



Learning and Loving Education Center

Learning... To Make a Difference

November 2013

THANKS TO YOU...

Thanks to you we are open and available to serve women like Ana and her two children at the Learning and Loving Center! Her older daughter is in our preschool, and her little girl can be with her as she learns. The 170 women and 75 children in the preschool are grateful for all the encouragement and support from our volunteers and donors.

Did you know that 17 children graduated from our preschool and are now in kindergarten?

Did you know that 12 women received their GED certificate at the end of the school year?

Did you know that at least 10 of our women have gone on to Gavilan College this year for further education?

You can help the success stories continue with your volunteering and donations.

Together we make a difference in the lives of these wonderful women and their children. The season of Thanksgiving is approaching, as is the Christmas season, and the end of the year. Could you include us in your holiday giving? Check out the wish list on our web site. The challenge continues for all of us non-profits to be able to fund our programs. Grants are more competitive and harder to attain. We depend on you, our donors, to help us continue the quality programs we now have and develop even more programs. We have determined that it costs about \$1,500 to educate each woman. Can you help sponsor a woman and the cost of our preschool education? We - the Sisters of the Presentation, the Boards, the staff, the volunteers, and especially the women and children are grateful.

ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY is the results of last year's annual appeal. We received more than \$7,000 for the Center, plus lots of other donations...coffee cups, paper towels, toilet paper, copy paper, coffee...We are grateful!

A FURTHER SUCCESS STORY is the choice of our Center for the United Way volunteerism. During the summer the interior of the Center received a much-needed coat of paint. Even more exciting was the addition of colored paint to all the classrooms! Moving all furniture, taking pictures and bulletin boards off walls, painting and then putting everything back was a project more involved than any of us could have imagined! The preschool kitchen welcomed a sink - so much needed and so much appreciated. The carpet was cleaned professionally. All of this took time, effort, and funding.

Speaking of gratitude....

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more... It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and cares a vision for tomorrow."

Melody Beattie

A very special note of thanks to the following:

- ♥ The **United Way** and all the volunteers
- ♥ **Cecilia Ponzini** and the many, many volunteers she brought to the Center, especially those who volunteer with her son's foundation, the Edward Boss Prado Foundation.
- ♥ **George Molina** who donated his professional services to prepare the plumbing and put in the sink.
- ♥ **Chuck White** who donated his professional expertise to paint all the doors in the Center!
- ♥ **Firato's Janitorial** who sent the professional crew to clean the carpets.

In our February newsletter, we will be listing more names and donors.



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SUCCESS AT THE CENTER . . .

On September 21, over 120 guests attended our annual fundraising event "Together at the Center" held at The Learning and Loving Education Center. Although the afternoon provided the first rain of the season, it only served to enhance the joy and camaraderie at the event where we had over 40 fabulous silent auction items that included such unique items as a hand made Holiday quilt, Bocce Ball Competition and Brunch, various local wine tasting and many fun themed baskets. It was a great opportunity for the students to share their love and what they have learned at the Center by providing tours and passing around delicious appetizers, generously donated by local businesses such as **Rosy's at the Beach**, **Jesus Mexican Restaurant** and **Simpleicious Catering**. Guests had an opportunity to network while also enjoying wonderful wine tastings provided by **Morgan Hill Cellars** and **J. Lohr**. The event closed with an exciting drawing for 2 wine heist winners that each were able to take home over 45 bottles of wine that were collected throughout the event in 2 wine towers.

We were blessed with many volunteers and donors that helped us through this event raise funds to continue the important and meaningful work of The Center.

Thank you to all of you that attended to make this event a success.



In October Fr. Mark Arzen, Pastor, and St. Catherine Parish allowed us to speak about the Center at the Sunday Masses. We also hosted the hospitality afterwards. We were grateful for the special opportunity to be there and celebrate liturgy and hospitality together. We met new people and renewed friendships.

If we haven't heard from you in a while, we'd love to renew our relationship. Come, visit us!



We have many touching moments at the Center. Let me share just one:

I had a visit in October from an older gentleman who had been at our Special Event in September. He has three grown daughters, and two of them accompanied him to the Center. He told me that they had been at a restaurant in Morgan Hill and met a woman named Rosa who had been a student at the Center. She spoke so highly of her experiences here that this gentleman was more convinced than ever what a good program this was. He introduced himself as Andy Sermersheim and said that his wife, Ann, had died in July. He brought with him a little bag which he opened. From it he took out a set of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. He explained that these were given to him and his wife - Andy and Ann - as a wedding present. So he wanted to share the dolls with our preschoolers. A generous check was also left with us. We walked through the preschool, so I could show the kids the little dolls. As if on cue, one little girl reached out and took the dolls and hugged them. How meaningful!



IF YOU HAVE
food in your fridge, clothes
on your back, a roof over
your head and a place to sleep
YOU ARE RICHER THAN 75% OF THE WORLD.

IF YOU HAVE
money in the bank,
your wallet, and
some spare change
YOU ARE AMONG THE TOP 8% OF THE WORLD'S WEALTHY.

IF YOU WOKE UP THIS MORNING WITH MORE HEALTH THAN ILLNESS YOU ARE MORE BLESSED THAN THE MILLION PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS WEEK.

IF YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE DANGER OF BATTLE, YOU ARE LUCKIER THAN 600 MILLION PEOPLE ALIVE AND SUFFERING
the agony of imprisonment or slavery, or the horrible pangs of starvation.

IF YOU CAN READ THIS MESSAGE YOU ARE MORE FORTUNATE THAN 2 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO CANNOT READ IT AT ALL.

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