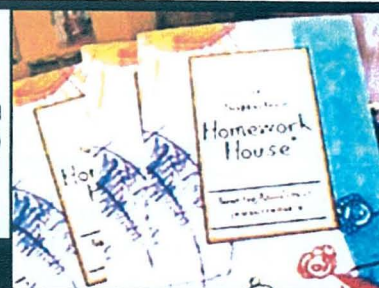


Our Neighborhood HOMEWORK HOUSE NEWS

P.O. Box 0993 * Azusa, CA 91702 * www.neighborhoodhomeworkhouse.org

Spring 2004



Homework House Makes the Grade

By: Abigail Gaines

Everyone wants to know if they are doing a good job and for the Homework House the grades are in! At the end of each year, students, teachers, parents, and tutors have an opportunity to assess Homework House's program and it's impact on the students and neighborhoods it

Oscar turns in almost all of his homework now, and it is obvious he feels much better about himself and school.

-3rd Grade Teacher at Lee Elementary School

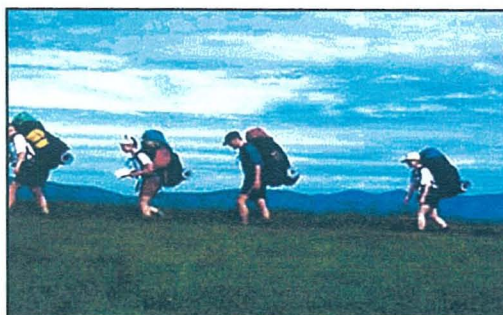
serves. The Homework House received overwhelmingly positive responses this year!

Teachers, students, and parents agree that the services provided by the Homework House are an essential and much needed resource to the City of Azusa. Some of the greatest impact was found in the students served in the new 6th Street neighborhood Homework House, "German really enjoyed Homework House and would beg for extra work to take home with him," responded a 2nd grade teacher from Hodge Elementary School.

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A New Adventure: Outward Bound

By: Rochelle Veturis



A new and inspiring program has joined forces with the Homework House to engage 12 high school students in environmental learning and personal growth experiences. The organization is called Outward Bound Adventures, and since 1963 more than 18,000 youth have participated in their courses. "OBA's challenging environmental educational programs help 1) upgrade academic performance; 2) develop leadership skills; and 3) increase the sense of attachment and

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Students feel safe, loved, and encouraged to do their best at the Homework House

100%

Teachers feel their student's involvement in the Homework House plays a significant role in their educational success and support

90%

Parents feel the Homework House's presence has helped their family and has unified the neighborhood

100%

Tutors feel their experience at the Homework House has helped them to appreciate a culture other than their own

98%

Teachers say their students who attend the Homework House turn in completed homework consistently

90%

Students try to think about the choices they make because they know that people at the Homework House will care

100%

Spring Fundraiser 2004 *Children: Our Treasure*



Children: Our Treasure proved to be a very fitting theme for this year's annual spring auction as the evening became a fun celebration of our children and how precious they truly are. Homework House children entertained guests with skits and personal testimonies, while professional comedian, Mike Rayner, kept the crowd laughing late into the night.

We are deeply grateful to our many donors who provided us with such wonderful items to be auctioned. Everything was auctioned off and the Homework House raised a momentous amount for our new Sixth Street location!

Thanks to our very generous sponsors:

Covina Vineyard Church
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Best Best & Krieger LLP
RBF Consulting Foundation
Southern California Gas Company
(Sempra Energy Utility)
Ministry & Service Office
PTB Sales of Azusa
Derald & Charlotte Brackmann

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Also profoundly impacted by the Homework House are it's nearly 90 volunteer tutors who serve as role-models and mentors to the children they work with. "The Homework House has helped me realize how much need there is in the community and how I can make a difference in the lives of these children" expressed one long-term tutor. Another tutor recognized that, "the kids know that they are loved, are learning the importance of school, and are developing an understanding of the love of Jesus."

The children of the Homework House have an equally positive response to their tutors as one 4th grade student, who has been attending the Homework House for five years, wrote to a Homework House leader, "...you have helped me with my spelling, reading, and math... You shine like the bright morning sun. You have been a lot of people's role model."

Homework House

Makes Headlines

*Tutorial Program to Open
Doors: Lee Elementary
Neighborhood Students
can get Free Help
-San Gabriel Valley Tribune
Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

*Tutoring Group
Offers Haven to Ease
Burden of Schoolwork
-Los Angeles Times
Tuesday, April 13, 2004*

*Outstanding Women of the 24th Senate District...
[Awards] Kerry Freeman of Azusa...
for Activism and Community Leadership
-San Gabriel Valley Tribune
Saturday, April 3, 2004*

In appreciation .. for your unselfish effort in bridging the contemporary gap between our school and our residents .. by providing a place where students may go to receive tutoring and mentoring in order to prepare them to further their education in a direct and meaningful way.
*City of Azusa
April 5, 2004*



Recognition of dedication to youth of Azusa through the tutoring and mentoring programs you provide
*California State Assembly
April 5, 2004*

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community involvement" of its partaking youth. Piquing their interest and curiosity about nature and building them up as people, the program is a rich opportunity that the Homework House will soon be able to provide its students.

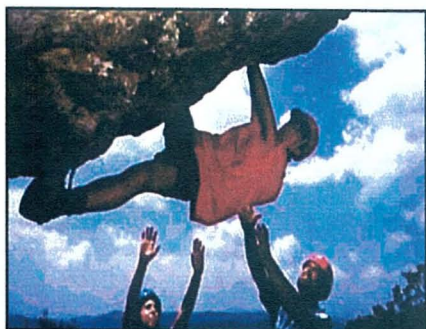
With the first trip scheduled for August 6th, 2004, an estimated \$2,500 (per student) will need to be raised. This will include all fees, food, and expenses for the OBA's series of five trips. And the kids are absolutely worth it! "It's about getting them experiences outside of their immediate

environments... to get them out into nature," comments Abigail Gaines, Program Director of the 9th Street Homework House.

"We want to get them away from the pressures of school, friends, and family," she continues in enthusiasm. Sitting and chatting with her over this program, one can immediately see that her passion lies in keeping her kids connected. Many students have been at the Homework House since they were very small, and now it's time to equip them with applicable and beneficial experiences as they transition into junior high and high school. Abigail and her husband, Jacob, plan to become Outward Bound staff members,

It's about getting them experiences outside of their immediate environments...

*-Abigail Gaines,
Program Director*



allowing them to ultimately escort and tailor these trips, for the Homework House kids, annexing a faith based theme. This program is especially exciting as it grows the students into their own leadership positions as YAC's (Youth Advisory Council Members), integrating them with OBA and allowing them to reciprocate by becoming mentors themselves. Thrusting these urban youth into the throws of raw nature itself will be an excellent way to develop their survival skills and allow their minds, hearts, and souls to exhale! The OBA program is a breath of fresh mountain air for the youth of 9th street with a promising future ahead for all involved. Look for continuing updates on this inspiring endeavor! For more info. www.outwardboundadventures.org

Kerry's Korner



Dear Friends,

Because of you this has been a winning year for the children of the Neighborhood Homework House.

As you can see from the teacher comments, together our efforts *are* impacting our future! It has been said, "Losers are orphans and winners have many fathers." You, as a partner, are a co-parent and co-laborer in empowering at-risk children to achieve their highest potential academically, socially and spiritually. It is a monumental, but magnificent task. Thank you – it takes us all working together to make this beautiful difference.

Because of you, our Spring Auction and Dessert was a spectacular success. Thanks to the amazing efforts of our Fundraiser Committee, led by board members Jan Wickersham, Virginia White and Tim Hooten, we enjoyed a grand evening packed with fun and great deals for all who attended.

Because of you, in January we opened a second Homework House in another low-income neighborhood of Azusa. Already a new sense of hope and community has been birthed among the children and families of the 6th Street Homework House. In just one semester, according to their teachers, the children of 6th St. are improving their academic performances.

Providing free tutoring and mentoring to the most vulnerable children in two of Azusa's neighborhoods is no simple task. *But because you*, our supporters, understand that investing in bringing at-risk kids hope and academic help is critical to our future, and because a community of volunteers has rallied around, Neighborhood Homework House kids *are* winners. And when our kids are winners, we are all winners.

Because of you, we are now gearing up for Summer Splash and six weeks of summer time fun and enrichment for both our targeted neighborhoods. Two teens from each neighborhood will be hired to serve as junior team leaders and be mentored by our summer Program Directors Abigail and Jacob Gaines, and Maryel Giron.

On behalf of all the children whose lives are being touched by your partnership, I thank you!

Warmest regards,

Kerry Freeman
Executive Director

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WWW.ESCRIP.COM

Neighborhood Homework House

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*It's easy, it's free, it's secure,
it works!*



Make a lasting impression on the future of our kids

Contact Us:

Our Neighborhood Homework House

P.O. Box 0993

Azusa, CA 91702

(626)969-7051

e-mail: homeworkhouse@hotmail.com

Ways You Can Partner With Our Neighborhood Homework House!

- * Be a regular financial and prayer partner
- * Donate to the Outward Bound Scholarship Fund
- * Volunteer expertise in, accounting, printing, computers, etc.
- * Sponsor a child for Summer Splash
- * Be a corporate sponsor of Homework House
- * Donate prizes and services for our annual Spring auction
- * Donate new school supplies
- * Participate in Fundraising Events
- * Be a tutor!!

**All Donations Are*
Tax Deductible*



Our Neighborhood

HOMEWORK HOUSE

P.O. Box 0993

Azusa, CA 91702

Benefiting Azusa's most precious resource