

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE LOS ANGELES HARBOR

clubhouse news



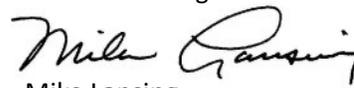
The Challenge Continues

A Message from Executive Director, Mike Lansing

This past year we instituted the slogan “Meet the Challenge” because it was appropriate for a “challenge” grant we received. More importantly – it highlighted the need to address the numerous CHALLENGES we face as an organization striving to meet the varied needs of the ever-growing number of at-risk children we are dedicated to serving. In the past 20 years we have grown from one to fifteen operating sites; from “sports only” to now prioritizing education and the arts; and from a budget of \$270,000 annually to \$6.1 million! We can do this only because of YOUR investment in our efforts and commitment to our most at-risk youth. THANK YOU for your support – I truly feel we are providing a great return on your investment.

MEET THE CHALLENGE will continue to be our slogan because of the commitment we have made and will continue to make in our Harbor area communities. We are looking at plans to operate our Harry Bridges Span School site year-round to better serve youth who live on the east side of Wilmington. At our San Pedro Club, we are designing plans to build a second story on our high school center due to our growing daily attendance in College Bound and the Arts Academy. Next year, in conjunction with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, we will open a satellite site at the Rancho San Pedro Public Housing Center. LAPD Harbor Division has approached us to collaborate on our new “Right Path” program, offering youth with a minimal delinquency history the opportunity to reform through enrichment programs and community service.

We will need a growing number of generous individuals like you and more corporate sponsors if we are going to continue to “Meet The Challenge” in the years to come. Thanks in advance for helping us to continue to “Meet The Challenge”.


Mike Lansing

Headlines

- ILWU and PMA join forces to support L.A. Harbor youth
- Celebrating our College Bound Graduates
- Preparing our youth for tomorrow’s careers

Bids for Kids October 3, 2014

Hyatt Regency Long Beach

We invite you to join this year’s Bids for Kids Auction and Dinner in “Hitting a Home Run for Kids.”

Contact Deanna Deering for more information about attending and sponsorship opportunities.

(310) 833-0514

deannad@bgclaharbor.org

Thank you for helping us *Meet the Challenge!*

Thank you to our donors, corporate partners, parents and all other friends of our youth for helping us exceed our \$250,000 matching grant.

Thanks to you, we will be able to continue supporting Harbor area youth at 15 sites in San Pedro and Wilmington with nonprofit enrichment programming and services at the low annual membership fee of \$25.00.

Thanks for your support as
The Challenge Continues!

Serving 15 Club sites in the Los Angeles Harbor area

San Pedro Boys & Girls Club
Harry Bridges Span School
Barton Hill Elementary
Fleming Middle School

Wilmington Boys & Girls Club
Park Western Elementary
Wilmington Middle School
George De La Torre Elementary

Port of LA Boys & Girls Club
Banning High School
San Pedro High School
Fries Ave. Elementary

Dana Middle School
Gulf Ave. Elementary
Daniel’s Field

Support from the Harbor

Harbor Commissioner Anthony Pirozzi.



On June 6, we held our 9th Annual ILWU / PMA Luncheon at our Port of Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club. Amidst high-stakes contract negotiations, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) once again came together to break bread and raise funds for Los Angeles Harbor youth.

Harbor Commissioner Anthony Pirozzi served as guest speaker and addressed attendees about the importance of supporting Club youth. He reminded them that the purpose of supporting Club services is to, "take our kids to an even greater level than our own."

Executive Director Mike Lansing thanked the unions and the shippers for coming together every year and raising funds that allow the Club to serve even more community youth. "We need to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow," he said in closing.



ILWU Local 13 President Robert Olvera Jr. with Mike Lansing.

“ Together we are their inspiration. ”

Harbor Commissioner Anthony Pirozzi regarding the ILWU, PMA and Port of LA supporting community youth.



Rucinda Sepulveda, our Harry Bridges Span School site director, with her youth members. The school band is made possible thanks to a generous grant and instrument donations by ILWU Local 13.

A Legacy of Hope



If you would like to help the next generation of the Harbor area get off on the right foot, you can leave a legacy of hope for thousands of children. Consider joining our *Legacy Society*.

For an increasing number of people, the most practical method of making a major gift to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor is through their will or trust. Bequests may qualify for an estate tax deduction equal to the value of the gift and can significantly reduce estate tax obligation.

Donors may leave any amount they desire and may include instructions for the appropriate method of giving. These contributions will make a tremendous impact in the lives of our future members.

If you would like more information about joining the *Legacy Society*, please contact: Director of Development Derald Sidler, (310) 833-1322 x242, deralds@bgclaharbor.org

College Bound Class of 2014

After four years of high school, we congratulated our College Bound graduating seniors at the College Bound Celebration on May 29 at the Warner Grand Theatre.

Argelia Atilano of K-Love Radio and Univision TV served as keynote speaker. She recounted her upbringing in San Pedro while advising our graduates on the next stage of their lives. We also took the opportunity to honor The Eisner Foundation during the celebration for their generous contributions. Their support has been essential to the expansion of our College Bound program through the years.

For many high school students, going to college seems like a difficult dream to accomplish. However, when students enter the College Bound centers at our San Pedro, Wilmington and Port of L.A. Clubs, they are provided the resources and support needed to reach their goals

Executive Director Mike Lansing started College Bound in 2002 and has watched it grow into the success it is today. Now led by College Bound Director Yesenia Aguilar, we saw over 300 high school seniors honored at this year's celebration.



Mike Lansing with Cathy Choi of the Eisner Foundation.

“ I can honestly say that if I never joined the Club and the College Bound program, I would be lost. I would've never known my full potential as a person and abilities to go to college. ”

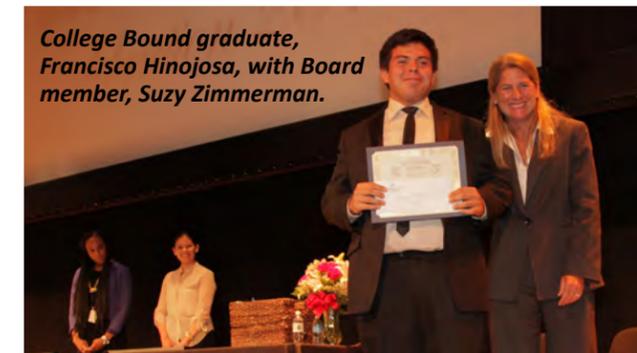
- Francisco Hinojosa



Elizabeth Machado is a graduate from our San Pedro Club who was honored at the celebration as one of our highest achieving students. Elizabeth was accepted into several top universities including an Ivy League school before choosing to go to UCLA in the fall. Her cousin and older brother both completed the program and returned from their universities to celebrate with Elizabeth.

“The College Bound program gave me the support I needed as I applied to rigorous schools and countless scholarships,” said Elizabeth.

Francisco Hinojosa of our Wilmington Club, has overcome social and financial struggles to accomplish his dreams. He will attend UC Santa Barbara in the fall as the first in his family to go to college. He was raised in a low income household by parents who each work two jobs to support their family which required Francisco to take on a part-time job to help. Despite these hardships, Francisco was able to balance school, community service and his job to excel. Thanks to the support of the College Bound program in helping him keep up his grades and complete his applications, Francisco earned the financial aid and scholarships necessary to make his dreams a reality.



College Bound graduate, Francisco Hinojosa, with Board member, Suzy Zimmerman.

The College Bound Celebration gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation for supporters of the program. Thanks to these organizations and individuals, we awarded \$122,000 in scholarships during the celebration to our diligent graduates.

- Charles Abbott Family Foundation • College Access Foundation
- College Bound Alumni, Christian Velsquez & David Rosales • Herb & Arlene Zimmer
- Joe Rich Family Foundation • John Gogian Family Foundation • Palos Verdes Junior Women's Club
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary • San Pedro Rotary • Suzy Zimmerman of State Farm

Preparing for Tomorrow's Careers

Jr. Staff Developing Skills to Succeed



While working as a team to keep our elementary and middle school youth engaged, our Jr. Staff are mentored on their communication and customer service skills. They develop these skills assisting at Club front desks, welcoming visitors, and interacting with Club families. Our Port Club Jr. Staff also completed a workshop on interviewing to prepare for future opportunities.

Curtis Speck, a Port Club Jr. Staff member, was assigned to our program through the Housing Authority. While his grades have suffered due to hardships, he has been motivated by the program to improve when he returns to school. For the first time, he is seriously considering career options.

At 17, Curtis and his younger siblings have been attending the Port Club for four years. He enjoys the responsibility of guiding our younger members. Port Club staff have noticed a marked improvement in Curtis's attitude and communication skills since he started the Jr. Staff program.

When asked what he feels is important as a Jr. Staff member, Curtis explained, **"It's about imagination to keep the kids happy and make their lives better. Also teaching them that there's many ways in life you can be successful."**

Curtis has been more involved with College Bound this summer including college campus visits. He wants to continue working with children and hopes to someday run a day care center or maybe even a Boys & Girls Club.

In today's highly competitive job market, we are committed to helping our youth reach their full potential as productive, responsible citizens. In addition to trade skills, employers stress the importance of strong work ethics, communication skills, dependability, positivity, organizational skills, problem solving skills and the ability to work well with a team.

Our Jr. Staff program runs year round, but expands during the summer to provide more opportunities for our youth, ages 13 to 18, to develop these skills. This summer we worked with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles and LAUSD Work Experience which provided the salaries for 56 youth from low-income families to gain work experience at our Clubs. In addition, 30 of our high school members volunteered to serve as Jr. Staff for the summer.

The majority of our paid Jr. Staff members work at our Port of Los Angeles Club which is adjacent to the Rancho San Pedro public housing community. Many Jr. Staff are our own high school members from that community.



Port Club Director Hilda Chacon leading a Jr. Staff meeting.



Jr. Staff training for new members. The object in the center of the strings represents a Club youth. It is the responsibility of our Jr. Staff to support and help our youth rise up to their full potential.

Designing the Future of Gaming



At this year's Consumer Electronics Show, one of the largest international technology expos, the latest Oculus Rift prototype stunned industry experts. The virtual reality head-mounted display won the *Best of CES* award.

Many of our San Pedro Club students are already creating products for this new market of virtual reality. Early this year, the 3D animation and game design section of our Arts Academy was able to acquire an Oculus Rift developer kit at a low cost thanks to a campaign to create games for the new technology. With our resourcefulness in using affordable software, we are able to provide our youth with the opportunity to develop skills for a new job market.

Digital Studio Director Alex Monita led our game design students in developing a virtual reality tour of our digital studio for the Oculus Rift. They used three types of free software for the majority of the project - Google Sketchup to replicate any object in the virtual world using measurements; Blender 3D animation suite to paint and sculpt, and the Unity game development program to code.



Director of Operations Tony Tripp wearing the Oculus Rift as our students demonstrate their project.

Our students then turned to our *Taco Bell Graduate to Go* film production and audio recording studio to insert themselves into the game as guides. They used our green screen and Microsoft Kinect software to capture shapes and movements and the sound booth to record and edit narrations.

An essential part of the development was learning Java programming language to code the game. Experiencing how their coding immediately affected the game made the learning process more fun.

The end result is a functional tour of the digital studio that our youth proudly demonstrated at our Spring Arts Academy Showcase in May. None of the students had ever experienced an Oculus Rift game before we brought the technology to the Club. Now they are able to create immersive virtual worlds and expand their skills as experienced game designers.

Check out a demonstration of the virtual reality project at www.subculture-studios.com/arts-academy-2014

PV Peninsula Rotary Supports Vocational Education

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary has donated scholarships to our College Bound graduates for eight years, but this year marked a first for the types of post high school plans they have supported. In addition to \$8,000 in scholarships to 2014 graduates going to traditional universities, the PV Rotary provided a \$4,750 vocational education scholarship to Rebecca Salceda. Rebecca is one of our Wilmington Club graduates and will attend Marinello School of Beauty this fall.

FOCUS on Athletics

Introducing a new standard for our athletics and healthy living programs. F.O.C.U.S. represents the factors that will guide our daily athletics activities, sports clinics, sports leagues, coaches and of course young athletes moving forward. Expect to hear more about improvements and expansion from Director of Athletics Phillip Redd and his team.



- Fundamentals:** Skill building and positive outlook on competitions.
- Opportunities:** Seeking options for the future in sports and academics.
- Character:** Building quality decision makers and overcoming failures.
- Unity:** Consistent teamwork and uniting athletic programming at our three Clubhouses.
- Sportsmanship:** Enjoying sports in its fairness and sense of fellowship.

Partner Spotlight - Tesoro

We support the replication efforts of our College Bound program at 14 other Boys & Girls Clubs in Los Angeles County. Thanks to Tesoro, the College Bound program at our Wilmington Club as well as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Long Beach and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Carson will receive \$100,000 collectively to expand.

Tesoro has been our partner since 2011. This most recent \$100,000 grant to our collaborative College Bound effort will assist in hiring additional case managers to serve more youth. The individual attention is crucial in helping our youth graduate and accomplish their post high school plans.

In July, Tesoro Vice President of Refining and Marketing Dave Foster, Director of Public and Government Affairs Kenneth Dami, Manager of Government and Public Affairs Brissa Sotelo-Vargas, and Manager of Process Refining and BGCLAH Board member Michael DePasquale visited our Wilmington Club to announce the news to Club youth and donate ice cream to celebrate.



Growing Our Clubs from the Inside Out

You might have noticed several construction projects at our Clubs. These measures are due to many years of fundraising and planning that will allow us to serve more youth and advance our programming. Overseeing these projects throughout the Los Angeles Harbor is Vice President of Facilities and Board Secretary Gary Bettis.

Gary has been with our organization since 1998 and previously served as president of the Board. He generously volunteers his time and resources to help us develop and expand. In addition to the time he devotes to the Club, Gary runs his own business, Bettis Insurance Services, and serves as a Board member of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council.

We look forward to unveiling our newly completed projects and the additional learning opportunities we will be able to offer to our members. Thanks to Gary for helping to make it all happen!



Gary and Lori Bettis volunteering at our 28th Annual Golf Classic at Rolling Hills Country Club in July.



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