

Gleanings

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NEWS FROM

6 Months + You = Amazing Things

The Leaven's Phoenix Drive Center
Receives Strong Community Support



It's amazing that it's been only six months. In early October last year, the "pool cabana" at the Phoenix Drive apartment complex was sitting empty, no longer used for parties or a place for adults to socialize.

But on October 11, 2010, The Leaven's third tutoring center reopened the cabana, welcoming the neighborhood children to our after-school enrichment programs.

The support from the community has been thrilling. First, all the children at the center are sponsored by monthly partners who are part of The Leaven's Harvest Society. This faithful support means we can provide them with field trips, snacks, and extra opportunities to learn and grow.

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** It's Our Birthday, Thanks to You!
- 2** 2011 Leaven Events Announced!
- 3** Peter's Perspective
- 4** Telling Your Our Story

Happy Birthday To Us!

Two years ago this month, The Leaven launched as an independent nonprofit. Our first two years have been amazing, thanks to the support we receive from our financial partners, city and country officials, volunteers and you!

God has blessed The Leaven, and we are so grateful for His protection and grace. His mercies truly are new every morning!

Mark your calendars! Two dates you won't want to miss!



MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2011

Several sponsorship levels for our upcoming Golf Classic are available to match your company's promotional needs.

Platinum (limited to 2) \$3,500

Superb promotion for your company name including advertising and 2 hole sponsorships, plus tournament golfing for 2 foursomes

Gold (limited to 4) \$2,000

Excellent promotion for your company name including advertising and a hole sponsorship, plus tournament golfing for a foursome

Silver (limited to 7) \$1,000

Promote your company in tournament advertising plus receive a hole sponsorship on the course

Putting Contest Sponsor \$500

Advertise your company at the putting contest plus in the event program book

For further details on the sponsorships or to check on availability for your company, please contact Keli Bilafer at keli@MyLeaven.org or call 707.631.6852. Sponsorships are limited, so please call today!

On June 27, The Leaven is hosting its first golf classic, a tournament being held at the Green Valley Country Club.

Hosted by Copart Inc., this will be a day for duffers and golf pros alike to take to the links and enjoy spending a day on the golf course to benefit the boys and girls of Solano County.

We invite individual golfers and foursomes to sign up. Space is limited, so please call Keli Bilafer today at 707.631.6852 to reserve your spot.



And, our annual Wine and Cheese Auction Social is scheduled for Sunday, October 9. Our volunteer committee is already hard at work to secure some amazing auction items, including old favorites and some surprises. This is always a sold-out event, so plan now to attend and watch our website (www.Myleaven.org) for more details.

Leaven events have three purposes. First, it's a way to say "thank you" to you and our other partners. We've grown tremendously in the last two years, and we know it's because of you. Secondly, we encourage you to bring friends who don't know about The Leaven, and give us the opportunity to tell them our story.

And finally, we want you to have fun! Our volunteers plan great events that always combine good food, friendship and special touches to make the event special.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our Leaven events in 2011!



continued from page 1

Plans for our "Summer Success" program, when we introduce children to their city government and local businesses, as well as provide organized sports and school-readiness tutoring, are well underway, thanks to the partnership of our sponsors.

Meanwhile, our kids are receiving wonderful opportunities for learning because of our dedicated tutors who volunteer one or more days a week to provide one-on-one homework help and reading assistance. Teachers are noticing terrific improvements in the children's progress at school.

Christine Wickliff, a first grade teacher at Anna Kyle elementary School, recently said, "Have you heard of 'It takes a village to raise a child!?' Well, part of our village here at Anna Kyle is The Leaven. The Leaven is a second school for many of our students. We are all in this together to make sure that all students from Anna Kyle are successful in many aspects of their lives."

Principal Sandy Holland at Anna Kyle arranged for The Leaven to receive books that the school would no longer be using as they moved to a different reading program. These new-to-us books are graded to help children increase their reading level, exploring new topics as their proficiency increases.

First Christian Church and Pastor Steve Kiefer have provided many wonderful events for the children, showering them with love and prayers. And, our children have comfortable furnishings to use when they work on their homework, thanks to a generous donation of work tables, computer tables and stools from Kaiser Permanente and additional furnishings from Mission Solano.

A generous donor provided art and craft supplies—including canvases, paints, sketch books, beads, looms, yarn and more—giving our children wonderful tools for expressing their artistic creativity.

Another exciting partnership at our Phoenix Drive center is the 4-H SET program. This brings 4-H high school-aged volunteers to our center to provide opportunities for the boys and girls to increase their knowledge and skills in science, engineering, and technology.

We're grateful to our sponsors, donors, tutors, church supporters and partners who helped the Phoenix Drive Leaven Center get off the ground so quickly. Be watching for more news from Phoenix Drive, including an upcoming Easter celebration for the community and an expanded Summer Success program.

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

Just a few days before Valentine's Day, 70 men and women came together to enjoy The Leaven's Ribbons of Love Valentine's Extravaganza.

This special evening, hosted by Jay and Tammi Adair, was designed to introduce more people to The Leaven. Throughout the evening, we welcomed new friends to our Leaven family and our Harvest Society.

More than 100 children are sponsored through The Leaven, meaning that we can provide special activities, field trips and snacks for our children at the tutoring centers. The opportunity to give each of our boys and girls a safe place to learn and play is possible because of you and our other sponsors and partners.

Valentine's Day is a time to show love and appreciation to those we care about. At The Leaven, we are so grateful for you every single day. Our work is growing and we're helping more boys and girls because you are standing alongside us.

Thank you for being a special friend to The Leaven!

Peter M. Gaudet, *Board President*





Telling the Story Of Our Day

Telling stories is an ancient tradition. Long before written language, people told stories to remember and to teach.

The Leaven enjoys telling you the stories of our days, and sharing the wonderful things that are happening because of your partnership. And we're excited to have a master storyteller to help us capture our story in video.

The Leaven has partnered with Todd Slocum at LifeCairn to capture our stories and bring them to your home computer. Todd's company may seem to have an unusual name, but consider that a "cairn" is a collection of rocks erected to mark a path or event. With the help of LifeCairn, we're bringing The Leaven to life, marking the events in our organization's and children's lives by sharing our stories on video.

"We're a company committed to telling stories that enrich lives," Todd explains. "A cinematic story is like a cairn in the sense that it rises above the surroundings to grab our attention and tell us something important.

"The Leaven is enriching kids' lives, giving them the attention, help and love they need to succeed in school and in life. It's exciting for us to tell you The Leaven's stories!"

We're adding new "Leaven Stories" to our website on a regular basis, so bookmark our site (www.MyLeaven.org) and click on "Video" (on the upper right side). We'd love to share with you the story of our day!

