist with Hillside's end-of-year party
- SF: Workday to sort & distribute beach towels

July, 2011

- 7/14 FOFC Board meets
- 7/17 Send-Off Party for Team SkateAcrossUSA
- 7/23 Skate Team departs
- 7/27 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores

August, 2011

- 8/04 Scholarship Committee meets
- 8/06 General Membership Meeting/Sugar Plum Tag prep
- 8/11 FOFC Board meets
- 8/26 Collection of School Supplies ends
- Workdays to sort & distribute school supplies
- 19th Annual Scholarship Barbecue

September, 2011

- 9/08 FOFC Board meets
- 9/15 Scholarship Committee meets
- 9/28 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores

October, 2011

- Collection of Halloween candy & treats
- 10/15 General Membership Meeting/Sugar Plum Kick-Off
- 10/26 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores

November, 2011

- 11/10 FOFC Board meets
- 11/16 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores
- 11/17 Scholarship Committee meets
- 11/25 Sugar Plum Trees open
- SF: Provide DVDs & snacks for Thanksgiving weekend

December, 2011

- 12/14 Sugar Plum Trees close

January, 2012

- 1/12 FOFC Board meets
- 1/19 Scholarship Committee meets
- 1/25 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores
- Sugar Plum Wrap-Up Meeting
- Informational Membership/Orientation Mtg

February, 2012

- 2/09 FOFC Board meets
- 2/22 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores
- 2/25 General Membership Meeting/Tour
- Pixie & Tiger workday to sort/deliver SP collections

March, 2012

- See's Easter Candies sale begins
- 3/08 FOFC Board meets
- 3/22 Scholarship Committee meets
- 3/28 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores

April, 2012

- 4/12 FOFC Board meets
- 4/25 Bingo Night at Hathaway-Sycamores
- 4/26 Scholarship Committee meets
- SF: Easter treats delivered

May, 2012

- 5/05 Annual Meeting/Installation of Officers



ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS.

**FRIENDS OF
FOSTER CHILDREN**

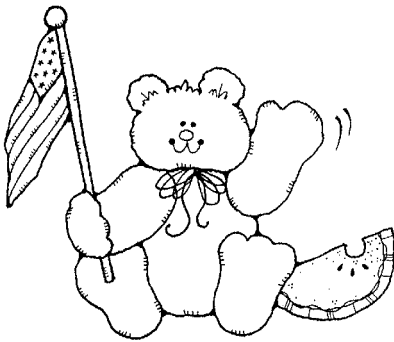
San Gabriel Valley

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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

President:	Susan Wittmer
Vice President:	Chi Nguyen
Secretary:	Carole Kolla
Treasurer:	Kathy Stokes
Directors:	
Candyce Columbus	Cheryl Peralta
Carolyn Cota	Susan Peralta
Sherrill Leavitt	Steve Wittmer
Mary Morales	
Layout Editor:	Donna Bonorris



Enclosed in this issue – Master Calendar of Activities & Events for the entire year. Plan ahead so you don't miss out on your favorite FOFC activities.

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