

Gleanings

NOVEMBER 2010



Fairfield Celebrates the Opening of The Leaven's Third Tutoring Center

October 11: George II was crowned King of England (1727), Theodore Roosevelt became the first U.S. president to fly in an airplane (1910), NASA launched Apollo 7 (1968), and in 2010, The Leaven celebrated the opening of its third tutoring center!

With Mayor Harry T. Price of Fairfield cutting the ceremonial red ribbon, Phoenix Drive officially joined The Leaven's growing outreach to children in our community.

The grand opening was part ceremony, part celebration. Commendations were received from Congressman John Garamendi and State Senator Lois Wolk. Special guests representing The Leaven's Christ-based community of partners included Pastor Alex LeDoux from Samoan Christian Fellowship and Pastor Mike Tadlock from New Community Church. Local restaurants treated the crowd to a bar-b-que. And Phoenix Drive students and their families expressed thanks to our sponsors—Lewis Operating Group, the City of Fairfield, Billy and Louise Yarbrough Family Foundation and Kaiser Permanente.

Vice-Mayor Chuck Timm, a former police sergeant in Fairfield, is one of the biggest supporters of Phoenix Drive. "When I used to get out of my patrol car on that street, I had one hand on my gun. Now I see children learning and playing together, and parents greeting their neighbors. The Leaven is changing this community."

Several churches are considering adopting our Phoenix Drive center as part of their ministry of justice and mercy. We're grateful to our church partners, volunteers and sponsors who make it possible for The Leaven to give our kids a little extra help now—and tremendous hope for the future!



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Follow The Leaven on Facebook and Twitter.
Read our weekly blog at www.MyLeaven.org/blog.

The Leaven's "Catalog for the Children" is a Brand New Way to Celebrate Christmas!

Whether you started your Christmas shopping in July or you'll be shopping on Christmas Eve, The Leaven has a perfect holiday idea for you!

Our 2010 "Catalog for the Children" is packed with great gift ideas to honor your family and friends while bringing hope to a boy or girl through The Leaven.

For example, instead of giving dad another baseball cap, you can provide three books for our Leaven tutoring centers for only \$15. The sweater you usually choose for Grandma can be replaced by a \$55 investment that gives a child an entire month of "Summer Success" programming.

And, honor your pastor or a favorite Sunday school teacher by giving a Leaven student his or her own Bible! What a wonderful gift for a child who will have an opportunity to read about Jesus' love for them!

Our 2010 catalog offers alternative giving ideas—Christmas gifts that really matter. And when you choose your gifts, we'll send you cards that you can present to your loved ones letting them know that you are honoring them with a gift that is a lasting investment in our children.

Our catalog will be distributed on December 1 in the Daily Republic. Give us a call if you want extra copies to pass out—with the corners of pages folded down to indicate the gifts you'd like given in your honor, of course!



Phoenix Drive Center is Designed to Help Students Succeed

For children like Luis and Carla, our tutoring center on Phoenix Drive is the key to classroom success.

Carla struggles with math two grade levels below her classmates. She didn't understand how to do her homework. Luis wants to become an even better reader, so he eagerly chooses a book after his homework is done.

Thanks to our volunteers, each student's specific needs are addressed and success in school becomes a reality!



Wine & Cheese Auction Social a Huge Success – for Our Kids!



The Leaven's second Wine and Cheese Auction Social, held on October 17, was great fun for the attendees and a wonderful success for the boys and girls who benefit from our work.

Fast-paced bidding led by Auctioneer Jay Adair, a wonderful assortment of donated goods and over 3,000 raffle tickets sold resulted in triple the proceeds from our 2009 event. Additionally, more than 50 more kids have sponsors, and our PACE location is fully funded for the next year. The bottom line is that more children will be able to participate in our proven programs of tutoring and mentoring and experience the love of Christ in action—and that's great news!

We were thrilled to have a taped welcome and endorsement from Dr. Phil (see article on page 4), and are grateful to Mayor Price, Councilman Chuck Timm, County Supervisor Jim Sperring and Leaven sponsor Lynda Fairly for participating in the program.

We're already planning our 3rd Wine and Cheese Auction Social for the fall of 2011. Keep watching as we'll be announcing the date in Gleanings.

Peter's Perspective: A Message from the President of the Board

2010 has been such an exciting year for The Leaven, starting with our students raising money for victims of the earthquake in Haiti, followed by our "Summer Success" program, the grand opening of our Phoenix Drive center, our Wine and Cheese Auction Social—and now the launching of our first-ever "Catalog for the Children."

As we have allowed God's love and grace to permeate our actions, The Leaven has been richly blessed. And so, it is a real privilege in this month of Thanksgiving to say "thank you" to every single Leaven volunteer, sponsor and donor for making 2010 a record-setting year.

The Bible says that God has given us "a spirit of power and love" (2 Timothy 1:7). That's certainly true in our work with the boys and girls at our PACE Center, the Groves apartments and on Phoenix Drive. For our staff and our great team of volunteers, it's an act of love to work one-on-one with them and be there when they realize, "I can do it!"

We're not sure what 2011 holds for The Leaven, but with your faithful support, I know we'll look back



next November and give thanks for even more wonderful successes—and more stories of boys and girls who are getting the skills they need for the future through the help our Leaven team provides them today.

From our Leaven team to you, have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Peter M. Gaudet



Dr. Phil Gives Kids a Chance through The Leaven

When you're the host of the second highest-rated daytime talk show in the nation, it could seem like a good time to sit back and relax. But that's not the "get real" advice Dr. Phil gives to himself.

In fact, recognizing that they have been blessed, Dr. Phil and his wife, Robin, established the Dr. Phil Foundation in 2003.

We're excited and privileged that Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw are passionate about The Leaven. In fact, guests at last month's Wine and Cheese Auction Social were welcomed by Dr. Phil in a taped message.

We recently spoke to Steve Davidson, the CEO and president of the Dr. Phil Foundation.

"Our thrust through the foundation is to look for solutions, and then inspire our community to say, 'We want to help!'" he told us. "After all, we always do better as human beings if we're going out doing things for other people.

"The Leaven is one of those solutions, providing opportunities for kids to be around caring adults, get help with their homework, exercise — things we often take for granted.

"The Leaven is saying, 'Give kids a chance.' These kids all have potential. We don't know what these kids can do if they are given an opportunity and are encouraged to not let anything hold them back.

"Dr. Phil and Robin are excited and passionate about The Leaven. Their belief is that we must not write people off just because they live in a bad area or come from a difficult home situation. Instead, we must encourage them to use their God-given skills."

Thank you to the Dr. Phil Foundation for its support of The Leaven. And thank you to our volunteers who, like Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw, believe that every child deserves an opportunity to do and be everything they can.

The Dr. Phil Foundation is committed to supporting organizations and programs that address the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual needs of children and families. The Leaven is grateful to Dr. Phil for his support of our outreach to children in Fairfield.



Dr. Phil Foundation