

REACH POTENTIAL MOVEMENT

Summer Highlight

Kids Take the Stage for Reach Theater Camp

When Summer School was cancelled in the Mountain View Whisman School District due to budget cuts, we put the word out to our RPM network to identify affordable summer camps and programs for low income Mountain View kids, most of whom have no English exposure during the summer. We were able to connect 5 families with Way To Go who provided **full scholarships to their Way to Go Camp**. Next, Theater Instructor and Mountain View resident Michelle McCormick generously offered her theater expertise so RPM could offer our own camp. With a lot of collaboration in a very short time, a **summer Reach Theater Camp emerged!**

The end result: 25 low income fifth graders spent a week building self-esteem, confidence, problem solving skills, discipline and the importance of character through our **Reach Theater Camp produc-**

tion of “Character Matters.”

We relied on many of our community partners to pull it off. Castro Elementary provided classroom space, Open Door Church provided snacks, and nearby St. Paul’s Lutheran hosted the performance before all the students’ family and friends. Seeing so many community volunteers come together was exciting, and yet the real highlight of the week was the impact in the lives of ten year olds who were given the stage and a

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lot of encouragement for a week. For many it was their first taste of theater arts and Dr. Judy Crates, the Principal of Castro Elementary, kept shaking her head at some of the tangible growth she saw in her students in just a week’s time.

We are so grateful to Michelle McCormick and the many volunteers who dedicated their talents and passions to make a difference.

On the Move!

Reflections from Christy Tonge



To better understand the culture and experience of the vulnerable kids and families Reach Potential aims to serve, and to better foster neighborhood outreach, our family made the decision to rent our home and move across town to a low income apartment complex in Mountain View.

After finding a home for our pets, and goodbyes to our big backyard, trampoline and other comforts, we headed for our new neighborhood. It was with excitement and nervousness that our family took the leap.

We landed at apartment #56 on the other side of our packing and moving tasks (with wonderful help from friends, family and RP supporters) to begin life in our new neighborhood. In my first week as I struggled to converse in Spanish with a neighbor in the laundry facility as we did wash together, I remember thinking, “What have we done??...This is hard!” “Will we be able to build relationships here like we’d hoped?”

Though there have been many

adjustments for my kids and for my husband Barry and I, we are so very glad that we are here. It is stretching us, giving us new eyes to see...and opening doors for relationships and for Reach Potential outreach that we could not have had otherwise. We are eager to see what the months ahead hold, and certain that we will learn a lot in the process.



Introducing Smores to new neighbors ...they loved them!

This Fall: Literacy Projects in Motion

“Bookshelf for Every Child” Project Launch!

As we have listened to educators in local low income schools, the need we have heard most dramatically is Literacy... especially early literacy efforts to help kids before they fall too far behind. So this Fall we are launching a “Bookshelf for Every Child” project, in which low income Kindergarten or First Grade families in Mountain View will:

- decorate a bookshelf with their child to take home as his/her own
- select books for a home book collection to support reading at home
- participate in a Parent Workshop on how to help their child read, even if they don't read (or read English) themselves.

We are excited about the community support that is enabling us to launch this project this Fall.

We will partner with Open Door Church to hold our first Bookshelf Event for 40 Kindergarten families in October, and with Abundant Life for 40 First Grade families in November. Stay tuned for stories in our next Newsletter!



Michelle McCormick using her passion for theater to help kids reach their potential

What's YOUR passion?

Whether your passion is theater or gardening, sports, music, technology, art, business, science, or _____ (you fill in the blank) _____, there is an opportunity for you to empower kids or youth to reach their God-given potential in the year ahead. Contact us to share with us your passion, and we'll help you use that passion to make a difference.

Top 6 Ways You Can REACH with Us!

- 1) Donate a laptop computer (in search of 4-6) for a computer education pilot
- 2) Rally a group to Adopt-a-Classroom in a low income Mountain View or Sunnyvale School
- 3) Become a financial partner of Reach Potential
- 4) Provide website, photography or desktop publishing skills
- 5) Champion a Reach Club using your passion for art, music, leadership, science or sports/fitness
- 6) Be a reading volunteer one hour a week at a low income school

Contact Us

To get involved or to learn more, contact us at:

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