



## Oceanside

The San Dieguito High School PALS (Peers Actively Listening) school group held a fundraiser and raised \$500.00 selling See's candy. These funds will be used for the upcoming 48 Hours Event. The PAL teenagers also cooked a delicious Mexican meal for the evening along with donating snack bags. THANK YOU PALS...you're officially Oceanside's StandUp Pals!!

On Saturday, March 24th, 2007, the Carlsbad Wellness Chiropractic held their Annual Community Appreciation Day and Fundraiser collecting food & hygiene pack items. The event was a complete success! Thank you to the clients of Carlsbad Wellness for supporting Oceanside's StandUp For Kids!!!

The Vista Kiwanis Club organized a drive collecting food and hygiene pack items, new clothing, new shoes, new jackets and new socks. Also among the donations were gift cards and center supplies. THANK YOU Vista Kiwanis for your continued support of helping Oceanside StandUp provide the basic survival necessities for our street kids.

Welcome to our New Meal Volunteers who feed our kids on Tuesdays and Thursdays: Cristina Maynard, Joanie McGraw, Toni Brown, and the Carlsbad Optimist Club. Our Kids are enjoying the wonderful home cooked meals and great desserts!!

Juanita Erickson, ED



## 48 Hours on the Streets!

"The purpose for spending 48 consecutive hours on the streets is simple," commented Richard L. Koca, Sr., Founder and CEO

of STANDUP FOR KIDS. "No youngster wants to admit that he or she is homeless, because he/she believes it is admitting that no one cares or wants them. We're not waiting for kids to come to us and ask for help. We are going to the streets to convince them that we want them back, and to help them come back."

Studies suggest that as many as 60 percent of the youngsters who leave home do so because they have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused. Koca added, "Because some kids fear they will get their perpetrator in trouble, many others are embarrassed, and some may even have been told they deserve the abuse, many see the streets as their only alternative to already unbelievable conditions. Once STANDUP FOR KIDS

If you talk to a street kid who has been on the streets for any period of time they will tell you that after awhile, they don't recognize who they have become, and worse yet, they don't care.

makes initial contact, it is only a matter of time until we are able to make a significant impact. Initially we provide basic necessities such as clothes, hygiene products and food. We then give them tools to survive and tools to help aid their re-entry into their community."

"STANDUP FOR KIDS believes all kids should have choices when it comes to their personal safety," Koca said. "We know first hand that once on the streets, young people are at very high risk of being physically and/or sexually victimized, of medicating with drugs or alcohol to reduce emotional pain, of attempting suicide, and of engaging in acts of 'survival' sex to meet their need for food, clothing or shelter. We've come to realize that kids who live on our streets are almost 'worn out.' They seldom eat properly and are sick most of the time. Sexually Transmitted Diseases are rampant. If you talk to a street kid who has been on the streets for any period of time they will tell you that after awhile, they don't recognize who they have become, and worse yet, they don't care. For them, there is no tomorrow. Our goal is to reach these kids before they reach that point."



## Richmond, Virginia Prepares to STANDUP FOR KIDS

Our Richmond location is getting ready to move into action! Richmond will be an official program sometime in the May—June timeframe.

Richmond's Leadership Team is in place and team members are as follows:

Jim Hribar - Executive Director

Jeff Logan - Project Leader

Michael Matheson - Director of Outreach

Tinille Repinski - Director Community Resources

Steve Morawetz - Director Public Relations

Regina Howard - Assistant Director Public Relations

Maria Davis - Director Program Support

Additionally, Richmond has their first small business sponsor, Beej Hair Color Studio!

## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET!

Dear STANDUP FOR KIDS:

I want to say this personally from myself and all those other people who are too shy to write. We all come to school very hungry, but your food helps solve that problem. It's almost like a vending machine that costs only the effort to show up at school on schedule. Everyone would like to write their own Thank You letter but we all have our reasons, from multi-grains bars to apples. All that is given is very exquisite, regardless of variety, but differences in taste vary between students here at Discovery Alternate High School.

In closing, your love tells us that somebody cares. That motivation that you used to rally up these food has now been passed on

*Very Truly, Giorgio I.  
Bremerton, Washington*

After Jen got off the phone with you, she called me and we talked for a while... we figured out that today marks 5 years from the first time we did outreach. THANK YOU for building something so amazing that we could have a small role in! You have created something that I find hard to describe as far as how much impact it has on everyone it touches. Just for me, it was STANDUP FOR KIDS that set me on my career path in the non-profit world, STANDUP FOR KIDS that brought so many amazing people into my life (like you, Jen, Mikey...), STANDUP FOR KIDS that, even when it's really rough, is rewarding beyond anything else I've been involved with. The best part is that STANDUP FOR KIDS has made a profound difference in my life, and I'm just a volunteer. What it's doing for our kids, in cities across the country, is beyond any description or measurement. Thank you, Rick, for your vision, passion, and commitment that have made such a difference in the lives of our kids and also in mine.

*Love and hugs, Soni*

## CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER

Fort Hays College Kansas spent their Spring break at the San Diego Outreach Center, where they went through training. Fort Hays joined the street counselors and center counselors is trying to reach new kids and provide assistant to our street kids. Not only did they offer their people skills they also cleaned and sorted the Center. They also spent one day at the Oceanside Outreach Center where their efforts were also appreciated.

Below is a note from the Fort Hays students. We cannot express to you how much this week has meant to all of us. You have embraced us Fort Hays volunteers, allowing us to learn so much from you all and the street kids as well. Everyone of us will go back to Hays, Kansas as a changed person. Thank you for giving us the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

*Best of luck in the future*



*'Les Veilleux Photography'*

On Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> our partner KarmaThreads, a positive message apparel company, joined efforts with the New Outlook Teen Center of Exeter, NH in holding their first “Teen’s, Tunes & T’s” event. New Outlook Teen Center focuses their efforts on encouraging youth in opportunities that nurture belonging, independence, resilience, and social responsibility.

The event featured local musical acts from the area junior and senior high schools. Local teens were encouraged to come out and enjoy great food, music and company all while supporting teens in need. StandUp For Kids was invited to take part in the event. Kids were encouraged to donate a favorite pair of gently worn jeans to benefit the homeless, street and at-risk youth of Boston. At the end of a great night, in only a few short hours, 60 pairs of jeans were collected. They were brought back to Boston where they will be distributed to kids in need by StandUp For Kids – Boston.

A big *thank you!* goes out to Sarah Illingworth, Executive Director of New Outlook Teen Center, and Rhonda Lee, Founder of KarmaThreads for putting together a great event and raising awareness

## Runaway

As a noun: Escapee

As a verb: Escape

As an adjective: Escaped

And, that is what they did: Escaped, only to find themselves in a situation that is more dangerous, more brutal, more evil, a situation that they can no longer runaway from!

**(escape)**

**The festival will take place on August 4 and 5 at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore Maryland. Pimlico, home of the Preakness Stakes, middle jewel of thoroughbred horse racing's Triple Crown, is situated on 140 acres less than an hour from Washington, D.C., 2 hours from Philadelphia, and 3 hours from New York City.**

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS!](#)**

*THIRTEEN CHILDREN  
DIE ON THE STREETS  
EVERY DAY.*

*YOU can help change this statistic!  
Help with the Don't Run Away  
Program!*

*Call 1-800-365-4KID*



## They Like StandUp and They Cannot Lie!



March was quite a month for the Detroit chapter of StandUp For Kids! Not only did we receive a record number of coat, hat & glove donations from various supporters such as SOS shelter in Royal Oak and students from Oakland Community College, but we also were host to a group of eight fabulous students from University of Miami, who, lead by Amy Sun, generously took their time off from the books (and SUNSHINE) to do charity work (in the COLD) for their spring break, traveling 1370 miles to help our program through UM's Alternative Spring Break! After a 2.5 hour flight, these dedicated students immediately drove right to a rigorous weekend-long training session, complete with Outreach role playing and a Don't Run Presentation rehearsal. And the rest of their week was just as vigorous as Detroit SUFK definitely knows how to utilize resources! But did we hear our ASB-ers complain? No way! In fact, they were more than a ton of fun and HELP during the week as they each demonstrated their unique skills and brilliance. The undertakings included inventorying and sorting hundreds of clothes and resources at our storage facility (special thanks to Aixa Marchand & Mary-Ann "Mish Mish" Abraham for sorting & pairing hundreds of gloves, and Valerie Bottaioli & Sui In "Daisy" Chen for their strategic cataloging), community resource survey visits to places like FocusHOPE and Young Detroit Builders, housekeeping tasks at Off the Streets Youth Shelter and even closing the week at Dixon Middle School with our very first "Squatter Skit", Detroit's interpretation of the Don't Run Presentation, featuring headliners Roseland Marcellon as

*Continued next column*

Terry (a/k/a Terrell), Marjorie Pierre as Terry's Mom and Ryan Croteau as Squatter.

To show our appreciation on their final day, the Detroit chapter threw a Farewell ASB-ers Party where the students presented what they learned. Much to our thrill, the presentations were so creatively hilarious that they left us all red faced laughing. Highlights included a take on a 70s game show entitled "Family Feud: Super 8 Edition" and a rap of their week set to the tune of that all-too-well-known 90's song by Sir Mix-a-Lot.

As they resume their studies, our loss is the Miami chapter's gain as many students told us they were eager to continue with StandUp For Kids when they returned home! So in closing, StandUp For Kids – Detroit would like to give a big shout out and THANK YOU again to our U of Miami ASB-ers! We will miss you all so much as you have left Detroit in awe of your kindness and the momentum you have stirred within our volunteers! Peaceout.

**Jess Newman, Co-Executive Director**



**PLEASE THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!**



## Our Kids

# A STORY OF HOPE FROM BOSTON

STANDUP FOR KIDS - Boston has Outreach Counselors on the streets 5 days a week. We have met some great kids over the years, but a recent encounter had a profound impact on our Counselors. It was a cold, Boston evening and 2 Counselors were perusing the usual Tuesday night area when they stumbled upon a new kid who was sitting quietly in front of a store with a spanging cup at his side. He was 18 years old, had been homeless for 2 months and hadn't eaten in 5 days. The counselors took him to a nearby burger place to get dinner and ended up talking with him for an hour. He openly shared his life story and his strong desire to get a job, an apartment and a better life. He's had a job ever since the age of 15, but his parents recently abandoned him, at which time he was left without a permanent address or phone number.

Over the course of dinner, we came up with a plan of action. All of our Counselors carry a binder containing information about resources in the area. We gave him our P.O. Box number to use for employment purposes, he was to call Project Connect the next morning to get a free phone number with voicemail service and he was going to get a state ID. We asked him if he'd be interested in staying in a shelter, even though our kids always say no, and we were taken aback by his response, "I would love to go to a shelter. I've been sleeping out in the cold on park benches." We couldn't get an answer about bed availability from the local shelter until 9:30, so we took him to get a "T" pass so he could stop walking several miles to a class he was taking and we bought him a pre-paid calling card so that he could stay in touch with us and contact the other agencies in the area. As we walked along, he said, "I have been on the streets long enough now and nobody seems to want to help me. I had given up hope today. You guys finding me was the best thing that could have happened. This is the first time I've smiled in months." He touched his face when he spoke these words, as if to ground himself, not believing this was really happening. We had found him at his lowest point. He couldn't believe that people would volunteer their time to help him.

*This is the first time I've smiled in months." He touched his face when he spoke these words, as if to ground himself, not believing this was really happening.*

We took him to get his first cup of Starbucks coffee as we waited to call the shelter. At 9:30, we were told that all the beds were filled, but we were not leaving him in the cold for another night. We went back to our Outreach binder and began calling other shelters. One shelter had a bed available, but wouldn't accept him without photo ID for liability reasons. After begging the third shelter, they finally agreed to let him sleep on the floor of their heated lobby. He was so grateful.

We are sharing this story to encourage other chapters, who may not see kids on the streets or who may not find kids willing to accept help, to never give up hope. The Boston chapter helped 139 kids last year, but many of them were so addicted to drugs, that helping them get off the streets was a daunting task. Like you, we go out to the streets week after week because we care. We never know the true impact we have on those we meet, but it's times like this that we find purpose and meaning behind what we do.

*Boston*