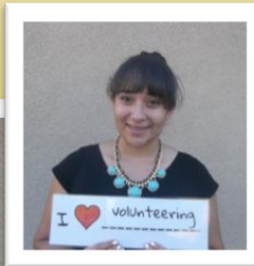
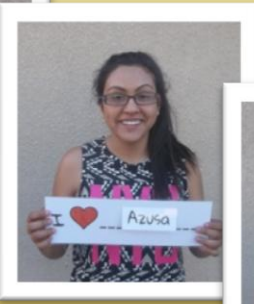


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Our mission is to partner with parents of at risk Azusa students to provide the tools to thrive academically and socially.

Those who help us thrive:





Neighborhood  
Homework House  
Rewriting the future since 1997

November 2014

Vol. 17, Issue 36

# NHH | News



## Neighborhood Homework House ...Homework and so much more!

As the school year begins we are excited to welcome new school readiness students. Last year our program was so successful that thanks to a grant from the Canyon City Foundation, as we enter year two, we will have the capacity to serve 20 children. In the end of October, we are also adding our "Parent and Me" sessions to our school readiness program. We are looking forward to providing these pre-preschoolers with the tools to successfully enter Kindergarten!

Parents too are equipping themselves to be both better parents and better advocates for their children. **We had 25 new families enroll their children in Neighborhood Homework House for the 2014-2015 school year accounting for 51 new students.** All of them, along with our returning parents attended an orientation lead by our amazing parent committee. They will also be attending an Open House, observe a tutoring session and meet with the program coordinator all as part of helping them extend the study habits their children are learning at NHH in their own homes daily. We are continuing to offer parent education opportunities through our suite of "personal tools" including ESL classes among other coursework. Our parent committee has scheduled two fall workshops for parents on domestic violence prevention and preparing students for college.



"We rise by lifting others." -Robert Ingersoll



## Our Students as Servant Leaders



Program wide we have decided to move towards emphasizing our students tremendous leadership potential by creating opportunities for our students to be givers and leaders. Both our junior and senior high school students will be participating in monthly service activities. Middle school students, while small in number, have formed a **leadership team** where they themselves are not only planning peer activities but are also planning and leading "Friday Fun Days" for our elementary school program.

The first service project the middle schoolers tackled was working Azusa's annual "**Golden Days Parade**." They helped by organizing the different floats and entries in the parade. Our high school students joined Compton community members and other volunteer groups in the "**Compton Initiative**," a day of school painting, cleanup and beautification.

In November and December, our K-5 students will "spend" their house buck dollars on gifts to be included in Operation Christmas Child. Each child will fill a box that Operation Christmas Child will collect and send to children all over the world in need. Not to be left out in the shift towards service, our parents will be serving at a local senior center during the Christmas season.



# Our Hometown Hero



We are proud to share that one of our teen leaders was nominated as Azusa's Hometown Hero at the LA County fair. Aileen has been a faithful volunteer since 2011 at Neighborhood Homework House. To date, she has completed 485 hours of service. Aileen is a student in our high school program who decided she wanted to give back for all the years of service given to her in the program. She worked with elementary students as a tutor providing homework assistance and mentoring. Her students enjoyed sharing their lives with her and doing their homework with her.

This year in partnership with her older sister, Shaila, she began to offer ballet folklorico dance classes to Homework House students free of charge. She now assists her sister in teaching more than 20 students traditional cultural dances. She enjoys giving of her time, talents, and energy. We believe that Aileen models Azusa values and spirit in how she uses her time. She is a Senior at Gladstone High School this year and we are excited to see what life has in store for her!!!

**"Becoming the Azusa town hero has been an experience which I will never forget. I feel that my winning this award has shown people especially teens that hard work always pays off. Never stop believing."**  
-Aileen, 12<sup>th</sup> grader

## Housebuck Store & Marketplace

Every day at NHH, our students are asked to not only complete their homework but are expected to engage in a wide array of educational activities. In turn, we keep a running total of points based on their participation and attitude in accomplishing these pieces. The children and youth are then given the chance to "spend" these points or bucks in our "house buck store," for the K-5 program, or in the "marketplace," for the teens. We rely on donations of new toys, school supplies, sporting goods and other items from partners to "stock" both stores. We strategically want our students to see anything they receive as something they earned rather than just a give away.

Besides the shift in "the house buck store" to Operation Christmas Child for the K-5 program, we anticipate a shift around Christmastime in our "marketplace" as many of our teens shop for their families Christmas gifts instead of for personal use.

**Contact us today if you are interested in helping "stock" both of our stores this holiday season!**



### Contact Information

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**"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." -MLK**