

Childbirth Connection Foundation



Summer 2008 Newsletter

Letter From The President

When I look back on my own childhood and think of spring, many happy memories come to mind. Often my parents would take me to Palm Springs where we would stay in a little motel along with other members of our family including my grandparents, aunts and uncles. Every day my grandfather and I would go walking and collect stones to build a mountain. It was a time of year where I was surrounded by love. It makes sense to me now when I think back to my own childhood why I would like to bring some relief to the families we



work with by creating a space where children are allowed to be children and not have to worry about having enough food or having a bed to sleep in.

With your help we have been able to give generously to those who are less fortunate. We celebrated spring with the younger children by having an Easter egg hunt. Most of the children had never dyed eggs or searched for hidden eggs. For the older children, a day at Mountasia theme park provided them with another new and positive experience. And finally, our trip with several children and teens to view the musical Wicked was a wonderful treat that inspired us all. Spring is a time of renewal and a time for being grateful for all of our support. Your acts of kindness in supporting our organization have brought smiles to many faces.

Love and many thanks, Randi

Announcements

In addition to the many activities the Foundation has sponsored, we have several exciting updates to share with our supporters. We are thrilled to announce the addition of two new board members, Faith Mischel-Golden and Maria Olivares Iida. Both Faith and Maria have worked as instructors for The Childbirth Connection, Inc. Faith brings expertise in the area of writing

grants and community outreach. Maria is excited about heading up our mentoring and volunteer program. We are also very pleased to announce that we will continue working with the CSUN internship program. We have selected one intern and will be interviewing a few more candidates to participate in our tutoring program beginning in the new school year in September 2008.



This fall, the Childbirth Connection Foundation will launch a scholarship program. This program will provide assistance to students in need, helping to defray educational costs such as tuition, test and application fees, computers and other school supplies.

If you are interested in learning more about any of our programs, board member bios, or becoming a volunteer, please visit our website www.thechildbirthconnection.org for further information.

Mountasia

Spring break happens every year and besides getting a break from school we wanted to give the kids a day to relax, have some fun and do something they had never done before.

During this spring break, the foundation rented a bus and took about 20 families to Mountasia Theme Park located in Santa Clarita. What a great place!



We played miniature golf, drove go-karts, squirted each other in bumper boats and had a pizza and ice cream party. All the children received tokens to play their favorite video arcade games. Check out photos on our website.

Fun with bumper boats



Our “Wicked” Group

This past June, we spent a wonderful day going to watch the musical *Wicked*. Several girls and teens have shown a very strong interest in musical theater. They have taken dance classes through the park and recreation centers and a few are going to magnet schools that specialize in the performing arts. The board felt strongly that we should encourage their interest by exposing them to additional experiences that would open their minds to what is possible to accomplish.

The day began by taking the Metro straight to Hollywood and Vine which let us out across the street from the Pantages Theater. Many of the kids had never ridden the metro before and were excited to do that. Bettie showed them how to

purchase tickets and on the way back each child purchased their own ticket to ride the metro back home.

The real highlight was the play. It was magical! From the dragon whose eyes lit up to the flying monkeys, it was a few hours where nothing else mattered. We noticed that several of our very active girls sat quietly on the edge of their seats, completely mesmerized. After the play, we went for pizza and the children commented on their day. Laura said, “I loved the good witch when she arrived in the bubble.” Carol liked it “When the lights went dark and the witch went up in the air.” Angela, a budding dancer, said “I liked the dancers. They were really good.” When Tina was asked about her favorite part of the day, she captured what we all felt when she exclaimed, “EVERYTHING!!!”

Hippity Hoppity Easter Egg Hunt

It was a warm and sunny day on March 18th, perfect for our first Easter Egg Hunt. Ten children and their parents joined us at Richie Valens Park in Pacoima where the Easter Bunny had already hidden 100 eggs. The children delighted in finding the eggs filled with toys, candy and stickers. In fact, they were so excited that they asked us to hide them again so they could continue their hunt. After we ran out of eggs, we hid decorated bunny cookies for them to find. For some of the children, it was the first time they dyed eggs.

Samantha and Laura were particularly awe struck when they pulled their eggs out and saw the beautiful colors. Everyone went home with an Easter basket filled with eggs, a stuffed bunny and a large Easter cookie. As we were packing up, Armando asked if we could do it again next week! Given its success, the Easter Egg Hunt is sure to become an annual event.



Our group with their goodies



Cynthia & Laura choosing colors



Samantha & Cody color eggs

Thank You Supporters

Thank you for your continued support as we reach out to families in need in our community. In addition to our group outings, some of ways your donations have made an impact in peoples lives include:

- Groceries & Clothing
- Baby Crib and Mattress
- Transportation Services
- Summer Camp
- Driver Training School
- Smoking Cessation Program
- Dance Classes
- Cooking Classes
- Art Classes
- Team Sports
- Therapeutic horseback riding
- School supplies, books & uniforms

Upcoming Events

Griffith Park Observatory	July 24, 2008
Zuma Beach Trip	August 8, 2008
Dodger Baseball Game	September 7, 2008
Pumpkin Patch Trip	October 24, 2008
Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution	November 24th, 2008
Annual Holiday Party	December 12, 2008



SAVE A TREE!!

Please give us your email address to receive future newsletters electronically



We can now accept credit/debit card donations on our website via PayPal

Childbirth Connection Foundation

A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization

7650 Haskell Avenue, Suite A

Van Nuys, CA 91406

Phone: 818-734-0723

Fax: 818-787-7172

Email: childbirthconnectionfoundation@gmail.com

Website: thechildbirthconnection.org