

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor



CLUBHOUSE NEWS

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NOW...MORE THAN EVER



Mike Lansing

At our annual ILWU/PMA luncheon earlier this year, Keynote speaker Peter Peyton looked over the half filled room and stated that *"the Boys & Girls Club needs us now more than ever"*. He explained that although we are all affected by the current economic crisis, that NOW is the time when non-profit organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor truly need the community's help. He challenged those in attendance to *"dig deep when it is not so easy"* because he knows that in times like these our services and programs become even more important and in greater demand.

NOW is the time when the Boys & Girls Club is in greater need of your help as more and more people seek ours. Earlier this month we had 190 high school seniors honored at our "College Bound" graduation event at the Warner Grand Theatre – and each day more and more teens seek out our support. As education and other State-funded support service budgets continue to be cut, more and more youth will seek our College Bound, music, recording arts, dance, athletic and leadership development programs. And at a time when an additional 1,000 youth have grown our membership to well over 7,000 boys and girls – our annual funding support is down 16%.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of The Los Angeles Harbor can truly use your help *"now more than ever"* - especially during times like these when annual funding support is down and the demand for our services is up.

Therefore, I ask that you please continue, and if at all possible, expand your generous donations to our organization. I also know that we are in need of teens and adults who would consider being either a mentor, tutor, coach, provide data entry, office support or assist at our front desk. Beginning this summer we are implementing a new "intern" program for teens or young adults interested in developing youth development skills and securing volunteer hours. Contact Director of Operations Tony Tripp at (310) 833-1322 ext 236 if interested.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this appeal and for your support over the years of the at-risk children we serve. Times are truly difficult for many of our Los Angeles Harbor families, and with the coming State budget cuts – they will need us even more. I therefore leave you with the words of Winston Churchill who was addressing his country after WWII in a time of similar economic need:

"The day may dawn when fair play, love for one's fellow men, respect for justice and freedom, will enable tormented generations to march forth serene and triumphant from the hideous epoch in which we have to dwell. Meanwhile, never flinch, never weary, never despair."

Now... more than ever.

Mike Lansing
Executive Director



A version of this article first appeared in San Pedro Today Magazine.

"It's what you learn after you learn it all that counts".....John Wooden



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE LA HARBOR

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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



COLLEGE BOUND GRADUATION

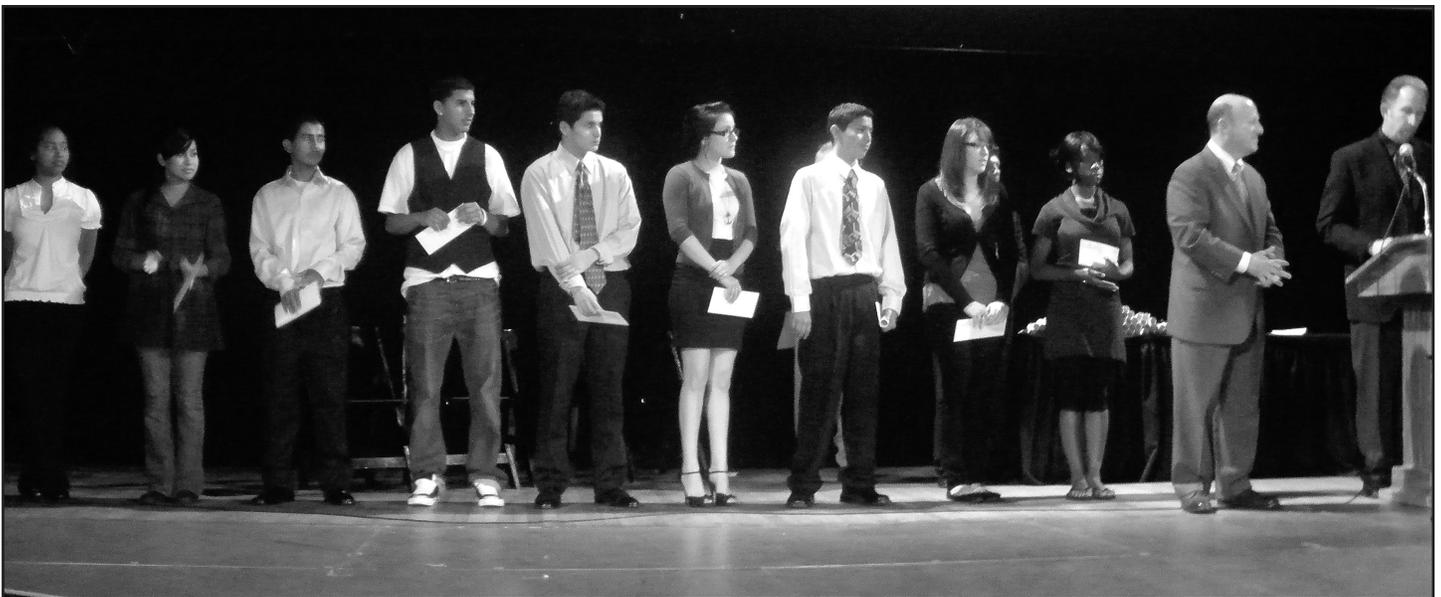
On June 10, 2009 at 6:00 PM, The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor honored the members of the College Bound Program "Class of 2009" who graduated from their respective high schools this June. The 3rd Annual College Bound Graduation event was held at the Warner Grand Theater in San Pedro and attended by over 700 graduates, parents, and friends. The evening began with the USC Trojan Marching Band leading the procession of graduates into the theater to the resounding notes of the well known Trojan song "Fight On".

Newly elected Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich delivered the keynote address to the graduates. "Nuch" as he refers to himself, encouraged the graduates to pursue their dreams. He advised them that they are the architects of their future and they shouldn't allow either others or themselves to prevent their future successes. He cited his personal story as an example of how they can overcome the odds and achieve their dreams.

Other highlights were the awarding of scholarships to twenty-two of the graduates and Executive Director Mike Lansing's admonition of "no excuses" to the graduates for not advancing their education to the college level and pursuing their dreams.

As high school dropout rates continue to rise to the 50% level, 88% of the seniors participating in the College Bound Program graduated from their respective high schools. When the Program started in 2002, 4 seniors graduated and enrolled in college. In 2008, we had 610 participants in the program, 145 of which were seniors and 131 enrolled in 2 or 4 year colleges/universities this past fall. **This year we had 214 seniors in the program among the 814 participants, and 189 are graduating.**

Of this year's graduating seniors, we experienced our first acceptances to Brown, NYU, Notre Dame, USC, and UC Berkeley. We will continue to grow these successes and the number of youth served in the coming year.



College Bound Scholarship Winners at Graduation Event at Warner Grand Theater

We served over 7000 youth at our 17 locations last year, averaging over 2250 per day, making us the largest provider of youth services in the South Bay....

The Los Angeles Harbor Clubs offer students programming that address not only their needs but also their interests. The Club provides a broad array of comprehensive programs offering over 35 distinct classes/activities. We provide the widest range of programs and activities on a daily basis of any youth serving organization in the area. Our basic strategy is to provide a comprehensive curriculum to youth in the impressionable years during elementary and middle school and to create a framework for a continued relationship with our Clubs into their teen years.

BOYS & GIRLS "MEET THE MUSIC"



The program offers students a window to cultural musical traditions around the globe. Before each concert, the students receive a lesson about the region where the music is from and about the style of music itself. Then they attend the concerts which are fun and informative.

In addition to the immediate music and geography lessons involved with each show, "Meet the Music" invites kids to be curious about the music of different cultures from different parts of the world.

Tony Tripp, Director of Operations at the Boys & Girls Club is excited about the program. He noted that "often our kids have never been to a real, live concert, and this is a great opportunity for them." He adds that "this reinforces the Clubs' arts programming which currently provides private musical instrument lessons for over 200 boys and girls."

The first concert was in April and Balinese Gamelan musicians introduced the intricate and colorful percussion of the Gamelan. The second concert was held on Friday, May 1 and featured Francis Awe and his Nigerian Talking Drums. Also in the series is music from Japan, South America and more.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor has teamed up with the Grand Vision Foundation of San Pedro to create the "Meet the Music" concert series for middle school age students. Grand Vision is a local non-profit dedicated to the preservation of the Warner Grand Theatre and to the development of the arts in the Harbor Area.



Laker Jordan Farmer visits the Club



Birthday party at the Club

We take pride in creating an environment where our Club members can thrive. We also realize that our responsibility to do this does not stop at our Club doors. With this in mind, we have committed to going GREEN! From reducing waste to recycling to energy efficient light bulbs, we will do our part to ensure that the environment we leave behind for our youth will support their dreams today and tomorrow. It is with this in mind that we began communicating with you more often through e-mail and on the web. Through our e-newsletter, we provide you current information more often. If you wish to receive our monthly E Newsletter "Harbor Happenings", you can sign up on our website at bgclaharbor.org. Or call us at 310-833-1322 ext. 242.



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www.bgclaharbor.org

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