

KIDS on the RISE

New Name, Same Great Newsletter

APRIL 2011



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



We're excited about "Kids on the Rise," the new name of our monthly newsletter. Our Leaven students are definitely growing—mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. They're learning how to succeed in school, making good decisions about food and lifestyle choices, practicing giving back to others, and seeing God's love for them in action.

There is more about The Leaven that is "on the rise." Thanks to you, we have more than 100 sponsors, and we're planning the opening of our fourth Fairfield tutoring center in the fall. We have exciting partnerships with local churches, civic groups and businesses.

We'll have more exciting news throughout the year, so watch your mailbox or inbox for "Kids on the Rise," and celebrate our children with us. Thank you for your partnership!

Peter M. Gaudet, Board President

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"I am 100% committed to our community, and that's why I support The Leaven. I want to do all I can to ensure our county's children can grasp all the bright and promising opportunities America offers. The Leaven helps them walk the path to success as they master critical skills in school, learn about healthy lifestyle choices, and become a vibrant part of our community."

Chuck Timm, Vice-Mayor, City of Fairfield



"The Leaven... provides a model approach to mentor, tutor, enrich and ultimately empower local at-risk children to find success and stability in their own lives. Having the Leaven program centers directly in neighborhoods makes the program more accessible and provides the unique opportunity to integrate family members and local residents into daily activities. These centers have had a tremendous impact on the lives of hundreds of participating children."

Sean P. Quinn
Fairfield City Manager

Printed in Daily Republic
March 6, 2011

Snails Teach Science to The Leaven's Children

In March, Solano County's UC Cooperative Extension brought an exciting program to The Leaven's tutoring center at the Phoenix Drive apartment neighborhood in Fairfield. "Learning Science with Snails," a hands-on science lesson, was presented by local 4H students who are participating in a Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) project.

The goal of SET is to increase science literacy of teens by training them in a variety of science activities that they then teach to elementary age students. The teens' unique program used snails for the lessons. Through demonstrations and activities, our boys and girls used the scientific method (observing, communicating, organizing, relating, inferring, and applying) to see how science impacts their daily lives.

Leaven students participated in a snail circus, a snail race and the grand finale—seeing if the snails can escape the seemingly breakout-free "snail jail."

"Slow and Steady" Progress

The Leaven children enjoyed this opportunity to experience interactive, fast-paced, exciting learning, and the program furthered The Leaven's goal of giving children tools to succeed in school and in life by reinforcing the science standards taught in the classroom. This program also reflects a shared goal of our Phoenix Drive site sponsor, Kaiser Permanente.

Carole Paterson, director and 4-H youth development advisor for Solano County's UC Cooperative Extension, commented, "The excitement and noise level reflected the fun-in-science experience."

Oh, and about that snail jail? Snails are more clever than first thought. Every one of them managed to escape the jail with hard work and steady determination.

And that's a good lesson for the children, too. Staying focused on the goal—completing school and having a meaningful career—requires concentration and commitment.

The Leaven is a Family Tradition

When Jessica Rodriguez talks about The Leaven, you can hear the smile in her voice. "Words cannot express the gratitude we have for them," she says. "They have been such a blessing to our family."

Jessica and her husband have four children, and The Leaven has been part of their lives since we began as a ministry of Parkway Community Church back in 2005. Breanna, now a freshman in high school, first started attending our tutoring center then.

Reyna, now in fifth grade, and Ernie, Jr., a third grader, attend The Leaven regularly, along with Gabi, their sister in kindergarten. "They are all excelling academically because of the extra help they get from The Leaven," Jessica reports. "The Leaven is an extra reinforcement for us; they are such a positive influence in our children's lives."

Both Reyna and Ernie scored above average in the state academic testing last school year, and both received an award from David Weir School, where they attend, for their achievements. Gabi is already reading at the second grade level. "Our children are excelling academically because of the extra help they get from The Leaven," their justifiably proud mother says.

"Since Reyna and Ernie began to attend The Leaven, both have been awarded 'Student of the Week' several times, and Reyna was 'Student of the Month' earlier this year.

"Without The Leaven, I don't think they would be at the level they are," Jessica concludes.

We're proud of Gabi, Ernie and Reyna, who attend our PACE tutoring center. Just as The Leaven is a blessing to the Rodriguez family, the children are a wonderful blessing to all of us!

It's Easy to Find The Leaven!



Have you checked out all the ways you can connect with The Leaven?

If you enjoy watching TV, you'll want to check out our YouTube channel. The Leaven is at www.YouTube.com/user/MyLeaven, and we're loading our latest video programs there to give you a first-hand look at what happens at our Leaven centers.

After checking out our YouTube channel, click on the "subscribe" button and you'll get an email every time we add a new program to our channel.

If you're one of the more than 500 million **Facebook** users, why not "Like" The Leaven? If you're not already receiving our posts in your news feed, search for "**The Leaven**," click "Like" and you'll get our Monday Morning Meditation (a verse from the Psalms to give you extra encouragement as your week begins), breaking news from our tutoring centers, and more.

We're also on **Twitter (@theleaven)**, so if you like your news in 140 characters or less, follow us for quick thoughts and updates.

But wait—there's more! Our Leaven blog (www.MyLeaven.org/blog) serves up a fresh article weekly (on Thursdays), and any other time there's news to share. We'd love to hear your comments on our blog posts.

Any way you connect with us—YouTube, Facebook, Twitter or our blog—we're glad to have you as a Leaven friend and follower!



**Solano
GREAT RACE**

Put Kids on the Fast Track to Success

The Solano Great Race

Putting Our Kids on the
Fast Track to Success

The Chamber of Commerce Leadership Today class, a group of young professionals, is organizing the Solano Great Race to benefit The Leaven! The race is being held on **Wednesday, May 18** from noon to 3 p.m. at **Driven Raceway** in Fairfield.

Companies will be competing against one another for bragging rights on who is the best driver, and first, second and third place trophies will be awarded to the racers with the best times.

To learn more and join the Solano Great Race, email **Cathy Rios** from Travis Credit Union at crios@traviscu.org or **Keli Bilafer** from the Leaven at Keli@myleaven.org. Don't miss this exciting and fast-moving event!



Our Golf Tournament is Just Weeks Away!

The Leaven, Copart, Inc., Solano Garbage and Nike are looking forward to welcoming you to the 1st Annual Golf Classic to benefit The Leaven!

On June 27 at the Green Valley Country Club, dozens of golfers will take to the course, competing for prizes and personal glory. They'll enjoy a helicopter ball drop, use of a golf cart, 18 holes of exceptional golf, a delicious dinner and silent auction, and the breathtaking views and awe-inspiring landscapes of Green Valley.

The silent auction features sports memorabilia, so you'll want to bid generously, knowing you are helping our community's boys and girls through The Leaven.

Limited sponsorships are still available at the following levels:

Gold Level (\$2,000) includes excellent promotion for your company name including advertising and a hole sponsorship, plus tournament golfing for a foursome.

Silver Level (\$1,000) lets you promote your company (or even your family) in tournament advertising, plus receive a hole sponsorship on the course.

Putting Contest Sponsors (\$500) receive advertising at the putting contest and in the event program book.

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



Monday, June 27, 2011