



# Angwin Community Teen Center

A Part of a Community Teen Alliance

**A Place Where All Teens Are Embraced By Their Community**

November 28, 2008

Dear Community Partner,

2008 has been a year of defining moments. **Join us as we reminisce transformations, milestones and the effects of your partnership on our children's lives, and why your support is so essential to the mission of the Teen Center. For a true picture of how you can help fully, please read carefully to the end.**



## Defining Moments at the Teen Center



One of "our kids" came into the Teen Center with large dark glasses and a hooded sweat shirt. You might say what's so significant about that. It was dark! He was troubled and I knew it. As we exchanged thoughts and feelings, I knew he needed my unconditional, unjudgemental love. In closing I said, "What do you need?" The reply, "FOOD!" We hugged, he got his food, and left the Center. What just happened? "My child" **knew** where he could go, **knew** that I would be present, **knew** that I loved him in spite of circumstance, and felt safe in **knowing** that he could come to me in time of need. **All I had was a moment. All it took was a moment to touch a heart.**

Sometimes kids are "yelling out" notice me, I know that I mess up, embrace me, please! Will his problems smooth out now? Probably not in the near future. But what happened was a defining moment. My influence was absorbed.

The dynamics at the Teen Center look something like this. "What happen today?" "Matt helped me in math." "I thought you were having problems, Matt?" "I was, but now I am doing much better." "Yea, he is, he was helping other kids too." **High Five!** . . . "I got an A in my science test today." **Awesome!!** . . . "I don't know what to do." "Tell me more." **Active Listening** . . . We share their joy, accomplishments, hurts, confusion, consequences, and **growth**; and a "Teen Center" transcends to an even higher dimension from the care of a community to the love of a Family.



## Principles of Love Work Throughout the Entire Spectrum of Youth

Let's continue this thought. Stefen makes poor choices and is shunned by most adults and embraced by his peers. Lucy is associating with the wrong crowd and is shunned by most authority figures and embraced by her friends. Evelyn makes all the right choices and gets the highest grades in her class, and is ignored by everyone because "she has it all together." Billy comes from a well to do family in the community and has everything money can buy, and he feels alone. **All are suffering from "emotional hypothermia." All are losing warmth faster than it can be produced. They are emotionally freezing to death.**

What if you and I were the ones that did the embracing "in spite of. . ." Who would Stefen and Lucy be drawn to in addition to their peers? What would be the impact of embracing Evelyn? What would happen to the heart of Billy? Do we see behavior and performance, or do we see **the child** who longs to be noticed and loved?

19 Angwin Plaza  
P.O. Box 268  
Angwin, CA 94508  
Phone: 707-965-7050

**Online Donations: Visit our website [angwinteencenter.org](http://angwinteencenter.org)**

## We Continue to Need Your Help

From the moment that the doors were open in May of 2004, you have made the difference in touching the lives of our kids. We started with “bricks and mortar,” rapidly transformed into supporting both youth and families and educating community, and soon after catapulted into a mission far reaching from our Center nucleus. Each step was a result of your belief in our kids, our vision, our mission, and our dreams.

## Challenges for Covering Overhead

**Because of an extraordinarily passionate extended Community**, the Teen Center has been so very fortunate in generating grants to cover expenditures for equipment, systems setup, promotional materials, arts initiatives, supplementary compensation for staff, staff development, outreach initiatives and program development. Rather than costs being entirely based on the physical plant in Angwin, the initiatives reach out to our neighboring communities so the amounts are ratably increasing with the expanded outreach. **The challenge for the Board is to raise funds to assure sustainability to cover the “overhead” that drives all the programs that grants more often than not specifically do not fund.**

**Funds from private donors remain a most critical source of income** since the unrestricted amounts not only cover the “overhead” but often create the programs that grants may or may not cover over an extended period of time. Without the horse (private donor funds) to pull the cart (grant funds), the Teen Center programs would be significantly jeopardized. The “overhead” covered by private donor funds include but not limited to utilities, base compensation, rent, insurance, transportation, outings, community outreach, postage, programming, development, and supplies.

**Because grant funds are restricted, our appeal for funds from the private sector is not decreased by additional grants being obtained.** It is quite the opposite since funding sources for grants often seek assurances that “overhead” is covered and additional funds are raised with the new programs that are undertaken with the grant assistance. **The appreciation and compelling need for private donor funds is actually increasing as grants are accumulated. Every check received is a treasure.**

## Our Commitment to Overcome Challenges

We are committed to continuing to love, nurture and mentor our young people, develop programming, and expand our outreach in spite of the economic hurdles and barriers before us. **Your partnership is critical.** When crisis's around us increase, our mission intensifies to meet the challenge. I lost my friend, Bob Buller, recently who exemplified an intense commitment and unceasing determination to overcome challenges as he fought a war with cancer for 4 1/2 years with extreme courage and deep strength of character; never flinching, and holding on to every moment of every day with extreme passion. **We are no less committed to fighting for the lives and hearts our youth; and, with you beside us we will support each of our children right where they are whether in success or adversity with the same determination and intensity.**

**Thank you for all you have done to advocate for our youth, provide life-saving warmth, “embrace” them, and make the difference.**

**We wish you the most wonderful Holiday Season as we reach out to touch the lives of our most precious gifts.**

With great appreciation,



Tom Amato  
Executive Director



Mark Pacini  
Board Chair



Beau Van Deren  
Board Vice Chair