

STANDUP

please
Donate

newsletter

STANDUP FOR KIDS is an all-volunteer organization with the exception of a bookkeeper, two trainers, and two (recently hired) staff to implement the Don't Run Away program.

Yet, as we look at our budget for next year it is more than \$700,000 to operate and maintain our current programs, build our Don't Run Away program, and programs in new cities we won't make it help. We're not open up the family chest and send us a gold nugget. Just a small \$20.00 gift from you will help us achieve our goal!



continue to Run Away start projects. We know without your asking you to help treasure a gold nugget.

We believe that everyone who reads our newsletter can contribute \$20.00 to help us continue our work in 2004. Please let us know that we can count on you. Just click on the "treasure chest" above and it will take you to our web site and you can make a secure donation. Or mail your contribution to:

STANDUP FOR KIDS
1510 Front Street, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92101
<http://www.standupforkids.org>

More than 94% of the funds donated to our program go directly to the kids! We need your help to help more kids. What a great way to remember someone during the holidays, on their birthday or a special occasion.



ISLAND

ISLAND RECORDS SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT!

Our tremendous thanks to [Island Records](#) for their support and commitment to America's homeless and street kids. [Hoobastank](#) who just completed a multi-city tour donated tickets to their concerts and we auctioned them off and raised over \$1,000 and [Musiq](#) who is on tour now and is conducting a number of coat drives to keep homeless and street kids warm this summer. Plus Island contributed a number of CD's and posters to decorate our Outreach Centers.

I remember the first night I slept on the streets. Actually, I didn't sleep! It was the longest night of my life.

In The United States, A Child Runs Away Almost Every Minute!



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San Diego, California: Chip-In For Char-

ity is the most significant fundraising tool presented by the Century Club of San Diego and the Buick Invitational. Unlike other fundraising options, with the C.F.C. program **STANDUP FOR KIDS** receives 100% of every dollar that we raise.



The Buick Invitational is the PGA Tour event held annually at Torrey Pines Golf Course. It is anticipated that many of the greatest names in golf will be playing, including defending champion Tiger Woods and past champions Phil Mickleson, Scott

Simpson, Mark O'Meara, Davis Love III, Peter Jacobsen and Craig Stadler.

The Tournament is from February 9, 2004 through February 15, 2004.

Please go to our web site and see how you can help. The tickets are good for any day of the Tournament. Ticket prices at the Tournament are \$20 for weekdays and \$25.00 on the weekends. **STANDUP FOR KIDS** will be selling the tickets for \$12.00 each. See us for the best deal in town. If you're in Southern California, or want to buy a ticket for someone here, you can purchase tickets up to the last day of the tournament from our office at 1510 Front Street, Suite 100. Thanks....

What a great Stocking Stuffer or Valentine's Gift for your favorite Golfer!

Our Mission

We tell homeless and street kids that we care about them and then go to the streets and prove it. Or wherever at-risk kids need our help we'll be there. Now, another year, another commitment made and another promise



In 2004 we will open an office in Washington, DC. Mike Dorn, who has been our National Trainer for the past two years, out of our National Office in San Diego, California will move to our nation's capital and open an office on the East Coast. Please let us know if you're interested in volunteering with Mike or assisting us as we continue to start new programs on the East Coast.

Daniel Dougherty, a previous Assistant Executive Director of our Denver, Colorado program, and now an Executive with AOL.COM will take on the new role of Chief Operating Office of East Coast operations. (washingtonoffice@standupforkids.org)

There is no closure. Ever! Not even when you get out. If you get out! No grave to visit. No monuments. No articles in the New York Times to request from the archives. Nothing but the sheer fact that somehow I made it. Now what?



we give them hope

For some of us the memory of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," is still fresh in our minds. But, for our homeless and street kids the Grinch just didn't steal Christmas, he stole a whole year. Another year on the streets, another year alone, another year of breaking the law in order to get something to eat or find a place to sleep. Another year of abuse, suicide attempts, and rape. And, much more than that was stolen from the thirteen kids who died on the streets everyday!

People often ask me what is it that we really do for homeless and street kids. So, I want to say it loud and clear - **WE GIVE THEM HOPE!**

We show them that the future is not indicative of the past... **Hope in knowing** that what we learned today can make a better tomorrow. A tomorrow where you don't have to eat out of a dumpster, or sleep under a bridge. A **hope** that lets them know that no matter what happens we'll be there with them. **Yes, we give them hope - that's the beginning!**

So, my personal hope is that you too will continue to be there with us in 2004. Encourage us, pray for us, support us, and give us a great chance to reach more kids and give them that hope!

I'm sure we've all heard the saying: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime!" Many of our kids can't fish! But, we are showing and teaching them new skills, providing them with more resources and choices.

James W. Pince said: Success is determined by those who prove the impossible, possible.

For a lot of kids in more than 30 communities, we prove that everyday. Know that I and every volunteer in our program wishes you every great success in 2004 - go, achieve the impossible!

Rick Koca, Founder & CEO

www.standupforkids.org

gifts in Kind



A big percentage of what we do is providing kids with the things they need to get by on a daily basis. Food, clothes, hygiene products and etc. In the non-profit world, these are called Gifts-in-Kind. Restaurants donate food, and others donate clothes, vehicles, computers, and the many things that we need to operate on a daily basis. Every week we receive about \$2,000 worth of Gift's-in-Kind. These gifts help to keep our costs down.

We appreciate the hundreds of people and organizations that donate the thousands of pounds of food, and etc that we give to the kids each week. Without you our programs wouldn't exist.

If you would like to donate food, clothes, a vehicle, or anything of value, please go to our web site and **click on one of our programs near you**. I'm sure that they would appreciate your kindness and so would the kids!



The streets, they are the worst thing that a young individual can have to face, ever. That is why they all say, "The streets make you tough" - yeah for what? Work? Going to the grocery store? To do your laundry? To not trust anyone? To never fall in love? To be so damn manipulating no one can trust you? The streets only make you tough for the streets - because the streets are the toughest thing you'll ever have to face - in any country!!

A Former Street Kid!



OUR Founder



“In the little world in which children have their existence, whosoever brings them up, there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt as injustice.” - Charles Dickens — Great Expectations

Quite often I hear people talk about “giving back” and a few years ago there was a movie about “Paying it Forward.”

I would like to talk to you about “putting in”! Giving a little now, not waiting until we think it is time to give something back, for all that we’ve received. Nor, paying it forward, hoping that in the future it will come back to us. Simply know that if we “put in” now, we can make our community, our state, and our country better. If everyone “put in” a little something, whatever they could, we might get to the point where we would no longer have to think about paying back. It would already be paid for.

I’m asking each of you to make a commitment in 2004, that you’re going to personally “put in”. It can be as simple as a few hours of volunteering, a small donation of some kind, read to a child or a senior citizen who can no longer read. Put in and watch it grow.

We will certainly find that in the “growing” we will begin to change our communities and the world. I believe that we’ve found that “giving back” or “paying forward” isn’t working. Make a commitment: *Put something in!*

Thanks, Rick

This experience with STANDUP FOR KIDS has been emotional, educational, and challenging.

get Involved

I can’t believe that another year is coming to an end. Somehow it seems as if it was just the beginning of 2003. Yet, I look back at all that we’ve accomplished and I stand in awe!

We have some of the best volunteers in the USA, who are committed to helping homeless and street kids. It seems as if that whenever we needed someone to help us get a job or special task accom- plished some- one was rais- ing their hand. Our volun- teers are cer- tainly second to none.



The teams that have been created, across the width and breadth of our country are unbelievable. We’ve just completed fourteen years of walking the streets, touched the lives of literally thousands and thousands of kids. *And, we’ve only just begun.* The number of new cities where we’ll soon start walking the streets is amazing. Yet, we need more hands, we need more dollars, and we need more support for the kids. As you look to 2004, make a commitment to “Make a Commitment” to our homeless and street kids.

Thank You, Rick

I can say, without a doubt in my mind, that this past summer was by far the most difficult three months of my life. It emotionally, and sometimes physically, drained me out. I would not, however, trade my experiences this summer for the world. Interning at STANDUP FOR KIDS opened my eyes in so many ways, it is hard to imagine my perceptions of the world before STANDUP FOR KIDS.

Emily