

These are a few of our favorite things...

Supporting Families and Strengthening Communities

Community Gatherings

Homework House families come together for many events, primarily organized by the Parent Leadership Group, to create a shared sense of belonging.

Noche de Gracias (Night of Thanksgiving) was a first time event for families to come together and share food and express appreciation to the Homework House staff and volunteers. **"I am thankful for Homework House because it has always been there for me"** was just one of the many notes of gratitude that were written. Words of appreciation were also expressed to the staff from families who were recipients of turkeys from the **Turkey Distribution** coordinated through **Senator Hernandez Office**.

Las Posadas have become a signature event for our families. The families gather to remember the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter as well as to share food, enjoy games including a piñata and to enjoy each other's company.

Residents of Azusa and surrounding communities demonstrate their care for Homework House families in so many ways. It was community volunteers such as **Sue Phelps** and the **Girl Scout Troop** who made our Christmas celebrations possible by preparing cookies, providing paper goods, drinks and managing games for the younger children.

Partnerships

We again are appreciative of businesses such as **Wells Fargo** and others who want to support Homework House. The **Leo Buscaglia Foundation** and The **Canyon City Foundation** also awarded Homework House funds to provide more focused training for our volunteers.

We always have a partner in **APU**, and this year an undergraduate student group held a Bowl A Thon Project to raise funds to purchase incentive items for the K-5 House Stores. The event was a hit! Other partners who generously donate their time is the **Wellness Center** who presented creative ways for our teens to think about their food choices and **St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church** who again generously donated many boxes of books.

Homework House Student as Volunteers

Homework House students, such as Juana, are our best advocates and volunteers. Juana, a high school sophomore shared with her friends about her working with the younger Homework House students and they too expressed an interest in volunteering with Homework House.

Eva, also a high school sophomore, understands the value in having homework assistance and support since she attended Homework House for at least eight years. She then became a volunteer mentor with Kindergarten students and has successfully built a great rapport with students who are English Language Learners. She does this successfully because this too was her journey and now she can't tell her life's story without talking about Homework House. She states: "It's my second family."

Both Eva's and Juana's story is about the impact of one student, but we also have groups of students who are giving back. For example, some of our teen students dedicated more than six (6) hours in assisting with the **Azusa Golden Days Parade**. They understood the need for precise details and clear communication when they found one of the parade cars was missing!

During our students' Thanksgiving vacation, high school students also volunteered their time at the **St Frances of Rome Food Bank** and the **Azusa Senior Center**. The students had a great time interacting with the seniors and the learning from the manager of the food bank. In both settings they learned the importance of food safety.



Santa's Arrival!



Yay! Presents!



Piñata Time!



Santa granting wishes

Promoting Academic Success

Finding new ways to help our students learn

Veda, a kindergarten student, found it difficult to stay focused on his work so his tutor-mentor made the homework interesting for him by allowing him to use crayons to do his assignments. She found that the colors engaged him and he concentrated more intently on his work.

Angie, a new student with learning challenges, is beginning to understand and accept the expectations at Homework House! He is fortunate to have a retired educator, **Janice**, who has the training to challenge him with his academics.

Cheering on our students

Adrian, a student that typically underperforms, came to session excited! He had taken his benchmark exams in school and in all of his core classes, he earned an A or a B on the exam.

The exam grades made the difference in his grades and instead of C's and D's, he now had B's and C's. As he shared his success, one could hear his pride in his achievement. The staff congratulated him and later he shared the same great news with his tutor-mentor. The mentor was overheard saying: "Good job! I will bring the cookies like I said I would." And the next week she brought him snicker doodle cookies that she baked. He felt like he was a winner!

Providing Information on College and Career Preparation

6:30 AM on a Saturday is not when most of our students are up but almost a dozen chose to arrive at the Homework House and travel to Pasadena for a conference promoting college participation for Latino males, called **Ade-lante**. All of our students received scholarships from **Northrop Grumman** to attend the event.

Our young men were challenged by speakers from similar backgrounds to take advantage of opportunities break the cycle of poverty.

They heard a similar challenge from speakers from **Homeboy Industries**. These speakers who were former gang members shared their stories with the high school students. Our students sat in rapt attention as the young men shared how their life choices made their lives more difficult. Then they encouraged our students to take advantage of every opportunity!

One such opportunity occurred in the students' visit to the **Azusa Adult School**. Students were surprised that they could take classes leading directly into the workforce right here in their own backyard!



Learning safe food handling!



Time to Celebrate!



Hangin' with the Homeboys, Inc.

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Tutor time!



Teen storytime!



Las Posadas



Cookies anyone?



Love to learn!

These are a few of our favorite people...

* Donors included are from September 24, 2012 through December 14, 2012
Donation receipts will be mailed by January 30, 2013.

Allan & Susan Paloutzian
Peter & Mary Andrade
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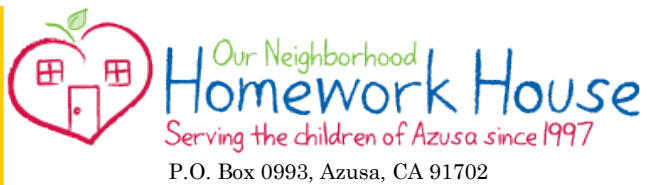
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"An effort made for
the happiness of
others lifts us above
ourselves." - Mrs.
Lydia Maria Child



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For up-to-date information, visit us at onhh.org



Oh, the Places You'll Go!

SAVE THE DATE!

Neighborhood Homework House
Fundraising Dinner

Friday, March 8, 2013 6:00pm
APU - Upper Turner

