

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12

CYM Newsletter

November 2009

CYM PO Box 816, Reedley CA 93654
(559) 638-6585, www.cymreedley.org

Changing lives at Grant

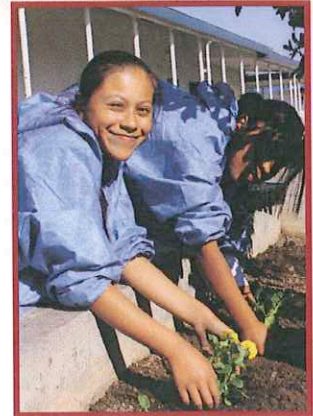
Written by: Jennifer Lerma, Site Lead at Grant ASP

The direction of the Grant After-School program has drastically changed from the last school year. After attending a workshop given by "Every Monday Matters", I was convinced that my vision for Grant Middle School needed to change. "Every Monday Matters" has written a curriculum that promotes service learning projects within a school's community. The presentation by the founder, Matthew Emerzian, re-energized me for a new season and opened my eyes to a new journey as a Site Coordinator. This year my goal has been to teach my students, but to think outside of the box by teaching them through serving others. Our program has done this through various projects and will continue to do so throughout the remainder of the school year. This vision has led to a number of projects that the students have done including graffiti removal, planting flowers around campus, serving food to the homeless, and spending time with the elderly. I feel that any After-School Program can take a trip to Disneyland, Universal Studios, or Magic Mountain. The question is this, how many After-School Programs are willing to get dirty in order to make their community a better place? That was my challenge this year. My challenge was to teach Grant students that life is larger than themselves.

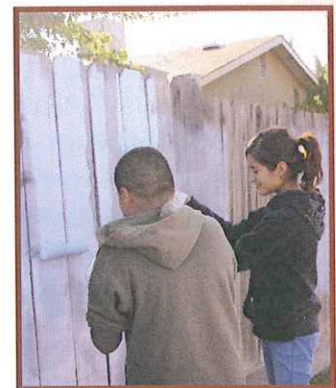
My goal is to show them that you do not always have to *get* something in life in order to *give* something.

My vision for Grant Middle School would be nothing without God's direction. I have seen the hand of God through a student whose mother is a drug addict and whose father overdosed on heroine when he was a young boy. This student never wanted to be in our program, but he was forced to come because no one was at home to care for him. In the beginning of the year, we constantly had behavior issues with him and were always on the phone with his parents. One day last week, I heard him call his grandpa to ask if he could stay longer to finish his homework. That, my friends, is the hand of God.

I am not the only person who has seen change this year. While sitting in on a PTC meeting a couple of weeks ago, a parent asked the question, "How come more after-school programs are not like this one? Other programs I've seen just play games with the kids and it just seems like babysitting to me. You guys are actually doing something in the lives of these students. That is awesome."



**Grant Students
making a
difference in
our community!**



Your prayers and support make a life-changing difference!



SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE

WAYS TO GIVE HOPE THIS SEASON



CYM Toy Drive Wish List

You may provide the only Christmas gift under a tree for a child involved in CYM Programs. PLEASE BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED GIFT TO FRESH START CAFÉ!

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Preschoolers:

- Play dough
- Crayons, markers, water colors
- Books
- Puzzles
- Sports ball
- Cars
- Dinosaurs
- Farm animals

Toddlers:

- Large puzzles
- Bouncing balls
- Books
- Baby Dolls

GIFT PACK IDEA FOR SCHOOL AGE

CYM After School staff would like to bless their students with a practical gift pack that includes:

- Hand lotion
- Toothbrush
- Chapstick



BE A HANDS-ON VOLUNTEER!



- Help create a safe play area for the children at The Learning Center in Reedley. Thanks Reedley College Upward Bound for removing old sand!
- Help complete the ambitious "Our House" remodel project! The kitchen needs cabinets, floor and tile installation and then we start the living room! Volunteer labor is greatly appreciated!

Give a gift to CYM that keeps on Giving



We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ....
1 Thes 1:2-3

Together we are making a difference!

Thank You!

\$20 Faithful monthly gifts provide the steady foundation for all CYM programs **THANK YOU!**

\$50 "Our House" has been home to over 50 girls and their children. Every girl that has lived at "Our House" has graduated from high school, most are working and raising their kids in a Christian home. We trust God will continue to bring homeless teens and caring staff to "Our House" for years to come!



\$75 Weekly Teen Mom meetings provide a safe place to strengthen relationships with God, families, children and mentors. Teen families are pictured on last year's CYM Electric Parade float.



\$250 One baby is provided with TLD childcare for a month while mom or dad works at Fresh Start Café

\$600 One teen parent like Sonny (right) can receive a monthly stipend to work at Fresh Start Cafe



\$1000 Year end gifts of \$1,000 or more have made a tremendous difference in the lives of the 4,000 children we serve, and the 4,000 families that are influenced by this generosity! Together we are building a "Kingdom of God" community!

CYM People and Programs

CAMPUS BASED PROGRAM SITES

- Alta Elementary
- Bartch Elementary
- General Grant Middle School
- Great Western Elementary
- Jefferson Elementary
- Lincoln Elementary
- McCord Elementary, Orange Cove
- Navelencia Middle School
- Positive Prevention Program
- Reedley High School Intervention

CHILDCARE CENTERS

- The Learning Center (TLC), Reedley
- The Learning Center (TLC), Dinuba

TEEN PARENT PROGRAMS

- Teen Mom Mentoring Program
- Kings Canyon High School
- Dinuba High School

SPECIALIZED COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Fresh Start Café Vocational Training
- "Our House" Kids Club
- "Our House" Transitional Living

CYM CORE STAFF

- Alex Garcia, Fresh Start Café
- Brooke Musick, Fresh Start Café
- Chris White, Volunteer Coordinator
- Criselda Padron, TLC Director
- Don Reimer, Administrative Director
- Eran Zuniga, Finance Manager
- Margie McIntyre, ASP Manager
- Michelle Jones, Positive Prevention
- Sheri Wiedenhofer, Director

CYM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

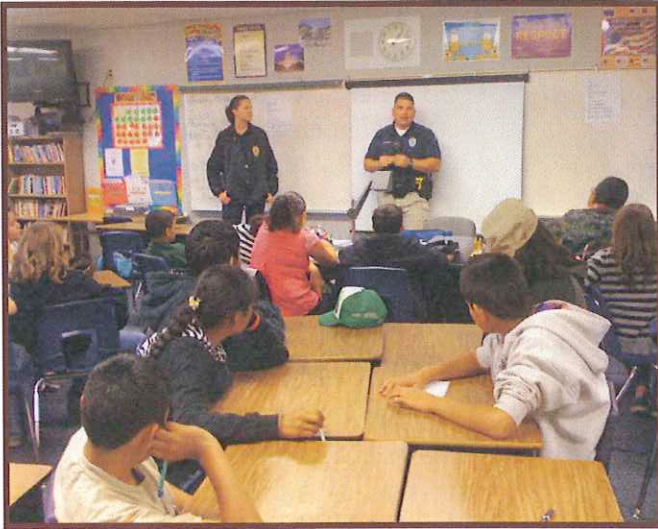
- Regina Garza, JD, Chair
- Sharon Matsuzaki, Vice Chair
- Jill Morrison, Secretary
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- Brian Griffin, Guarantee Realtor
- Frank Pinon, CEO, Love INC.
- Gordon Wiebe, CEO, Wiebe Farms
- Jenifer Gross, KCUSD Testing
- Lisa Adams, Manager, Rabobank
- Pete Chavez, DA and City Council



CYM Programs



Positive Prevention Update



Positive Prevention Education has been up and running, teaching all students in KCUSD 5th and 6th grades this Fall semester. Reedley Police Department has also played a huge role in teaching these kids how to say "no" to drugs, alcohol, and gangs. Michelle Jones, Positive Prevention Coordinator, has been teaching these classes for the last three years.

Thank you KCUSD and Reedley PD!

McCord Elementary

We at CYM are very proud of all of you! You are changing lives and helping these students reach their God-given potential and gain more opportunities both now and in the future!

Hope Rodriguez, After School Program Literacy Coordinator, has shared that she was informed by Save the Children today that McCord School is the **FIRST** school in California to have every student enrolled in the ASP test at an average of 85% or higher on the AR tests.



Go Mustangs!

Bike Ride Success

Thank you Karen!
And thanks to all the supporters and riders that rallied together on behalf of CYM at the

Karen Wiebe -50 - Plus Bike Ride Fundraiser!

Over \$6600 has been raised so far! Staff from Grant, Jefferson, Bartch and Fresh Start Cafe joined KAREN and other CYM supporters for a great biking day!

