

Gleanings

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Learning about Love, Students Respond with Valentines for the Troops



It will be a very happy day for service men and women who will be receiving valentines from our Leaven children.

During January at our Phoenix Drive tutoring center, our Leaven boys and girls learned about love from 1 Corinthians 13. That Scripture teaches that love is shown through patience, kindness, and a "you first" attitude. That's a great lesson for boys and girls!

In addition to learning how to show love in their families, classrooms and on the playground, the children made valentines for our soldiers deployed overseas. These homemade messages of encouragement and

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The Leaven Welcomes its 100th Sponsor!

In January, our 100th child was sponsored! Our sponsors give \$25 a month to help one child enjoy all the benefits of The Leaven's program, and are members of our Harvest Society. Dr. Jowel Laguerre (see article above) sponsors several children through The Leaven and says, "Even though it seems everything is being cut, I'm not going to cut my sponsorships with The Leaven!"

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thanks are sure to brighten the day of a soldier serving our country far from home and loved ones this Valentine's Day.

A special ceremony, attended by Mayor Harry T. Price, Vice Mayor Chuck Timm, Councilwoman Dilenna Harris, Sandy Nafziger of Cadence International, Robin Vechery (wife of Travis Air Force Base Commander Colonel James C. Vechery) and Colonel Gary J. Gottschall and Lt. Colonel Klein from Travis Air Force Base, was held on Friday, January 28.

One valentine was presented by the children to Master Sergeant Matthew Moore and his wife, Rochelle, and the others will be included with the supplies delivered from Travis Air Force Base.

"Valentines for the Troops" was part of "The Leaven Gives Back" program, teaching our children to live generously!

Groves Students "Give Back" to Children in Haiti



Just one year after a devastating earthquake destroyed much of the island nation of Haiti, our Groves children reached out to orphans who survived the quake—but saw their home destroyed.

This wasn't the first time our students helped them. Right after the quake, they collected money for the children at the Lamb Center. Located near the epicenter of last year's catastrophic earthquake, this home for 260 orphaned children sustained heavy damage.

On the anniversary of the disaster, our children collected money to send to the Lamb Center to help them as they continue the long road to recovery. And two Leaven church partners—Hope Christian and New Community—matched every dollar the boys and girls raised.

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, president of Solano Community College and a native of Haiti, received the money from the children at a special presentation. "Last week I received a message from the Lamb Center that says the center is running out of food," Dr. Laguerre told us. "God is answering their prayers for help through this gift."

At The Leaven, we focus on after-school tutoring to help children succeed in school. But, more than that, we want them to succeed in life. Part of that success is having a generous spirit to help others who have great needs. We're proud of our children and their sharing!



Women's Winter Wine Luncheon Launches "Hands of Hope"

On January 19, more than 50 women joined hostess Tammi Adair and Keli Bilafer of The Leaven for our Winter Wine Luncheon. This intimate event launched Hands of Hope, The Leaven's new women's service club. As The Leaven grows, more hands are needed to help with our after-school programs, fundraising events and telling our story in the community. Our "founding members" are eager to have more women join Hands of Hope, so please contact us if you'd like to participate or learn more.

At the luncheon, Mrs. Adair spoke of her own experience sponsoring children through The Leaven. While grants cover many of the costs of our tutoring work, sponsors like Tammi help us provide the extra care that enriches children's lives and gives them the ability and the confidence to succeed.

If you'd like to join our 100+ sponsors and donate monthly to help a child thrive, please email us at hello@MyLeaven.org, or sign up to sponsor online at www.MyLeaven.org.



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

I recently read 1 Timothy 4:9-10 in *The Message*, a modern paraphrase of the Bible. It seems like a perfect "year verse" for The Leaven in 2011: "You can count on this. Take it to heart. This is why we've thrown ourselves into this venture so totally. We're banking on the living God, Savior of all men and women." (*The Message*)

At The Leaven, our volunteers, supporters and staff truly have "thrown themselves totally" into the ministry. Several women have joined together to launch the Hands of Hope service club, 100 people are sponsoring children, and we're moving forward with the launch of our fourth tutoring center in the fall.

In addition, we'll be hosting our first Valentine's Extravaganza this month. The theme is "Ribbons of Love" — a wonderful metaphor for the strong bonds we have with the children in our program. We're also planning a special edition of our "Catalog for the Children" for the spring, and a golf classic in June.

From volunteers who tutor our children to monthly sponsors—and everyone in between—we are grateful for every adult who makes it possible for the children in our neighborhoods to succeed in school. But more than that, they are learning that hard work, generous actions and faith in God are the answers to a joy-filled future.

Thank you for throwing yourself so completely into The Leaven's ministry. You and our living God are giving children help for today and hope for eternity!

Peter M. Gaudet
Board President





Changing a Life, One Multiplication Table at a Time

Morgan has been living with her grandmother for most of her life, and she couldn't have a better role model than Esther. "I always try very hard to teach Morgan right from wrong," Esther recently told us. "She knows she can't get away with anything with Nana!"

Since one of Grandma's rules is that Morgan always has to do her homework before she goes out to play, Esther was thrilled when The Leaven opened its Center in The Groves apartment complex. "I like the tutoring here in the complex. There are things I can't help Morgan with. So if there is something I don't understand or can't explain to her, I let tutoring do it!"

And the partnership between Morgan, her grandmother and The Leaven is certainly paying off. In December, she earned two certificates at school—one for being a "B" student and the other for being named "student of the month."

"She didn't know her times tables," Esther recalled. "But with the tutoring, she now knows them and she got a B in math! Ever since she started going to tutoring, Morgan makes progress."

"I am very proud of Morgan," Esther says. "She's still a little bit behind in school, but we're working on it. The Leaven tutoring is helping her get up to grade level."

More than 100 children are getting the same opportunities as Morgan, seeing their reading improve and mastering their times tables, thanks to our faithful sponsors and volunteers. And in our eyes, all our boys and girls are students of the month!

Crystal, Moises and Morgan (left to right)

