

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor



CLUBHOUSE NEWS

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A Message from the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor

We are writing you this update on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor, our College Bound Program, facility modernization projects, our special events, and the youth and communities we serve. There are lots of exciting and challenging things happening within our organization and the Los Angeles Harbor area at this time. We hope this update is informative and provides a good analysis of our accomplishments and the challenges we face today and years ahead. We thank you in advance for that continuing support as we strive each day to provide the optimum child development programming and services for the at-risk children and teens we serve.



Boys' Club Members - 1938



Boys & Girls' Club Members - 2012

"GREAT FUTURES START HERE"

..... is the national slogan for Boys & Girls Clubs of America and it is so very appropriate. Coincidentally, in 2012 the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor will be celebrating our 75TH Anniversary of serving the children of our San Pedro and now too our Wilmington communities. Over the next year we will be reliving the history and positive impact this organization has had on thousands of at-risk lives - giving each of us an opportunity for a GREAT FUTURE we otherwise might not have had. Over the past 75 years the Boys & Girls Club has helped nurture and develop tens of

thousands of at-risk youth - turning us into the day-to-day backbone and sometimes the leaders of our San Pedro and surrounding communities; it helped build the foundation of boys, young men and finally girls who became the doctors, lawyers, educators, elected officials, harbor commissioners, business owners, military leaders, superintendents, police, firefighters, and labor leaders on our waterfront. And with everyone's support, we will continue to do so for the next 75 years.



**NOW SERVING
17 SITES**

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE LA HARBOR

San Pedro TeenSupreme Center
Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro
Boys & Girls Club of Wilmington
Port of LA Boys & Girls Club
Daniels Field
Dana Middle School

Barton Hill Elementary
Fries Ave. Elementary
Gulf Ave. Elementary
Wilmington Middle School
Banning High School
Fleming Middle School

Island Ave. Elementary
Park Western Elementary
San Pedro High School
Dana Strand Housing Community
Wilmington Teen Center



75TH ANNIVERSARY

As mentioned, in 2012 our organization is celebrating our “75TH Anniversary” in serving youth in our harbor area communities. It is a great opportunity to reach out to our alumni and the greater San Pedro, Wilmington, and “hill” communities as we hope to capitalize on our many decades of serving the most at-risk youth of our area.

Formally we will kick off the celebration at our annual Angeles breakfast on March 22 with Tom Sullivan, a local celebrity. Tom Sullivan has worked as an author, composer, motivational speaker, and singer, as well as an actor, director, and producer. He has sung the national anthem of the United States at the Super Bowl and the Indianapolis 500. He had recurring roles on numerous television shows and worked at Good Morning America for 5 years.

Among the songs Tom has written and performed are “All the Colors Of the Heart,” and “If You Could See What I Hear”.

We will also host a series of small and larger celebrations during the year to showcase our successes and bring people back or maybe even “in” for the first time to our upgraded San Pedro Club and recently modernized Wilmington Club sites.

The culmination of our 75TH Anniversary celebration will take place at our annual Bids for Kids on November 16 and will include honoring our Executive Director Mike Lansing.

COLLEGE BOUND

The success of our College Bound program continues to exceed all of our most hopeful expectations. The number of participants continues to increase at all of our local sites

With a assistance of a two year grant partnership with the Everychild Foundation, we have been able to launch our College Bound Clubs website, which allows us to provide our college pathway resources nationwide. Currently we have registered 30 Clubs from throughout the country. These Clubs will be able to access the website for “free” for the duration of the grant.

We are providing additional support to 9 Clubs from the Los Angeles Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. In addition to access to our website, we are providing these Clubs direct replication services such as site visits, quarterly trainings, weekly webcam coordinators meetings, and a College Bound replication manual.

We continue our Middle School College Bound program in both Wilmington and San Pedro. The Wilmington program is located at Wilmington Middle School. We built our new Middle School College Bound Center at our San Pedro site as part of our Modernization Project. Our goal – to engage a growing number of youth in College Bound long before they enter high school in order to maximize their ability to graduate from high school on time and be accepted into and have success in college.

This fall, we continued to offer our new “College Bound Kids” program, which introduces College Bound at the elementary school level to even further support our members with long-term resources to maximize their academic success and academic futures. Once again, we have found that the earlier we engage our predominantly first generation college pathway members in College Bound – the better the success rate for high school graduation, college acceptance, and eventual college graduation. This was further demonstrated by the 1128 participants in College Bound last year, the 98% of our seniors who graduated on time, the 234 who enrolled in 2 or 4 year colleges/universities this fall, and the \$3.28 million in financial aid and scholarships they were awarded.



College Bound Center

MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Last year, we embarked on a “Modernization & Expansion” project at our flagship San Pedro Club site. Originally built in 1965, the facility had become a bit run down after 46 years of serving San Pedro youth. Therefore, the first goal of this project was to modernize the building. The project included: 1) substituting energy efficient lighting, 2) improving heating and air conditioning, and 3) upgrading and expanding technology and telephone capacity. The modernization also included an overall “facelift” to the aging facility with different improvements that would make the Club site look more closely like our recently upgraded, expanded, and beautiful Wilmington Club site.

Our second goal was to modify the facility so that we could best serve an increasing number of at-risk youth with the most age-appropriate programming possible. To this end, we developed a plan to reallocate space and expand the site when possible so that we could develop and operate three separate Centers: Elementary, Middle School and High School. The project also included each center having its own designated space to support our “Triple A” programming strategy (Academics, Arts & Athletics), as well as improving our shared space of the gym, sports arena in the back, and the Daniels Field Recreation Center directly across the street. This commitment will not only allow us to provide the most comprehensive programming possible at each “level”, but also allow us to maximize the number of youth served by best utilizing the space originally available. The project also added additional program space with a new Elementary Learning Center at the back of this facility.

With the exception of several minor modifications, the modernization and expansion to the inside of the building has been completed. Still on the docket to be completed is a friendlier, “greener” landscaping project for the perimeter of the building, including the opportunity to honor friends and family by purchasing commemorative bricks in the entryway to the Club.



Middle School Center - Before



Middle School Center - After



Construction in the Gymnasium

THANKSGIVING DINNERS AT THE CLUBS

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor served Thanksgiving Dinner for their members and their families in a series of five dinners that were served at our four main locations. Executive Director Mike Lansing said "we served Thanksgiving dinner to over 2400 individuals this year. To a number of our families, this was the only holiday dinner they will share and to some the only sit down hot meal as a family."

An effort of this magnitude involves a total team effort involving staff, parents, volunteers, and donors. Every year many of our Board members, along with other community volunteers and parents donate their time to carve turkeys and serve the dinner that; quite honestly, we couldn't do by ourselves. Our special thanks to The National Charity League Palos Verdes Chapter's mothers and daughters who not only served at four of the dinners but also donated over 100 turkeys and hams for the dinners, and NCL members Isabel and Kathleen Bethencourt for providing free family portraits to our families, many of which have never had a portrait before this event. We are also grateful to Michael Bonert who supplied pumpkin pies for all the dinners and John Vidovich and Bryan Bero for their generous donation of turkeys and hams.



A Thanksgiving Dinner at Wilmington



A Thanksgiving Dinner at San Pedro

CONGRATULATIONS MIKE

We are happy to report that a great honor has been bestowed upon our Executive Director Mike Lansing. By the time you receive this newsletter, Mike will be on a three month sabbatical, an award provided by the Durfee Foundation. As stated on the Durfee Foundation website,

"effective institutions are driven by creative people. The Durfee Sabbatical Program recognizes that creative leaders need time to think and reflect if they are to keep their organizations ahead of the curve.

Many leaders in the Los Angeles nonprofit sector work under conditions



Mike Lansing

of unrelenting stress, potentially leading to burnout. The enormous demands of their jobs, often combined with financial pressure, can prevent them from taking time off for much-needed rejuvenation.

In an effort to replenish the stores of energy and inspiration for our community's most gifted leaders, the Durfee Sabbatical Program offers up to six individuals stipends and expenses of up to \$35,000 to travel, reflect or otherwise renew themselves in whatever manner they propose."

Congratulations Mike on the well deserved honor!

MARK WAHLBERG HELPS DEDICATE OUR RENOVATED STUDIO



Mark Wahlberg visits our studio

Five years ago we built our Subcultural Studio in our San Pedro Club where our members have the opportunity to work in a state of the art sound stage and make professional quality audio and video recordings all for just the price of a Boy's and Girl's Club membership, So when Taco Bell Foundation for Teens and the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation selected us as one of four "Graduate to Go Studios," a project that encourages teens to use the new multi-media recording studios if they stay in school and graduate, we embraced the opportunity.

The "Graduate to Go Studios" is a mentoring program with college-like projects and a year-round curriculum to help teens learn about music and film production. The program will also offer job shadowing experiences at local entertainment companies and with media professionals to show teens how their dedication and hard work in the studio will apply to careers.

Because of our successful College Bound program, we were chosen to be the inaugural location. After about a month of reconstruction, the studio has come together very elegantly. It features a refashioned layout, new cameras, computers, chairs, sound booth and a redesigned green screen stage.

LEBRON JAMES VISITED THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

LeBron James visited the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor late last summer to view our San Pedro Club's renovated gymnasium, made possible by a generous \$120,000 donation from the LeBron James Family Foundation, Nike and HP. The Club also received a significant donation of Nike basketball and athletic equipment to support sports and fitness programs, and 16 state-of-the-art HP computers for use in the Club's technology center.

The San Pedro gym received a complete makeover. The floor was stripped, sanded, and repainted and the basketball standards, gym seating, and scoreboard were replaced. The wonderful donation allowed for significant infrastructure improvements, including energy efficient lighting, heating, and storage space.



Lebron visits with our kids

YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS...

We'll end with another wonderful story...

In December we shared A Christmas Wish, an article written by Mike Lansing in the San Pedro Magazine which addressed the "very sad situation when so many children's reality is that he or she must list some of the basic necessities of life such as shoes and a blanket as what they wish for at Christmas. And although some of these needs were noted by our membership in the past - this year we realized a FAR greater need for the "basic necessities."

The community response was overwhelming; so overwhelming that tears of joy became daily occurrences. Good Samaritans of all backgrounds came by the Club to drop off blankets, pillows, food cards, shoes, jackets and toys. My office resembled a combo Bed an Bath & Toys R Us store.

Two individuals came by with \$500 checks to spend on the children who need it most. And an anonymous donor who lives in West Los Angeles sent a very sizable donation after she heard about the article. Toyota Motor Sales Information Services Department donated toys to our youth. The Palos Verdes Young Professionals organized a special Holiday Gift Card Drive and both National Charity League groups in Palos Verdes had similar activities for our youth. And the Los Angeles Fire Department conducted a toy drive. Also, a number of businesses and service organizations in the area collected gifts for the kids. Happily there were too many Angels to mention everyone....So Thank you messengers of goodwill for bringing joy into the lives of children and a special warmth into the hearts of all.

Happiness is...



...my Barbie



...a warm blanket



...a gift card for new shoes

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