



THE LEAVEN
GOLF
CLASSIC

MONDAY JUNE 2, 2014

GREEN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
35 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE | FAIRFIELD, CA

THE LEAVEN'S
Annual Gala
2014
Where Hope is the Guest of Honor

October 25, 2014 | 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Hilton Garden Inn, Fairfield, CA



SPRING 2014



**KIDS ON
THE RISE**

AIMING FOR SUMMER SUCCESS!

PETE'S PERSPECTIVE

For me, it's been an amazing 5 years as chair of The Leaven's board of directors. This year, I'll be turning that position over to Joe Allio, Captain with the Fairfield Police Department and a 20-year veteran of law enforcement. Joe and our board will be joined by three new members; Gary Gottschall, Nadine Villalobos, and Sheila Tucker. I have been so blessed to lead The Leaven's board through this time of expansion—but most importantly, as our in-community centers have had a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we serve.

I've watched our **Annual Gala and Auction Social** grow exponentially over the years, and I'm so grateful for the community initiative that launched the **Solano Great Race**. Our now-annual **Golf Classic** has added a wonderful activity to our events roster. Together, these three events—plus the multitude of creative projects done by our church and business supporters—have made The Leaven one of the fastest-growing grassroots organizations in California.

But as I reflect, what brings me the greatest sense of joy is the difference we have made in the lives of boys and girls. Seeing a child's face light up as the letters on a printed page become words that they can read and comprehend has been a real reward for me. Moreover, I am filled with gratitude for the many times The Leaven has been able to show the love and compassion of Christ as we reached out in the community. Through YOU and our hundreds of other supporters, we have helped families who have struggled with seemingly overwhelming challenges.

We've made their holidays truly special, provided recreation and exercise programs, and given them a reason to have pride in their neighborhoods. Thank you for making The Leaven strong. Joe is in for a wonderful experience as he leads The Leaven to new, yet-unknown opportunities to help kids & communities rise.

Peter M. Gaudet
Board President

FROM 1 TO 9

Nine after-school centers "helping kids & communities rise" in California

We're grateful for the neighborhoods, city leaders - and YOU, our partners and supporters. YOU have made this possible.

Our expansion is exciting! As a result of the valued support of our church and community partners, we have opened two new centers in Vacaville and Vallejo. We are thrilled that these communities are so committed to their at-risk children and are expanding The Leaven's impact.

We at The Leaven take every invitation to open a new center seriously, giving it careful thought and prayer. It is always our goal to provide a promising program for the children we serve and invest the gifts from the partners who make it possible.

Success relies on a few key components, one being that the center is self-sustaining. We achieve this by ensuring that there is broad community support with a willingness to invest in the program. Funds raised within a community stay in the community to enable the center to continue to flourish. This is a key requirement when opening a new center to provide the same wonderful results that existing centers bring.

City Officials from Napa, Woodland, Dixon, and Ontario also want to provide their residents every possible opportunity to succeed. They have seen that The Leaven model works and hope to launch centers in their communities by 2015.

We feel blessed that God continues to expand the reach of The Leaven. Thank you again to our community partners for your amazing support. We are grateful that you are standing with us in this exciting journey to help kids and communities rise.



**IT IS ALWAYS OUR
GOAL TO PROVIDE
A PROMISING
PROGRAM FOR
THE CHILDREN
WE SERVE.**



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The Leaven is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation. Tax ID 26-3653717.

A POSITIVE CHANGE FOR AMELIA

Amelia* was one of the first students to enroll at our Leaven center when it opened in her neighborhood and she was very enthusiastic. We were excited to see her grades going up and her enthusiasm about school increasing.

At one point during the two years of being involved in the program, Amelia stopped attending and her grades significantly declined. Our Site Director, Josh Ortega, knew Amelia was helped by The Leaven and went to visit her mother to ensure everything was okay. Josh and Amelia's mother worked together to get her back into the program – and back on track. Amelia was glad to rejoin her friends. When her mother was asked how they were enjoying their time with The Leaven she expressed that she appreciated the support – and was thrilled at the improvement in Amelia's grades and reading skills since she returned. Amelia's mom committed to take a more active role in making sure Amelia came to the center every afternoon.

Getting parents involved in their child's education can be a challenge, so it is very exciting to have a parent so enthusiastic about her child's improvement as a result of The Leaven. The principal at Amelia's school also told us that she fully supports the program because she sees how much students are benefitting from The Leaven... it's clearly impacting her students' lives!

It's the support of parents and educators that help The Leaven have a positive impact on students who have been struggling in school.

And it's YOUR support that makes it possible for us to open our centers to boys and girls who otherwise might not have anyone to help them with the challenges of homework and reading.

Thank you for making Amelia's improvement in school possible—and for making our work possible at every Leaven center in California.

** Student names are changed to protect privacy.*

HELP US MAKE MORE STORIES LIKE THIS POSSIBLE



When you sponsor a student for only \$25 a month you ensure that The Leaven's programs are available year-round.

Become a sponsor — and together, let's help kids and communities rise!

Go online today to MyLeaven.com and click on "Sponsor a Student."

MEET OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

We're excited that Steve Diekmann has joined The Leaven as Development Director. Steve is leading our wonderful committee volunteers who make our annual events possible. He also ensures we communicate with you, our funding partners, to keep you up-to-date on the exciting results happening at our centers.

We welcome Steve - and thank Keli Bilafer who filled this important role for four years.



NEW LOOK, NEW CENTERS, NEW SITE DIRECTORS

We're thrilled to have three new site directors as part of our Leaven family.

Marina Heights Center, Vallejo

Linda Louton is a retired educator with more than 30 years' experience teaching in the Vallejo school district and is an active member of Church on the Hill in Vallejo. She has a great desire to see children succeed academically and be mentored so they become independent, responsible citizens.

Opportunity House Center, Vacaville

Vanessa Williams has been a volunteer in our Village Center for about a year and is a member of Liberty Church in Fairfield. She brings a unique background to our new center at Opportunity House and understands the challenges that transitional living can have upon children and their families.

Marina Vista Center, Vallejo

Ryan Sarna grew up in Vallejo and is an intern and young adult leader at Church on the Hill in Vallejo. He also serves as a site director and assists with government relations for The Leaven. Ryan's vision is to help children choose the path that will lead to a successful future through mentoring and showing Christ's love—while building lasting relationships that will prove a source of support to them as they grow up.

We welcome Linda, Vanessa, and Ryan and invite you to contact us if you'd like to volunteer at any of our sites. It's a rewarding way to give a child a brighter future!



**GIVE A
CHILD A
BRIGHTER
FUTURE!**