

Childbirth Connection Foundation



Fall 2009 Newsletter

Letter From The President



Once again I'm amazed at how the time has flown by. School has started and I am renewed with a feeling of hope. I continue to have concerns about

the economic crisis that our nation continues to face. This has probably been one of the most challenging years for all of us, and I am also aware of the stresses that it has placed on the low income disabled families we serve. Now, more than ever, the work the Foundation is doing is so important. We continue to provide for this vulnerable community of parents who often fall through the cracks. With the state budget crisis and disability benefits continuing to be cut, many families do not have the means for daily necessities. Fortunately, we have continued to be able to assist with these needs. With the beginning of the new school year we have purchased backpacks, school supplies and clothing for many children. Besides providing the kinds of things that you and I take for granted, we worked hard over the summer making sure that the children and parents had some activities that could provide stress relief and strengthen family bonds as well. Some of the outings included going to local theme parks, the theater, playing miniature golf and bowling. We were also able to pay for day camp, gymnastics and swim

lessons for several children. We could not have done any of this without you, our loyal donors. On behalf of our board of directors and the families who count on us, I want to thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Love and many thanks, Randi

Laptop for Honor Student

This past spring, Childbirth Connection Foundation purchased Sanda a new laptop computer. Sanda is a promising student who will be a high school senior this fall. With a full lineup of honors and advanced placement classes, Sanda will use her new computer



to do homework, write papers and work on class projects. Sanda says, "I am going to write my future on the computer by using it to write all of my papers." In addition to school, Sanda has a part-time job and just made the dance

squad at her high school. Sanda will start applying to colleges this year and hopes to attend a great school in 2010!

Mentor Spotlight - Janet



Janet has been a mentor with Childbirth Connection Foundation since November of 2008. This is Janet's first time mentoring, and although she has no children of her own she loves spending time with kids. Since November, she has been meeting monthly with Laura, a sweet, soft-spoken 11 year old. Janet has taken Laura on outings to museums, the theater and music concerts as well as trips to the park and other free community activities. She gave Laura an art set and they have enjoyed painting together on their outings to the park. An interior designer with a love of the arts, Janet hopes to instill in Laura an appreciation for the arts by "exposing her to cultural experiences". Janet helps Laura to

observe and comment on art and the world around us. She says that Laura has shown a great deal of enthusiasm and real willingness to learn. Janet stated "it has been very satisfying and worthwhile as our relationship grows." Additionally, Janet states "it is a real pleasure to spend time with Laura."



If you are interested in impacting the life of a child by becoming a mentor, please contact us!

Foundation Activities



Over the last several months, the Foundation has sponsored several community outings for parents and their children that we all enjoyed. During Spring Break we took a busload of families to Mountasia theme park for a day of driving go-carts, bumper boats, playing miniature golf, lazar tag, video games topped off with pizza and sundaes. For the younger children we spent a day at Ritchie Valens park dyeing easter eggs followed by an egg hunt. We celebrated the warm days of summer by taking a bus full of excited children and their parents to Zuma Beach. Playing in the water, making sand castles, digging for sand crabs made it hard to leave at the end of the day.

We recently updated our site adding a section for comments, an events calendar page, updated content and photos. www.thechildbirthconnection.org

Family Spotlight - Laura's Story

For this newsletter we wanted to spotlight a very special family that has been faced with enormous challenges over the past year and has served as an inspiration to us all. Laura, who has been involved



with The Childbirth Connection for 14 years, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in November of 2008. Faced with this devastating news and the many changes that she would have to make in order to continue to care for herself and her two daughters, Angela 14 and Jessica 12, Laura rose to the occasion by maintaining an optimistic outlook and a commitment to getting well. Throughout her treatments Laura has been determined to “get well and get back to work.” She exclaims, “I’m happy I’m still here and I thank God!”

Since her diagnosis, Laura has remained positive and she has dedicated herself to getting better and beating the odds. She has kept her children’s lives as normal as possible despite her illness. By demonstrating such strong character, Laura has been a wonderful role model to her girls.

Laura has worked in the cafeteria of a local school for the past 8 years. She loves her job preparing lunches and special treats for the teachers. She has always had a strong work ethic and she was very excited to be able to return to work recently.

Through the years, Laura states “The Childbirth Connection has helped me to become more independent in taking care of my family.” From the time the girls were infants up to the present day, Laura, Angela and Jessica have joined us on many outings and they have always been enthusiastic participants in all of our activities. Now that the girls are older, they have taken on the role of helping with the younger children at our events. They have also participated in the “girls group” where they have an opportunity to build relationships with the other young girls in our program.

Angela and Jessica are bright and talented girls. They have been involved with dance for many years and have participated in many performances. They both show a lot of promise. Angela and Jessica also take their schooling very seriously and are planning to attend college. It has been a joy to watch this family grow and change over the many years we have known them. We look forward to continuing to assist them with accomplishing their goals.



Thank You Supporters

We would like to extend a special thank you to our long time community sponsors: The Dermologica Foundation, Westland School and Tapia Bros Farm. Your generosity of spirit has enriched the lives of many families. A special thank you to Cal State University at Northridge for continuing to provide us with interns who are able to tutor children who struggle with their homework. We also want to reach out and thank all of our donors for your belief in us and your continuous support. The financial assistance you provide continues to impact the lives of many.

As the holidays are once again upon us please consider making a tax deductible donation so we can reach out to parents and their children who are in need.

In addition to our group events, some of the ways your donations have made an impact include:

Groceries, Clothing & Shoes
Baby Cribs and Beds
Transportation Services
Summer Camp
Swim Classes
Mommy & Me Programs
Internet Services

Dance Classes
Laptop Computers & Printers
Art Classes
Team Sports
Gymnastics
School Supplies, Books & Backpacks
School Uniforms

Upcoming Events

Pumpkin Patch Trip
Girls Group Outing
Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution
Mary Poppins Theater Outing
Annual Holiday Party

October 2009
November 2009
November 2009
December 2009
December 2009



SAVE A TREE!!

Please give us your email address to receive future newsletters electronically. We will never share/sell your information.



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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