

Childbirth Connection Foundation



Spring 2009 Newsletter

Letter From The President



I want to begin by thanking our donors for their generosity to the Foundation. A special thank you goes to our long time supporter, The D e r m o l o g i c a

Foundation, for continuing to be our largest contributor. Because of our donors, we will be able to continue to provide the families we serve with opportunities that will enrich their lives. It is especially important this year because of the economic downturn. California is experiencing a massive budget shortfall which threatens programs like Medi-Cal, as well as social service programs with unprecedented cuts. The state of California has proposed a \$100 million in cuts to services provided to the disabled community. Our program, which provides services for 50 families in the San Fernando Valley and LA areas, will be trying to minimize the effects of such severe cuts over the next several months. Your donations will offset these cuts. Thanks again for your overwhelming support and generosity. I know that many of you may be facing hardships in your own lives and this year will prove to be challenging for all of us. I am wishing you all the best in 2009.

Love and many thanks, Randi

Dodger Baseball

On a hot summer day the Foundation took two van loads of enthusiastic boys to see the LA Dodgers face the AZ Diamondbacks at Dodger Stadium - the first baseball game for many of the 10 boys. To their delight, we sat in the all you can eat section where they had their fill of Dodger Dogs, soda and peanuts. Donald had six dogs himself - we were fortunate to make it through the day without any belly aches! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves especially since our team won.





Observatory Trip

This past summer the Foundation organized a trip that would be both educational and fun for our families. What better place than the Griffith Park Observatory to give our families the opportunity to see our great world in ways most had never seen it. On July 24th, twelve families met to enjoy a wonderful day exploring the Griffith Park Observatory. Everyone gathered early in the morning with their packed lunches to get on the bus. A beautiful spot was reserved so that our families could enjoy an outdoor picnic. Everybody enjoyed the scenery and fresh air. Not only were the kids excited to get such a striking glimpse of the city, most were amazed by being so high in the mountains and enjoying nature.

The Observatory welcomed everybody with fascinating exhibits and educational information about space. The true highlight was the interesting Planetarium show. The Foundation provided everyone with tickets to watch “Centered in the Universe”, a stunning full-dome show that transported us to back in time to see the sky the way it was viewed thousands of years ago. You could really see the amazement in everybody’s eyes as all the stars appeared. Donald and Junior even admitted that they never thought the sky could be that interesting! It was truly a memorable day!

Holiday Party

Last year’s Annual Holiday Party was a great hit! On December 12th, staff and volunteers worked hard to make this year’s party one to remember. The Foundation rented out a small hall that was roomy enough to hold over 100 people. During the early afternoon, volunteers set up tables, set out food, put on music, and decorated the hall to get into the holiday

sprit. The families showed up excited to enjoy the wonderful food and to wait for the arrival of Santa Claus! We all had a great time dancing and singing. All the children gathered to sing Christmas songs as Santa made his grand entrance. Each child waited anxiously to hear their name called out to receive a gift. As the event came to an end, smiling faces filled the house and everyone expressed their gratitude for a fun evening.



Girls Group Mentoring

One of the goals of the Childbirth Connection Foundation is to create a sense of community amongst the families we serve and to foster connections with the broader community.



Many of the families we work with have young girls who are coming of age. These girls often lack role models who they can turn to for advice or inspiration. In light of this, the Foundation is working to match these

girls with mentors who will spend at least one day a month with them. We have also established a “Girls Group” in which we bring these young ladies together to have “girl-time” with their peers and mentors. In November, we had the first meeting of the Girls Group. The Group, consisting of girls aged 9 to 16 years old, met at Richie Valens Park in the San Fernando Valley. Over a meal and some arts and crafts activities, the girls had an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about a variety of issues. The most popular topics were boys and body image. The group’s objectives are to create a nurturing, empowering, and creative environment, but most importantly, to encourage our girls to build a community of support and enhance self esteem.

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Jessica’s Mentor Story

“I have been mentoring for the past 8 months with Childbirth Connection Foundation and have greatly enjoyed meeting with these children. For me, it is rewarding and fun to be able to help these kids and it provides me a break from my busy schedule. Kids also want to have fun and they need a break once in a while too. We do a variety of activities together including going to parks, pumpkin patches, walks to stores as well as playing board games, make drawings, and I also help with homework.”



Westland School Thanksgiving Dinner Delivery

During the Thanksgiving holiday we all look forward to enjoying family time along with a delicious and healthy dinner. Unfortunately, for some families cooking a dinner is not an option due to lack of finances or even kitchen equipment that would make it possible. With the support of the generous families from “Westland School” our most needy families were able to enjoy a warm Thanksgiving dinner with their families. The visits give these families the opportunity to experience the generosity of others, and help them embrace the meaning of caring and giving thanks. Westland school has been donating Thanksgiving dinner to the families we serve every year for the last fifteen years. Each year over 100 people are fed. In this time of financial insecurity, we honor Westland’s commitment to helping those less fortunate.



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 the ways your donation's have made an impact in people's lives include:

- Groceries & Clothing
- Baby Cribs and Beds
- Transportation Services
- Summer Camp
- Driver Training School
- Swim Classes
- Mommy & Me Programs
- Internet Services
- Dance Classes
- Laptop Computers & Printers
- Art Classes
- Team Sports
- Gym Memberships
- School supplies, books & uniforms

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt	April 7, 2009
Mountasia trip	April 9, 2009
Theater Trip	Summer 2009
Zuma Beach Trip	August 2009
Pumpkin Patch Trip	October 2009
Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution	November 25, 2009
Annual Holiday Party	December 4, 2009



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

Childbirth Connection Foundation

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

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