

KIDS on the RISE

GIVING BOYS AND GIRLS HELP FOR TODAY AND HOPE FOR ETERNITY.

MAY 2011



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Reading the Greatest Book of All

Your Gifts to Leaven
Students Change Lives



Improving as a reader opens up a world of possibilities for a child in school. But it also opens the door to learning about Jesus.

Last year, Lisa,* one of our fifth-grade students at The Groves, accepted Jesus into her heart during Vacation Bible School. With the help of church members who provide transportation, Lisa and her younger sister and brother continue to attend church, and she is learning more about being a Christian.

Thanks to the generosity of our Leaven partners, we gave Lisa a beautiful Bible of her own. Her mother called it "the best gift," because her daughter is such a voracious reader.

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"The Leaven really is an extension of what we do. It's not just about the academics; it's about the whole child."

Martha Lacy,
Principal, David Weir Elementary
School, and Leaven Sponsor

Don't Forget!

Our Spring Catalog for the Children is online for your convenience! Check out www.MyLeaven.org/catalog to give — and make a difference — now!



It's Just a Click Away!

We've given www.MyLeaven.org a new look, and the critics are raving!

When you log on, you'll find an easy-to-navigate menu on the top of each page. From there, you can read our weekly blog, sponsor a child, contact one of our tutoring centers, see who is on our board of directors, read our history, check out upcoming events, and much more.

Also, there are easy links to follow us on Twitter, "like" us on Facebook and sign up for our e-newsletter.

Let us know what you think by posting a comment on a blog post or on Facebook. While we're excited about the new look of www.MyLeaven.org, we know it's never done. Your comments will help us make it even better.

Why not bookmark www.MyLeaven.org, and check us out regularly? We'll keep the "welcome mat" out for you!

It Takes an Apartment Complex to Tell The Leaven Story!

In early April, 30 pastors and Christian leaders descended on The Groves apartments to learn more about The Leaven.

The first to arrive were met with just a taste of what some children experience regularly—eight police cars blocking the entrance, with officers pointing guns at the building where four of our Leaven children live. Fortunately, they were able to apprehend four suspects who came from the Phoenix Drive neighborhood where The Leaven also works.

After that somewhat dramatic start, the pastors enjoyed a luncheon hosted by The Leaven. Mr. Bogello, whose son attends The Leaven at The Groves, prepared a delicious homemade Mexican feast. Tables and chairs were provided by the City of Fairfield, and the management of the complex provided the space normally set aside for The Leaven's tutoring center as our venue.

"These are pastors and leaders from Fairfield and Suisun City who come together once a month to pray for their cities," Joseph Lugo, host of the luncheon and The Leaven's Church and Community Outreach Director, said. "One of the luncheon guests, after watching the police drama unfold right outside our center, observed, 'You certainly know you're in the right place!'"

"Seeing the situation many of our children face every day only strengthens your commitment to pray for our neighborhoods," Lugo said. "This is a real mission field right in the backyard of our churches. They don't have to go far to see real need."

The Leaven was privileged to show our latest videos and introduce these Christian leaders to the work we are doing to give boys and girls help today and hope for eternity.

Gary Aylworth, one of the attendees, wrote this on our Facebook wall: "I had the pleasure of attending the Tuesday meeting at the Groves and The Leaven is doing amazing work and glorifying our Father in Heaven. I for one want to be more of a part of such a great program." Thanks, Gary, and thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to work with these little children!

Pastor Mike Tadlock,
New Community Church



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

There are few things that “we, the people” all have in common. But one thing is true: we each have (or had) a mother. Some are godly women, some were absent most or all of our lives, some have passed away, some are great cooks.

At The Leaven, we teach our children to honor their mothers (and fathers), as the Bible teaches. And, the children extend this honor to our volunteers and staff who shower them with love and attention.

“A lot of their struggles at home are finances,” Paulina Polk, The Leaven’s PACE Center director, said. “When the parents are stressed, it affects the kids.”

Martha Lacy, principal at David Weir Elementary School and a Leaven supporter, told a third-grader who hasn’t yet learned to read, about The Leaven. His face lit up with excitement. Even in elementary school, when someone wants to help a child learn, they recognize that it’s a real gift.

As you celebrate your mother or women who helped shape you into the adult you are today, please pray for our Leaven children. And thank you for helping us give them help to succeed today in school — and for their lifetimes.

Peter M. Gaudet,
Board President



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A few weeks back, Lisa was having a conversation with some family members about “God’s mother.” Our Leaven student quickly said, “Jesus’ mother is Mary. That’s what it says in my Bible!”

In addition to reading her Bible, Lisa is studying hard for school, and doing well at Cleo Gordon Elementary. She often brings in books, in addition to her school books, to read at The Leaven.

Lisa is also enjoying the photography class that is funded by Kaiser Permanente and led by students from University of California Davis. The students are doing a “photo voice” — a group of photos that represent good nutrition and physical fitness. Their photos are on display this month at Lisa’s school.

We’re proud of Lisa, and thankful to Renee Tadlock from New Community Church who comes every Tuesday to teach her and our other fifth grade students what it means to be godly young women. With Christians supporting her and a Bible to “hide in her heart,” Lisa has the promise of a wonderful future ahead of her.

*Student’s name changed for privacy reasons

The Leaven to Offer “Summer Success” Again in 2011

Our Summer Success program will kick off at Phoenix Drive this year on June 22, bringing this great program to our third program site.

At all three centers, boys and girls will receive reading assistance to prepare them for returning to school in the fall, and enjoy field trips that are both educational and fun. Additionally, Vacaville Christian School students will lead a soccer program, giving Leaven kids a chance to improve their skills and their overall physical fitness.

The importance of our Summer Success program is highlighted by two facts: First, school district budgets cuts have eliminated summer school and summer camp programs. Added to that, our police department reports that most juvenile crime happens over the summer. The Leaven’s program is one of the few options available to many of our kids—and it just could keep them on the right path for life!

Through The Leaven, children kindergarten through fifth grade have a safe, supervised place to go throughout the summer, and they benefit long-term from tutoring that helps them advance in reading and prepare for the next school year. In fact, our students will read more than 100 books this summer!

If you’re interested in volunteering with our Summer Success program on Phoenix Drive or at one of our other locations, give us a call at 707-422-5439.



Put Kids on the Fast Track to Success



Driving Fast and Hitting Long For The Leaven

In just a few days, the Solano Great Race will be underway. This event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Today class, benefits The Leaven’s Grande Circle expansion.

This event is an “extra benefit” to employees, as their employers are recognizing their hard work through participating in this fun event that has a great purpose. Drivers sponsored by these local businesses will race to see who the fastest driver is.

Special thanks to Sandy Durrance and Leadership Today for their hard work on behalf of The Leaven.

And a few weeks later, golfers will fire up their golf carts — some decorated to promote a local employer or family — and tee off at The Leaven’s first golf classic, brought to you by Copart.

We believe this is going to be the premier golf tournament of 2011 in Solano County. Each golfers will receive complimentary Nike gear, exceptional golf that moves at a fast pace, a VIP auction with high level sports memorabilia, a delicious meal—and the joy that comes from knowing they are helping students right here in our community.

Income from The Great Race and the golf tournament will help launch The Leaven’s fourth after-school tutoring center on Grande Circle. Maribel Lozoya, who has been interning at the PACE center for the last year, will be the director of this center. Registration for our newest location will be held during the month of June, and the Grand Opening is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2011.

Thank you for making The Leaven’s growth possible — and thank you for giving our boys and girls the tools they need to succeed in life.

“If you want to change a city, you have to give children a great education. Once they have that foundation, the kids can build on it. Trust me on this — The Leaven is a very good thing for Fairfield!”

Chuck Timm
City of Fairfield, Vice-Mayor