

Gleanings

OCTOBER 2010



Phoenix Drive is Site of Third Leaven Center

We're excited to announce the opening of The Leaven's After-School Center on Phoenix Drive!

Vice-Mayor Chuck Timm was one of the many volunteers who worked to make this center a reality. "I believe strongly in what The Leaven does," he said. A Fairfield police officer for 31 years before retiring as a Sergeant, Timm recalls, "Sometimes you think, 'I'm tired of running into a wall.' But with The Leaven, we're making a real difference."

Vice-Mayor Timm knows this project requires more than just his praise. That's why he is one of our monthly partners. "The Leaven fills a vital niche in our community. And they need our participation," he said.

The Leaven's Phoenix Drive Center is a result of all of us working together – families in the neighborhoods where we work, teachers and school administrators, our elected officials, Harvest Society monthly sponsors, Leaven volunteers, community churches and you!



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Read our weekly blog at www.MyLeaven.org/blog.

Backpack Backers Send Kids Back to School in Style

New classroom, new teacher, new classmates, new lessons . . . Being nervous about heading back to school is almost a "rite of childhood."

But then there's the excitement of the new school supplies — pencils with erasers, pens that still have their caps, unbroken crayons and a 3-ring binder . . . Remember how much fun it was to pack everything up?

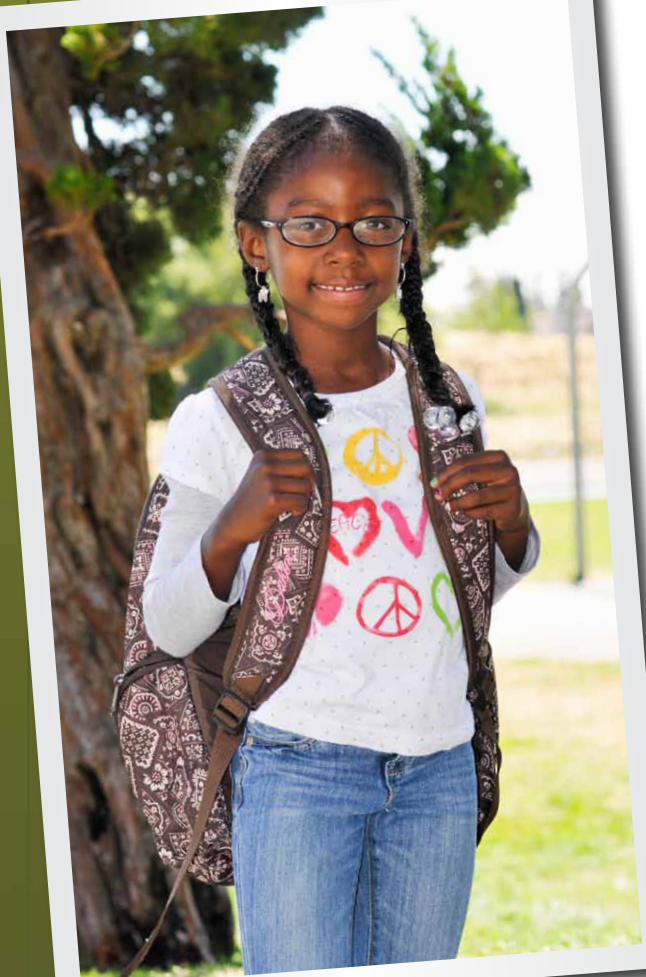
Thanks to Leaven partners, every boy and girl we work with had that happy experience this year. They all headed back to school with a backpack full of supplies.

Our Backpack Backers made sure nothing was forgotten. In addition to the pens, pencils, crayons and binder, each backpack included erasers, highlighters, pencil sharpener, notebook paper, spiral-bound notebook, pocket folders, ruler, scissors, colored pencils, glue stick, and Scotch tape.

Oh, and did we mention the cool wristwatch? Yep, that was tucked in the backpack, too.

The students were overwhelmed with their backpacks, and smiles were on every face. One of our students prayed on behalf of her friends, "God, please bless the people who put these bags together for us." Her prayer is echoed by every one of us at The Leaven.

Special thanks to Hope Church, FAST Lions Club, our Harvest Society and each of our Backpack Backers who helped make this Leaven Success Story possible!



The Leaven's Story Coming to Video

LifeCairn, Inc. is a cinematic company telling stories that enrich life. Todd Slocum (right) and his staff are currently producing two short films telling about the ministry of The Leaven, the issues and struggles the students face, and the story God is writing through The Leaven's impact on Fairfield.

Get to know LifeCairn at www.lifecairn.com and experience our new films at www.myleaven.org (to be released in late October 2010).



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

Sometimes, right in the middle of my planning, I have an awful thought: "What on earth am I doing?" Then I start imagining all the things that could go wrong. . . .

In the last several weeks, we have been moving quickly toward two wonderful opportunities — the grand opening of our new Leaven Center on Phoenix Drive and our Wine and Cheese Auction Social. Talk about an opportunity for worrying!

But in both cases, God has blessed! I am reminded of the promise in Ephesians 3:20. In *The Message*, a contemporary paraphrase, it reads, "God can do anything, you know — far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!" That's a wonderful reminder when we're starting to worry.

You and our other Leaven partners have stood with us, making possible the expansion our programs to help more boys and girls learn how to succeed in school. I trust you are feeling the same excitement I am about the Phoenix Drive center — we couldn't have done it without you!

Our kids in our other locations are showing exciting progress in school, thanks to our committed volunteers, and it's making a real difference for them and their families.

We can plan, but without your partnership we couldn't make *The Leaven's* programs happen. Thank you for standing alongside us as together we change lives and change communities.

Peter M. Gaudet
Board President



THANKS TO SPONSORS

Dine & Cheese
AUCTION SOCIAL

Thanks to our wonderful event sponsors, The Leaven's Wine and Cheese Auction Social this month will be "one for the record books." We're grateful for the many businesses and individuals who donated items to the Auction, provided food and wine, and provided other sponsorships. It is an honor to say "thank you" on behalf of the boys and girls who will ultimately benefit from this amazing fundraising gala.

Fairfield's Mayor Praises The Leaven as We Expand to a Third Site

Mayor Harry T. Price of Fairfield knows the importance of strong communities. And that's why he supports The Leaven.

"The Leaven started because of a vision and church support that turned a piece of property into an absolutely wonderful tutoring center," Mayor Price said recently. "Now, just a few years later, students attending The Leaven's tutoring centers are seeing their reading scores improve — up to three grade levels in some cases.

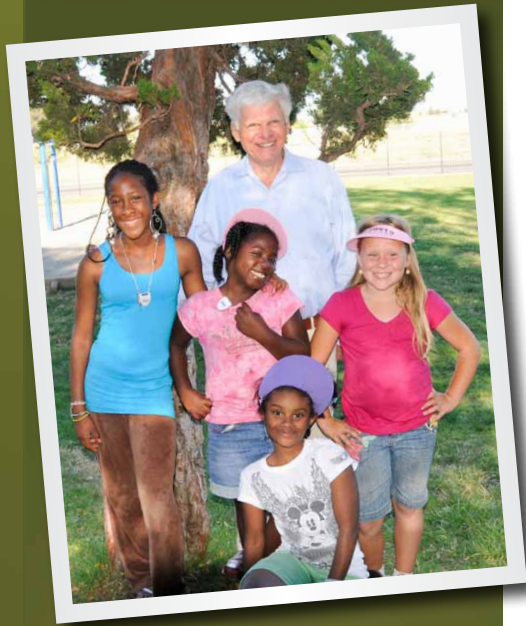
"The Leaven began with one center, and then opened a second center at the Groves. Now The Leaven is moving into a third neighborhood (Phoenix Drive) where there is chronic unemployment and the calls to the police are excessive. Property owners in our city see the value of The Leaven's work as their neighborhoods become wholesome communities with lower crime rates.

"I visit the areas where The Leaven is working, the children are proud of their neighborhoods. They introduce their parents to me and our police officers. Their families are aggressively participating in our crime-free housing effort.

"The Leaven models the kinds of values that children need to see. And it's catching on!

"The impact The Leaven is having in our city is absolutely amazing.

"Indeed, the Lord is working in Fairfield. Our city is aptly named — it truly is a 'fair field,' a wonderful place to live."



You can be a sponsor by taking our "Lattes For The Leaven Challenge!" Be one of our next 24 sponsors, and receive a Leaven mug as a thank you! Go to MyLeaven.org and sponsor today!

✂



I'm Taking The Challenge and turning my lattes into happy, active, learning boys and girls at The Leaven.

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3 lattes=\$10 6 lattes=\$20 15 lattes=\$50

INSTRUCTIONS:
Cut this card out and keep it in your purse or wallet. Each time you buy a drink, mark it on the card. At the end of six weeks, add up the total you spent on coffee drinks and make a matching donation to the kids at The Leaven.