

# TEEN CENTER TIMES

A PLACE WHERE YOUTH ARE EMBRACED BY COMMUNITY

Spring 2006

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Recent Events

- 1/18 Teen Alcohol, Drugs, Brain Lecture-Napa County Office of Education
- 1/31 Napa Valley Volunteer Fair Upper Valley Napa College campus
- 2/2 Warriors Basketball Outing-Oakland
- 2/3 YWAM Tenderloin Homeless Outing-San Francisco
- 2/16 Friday Night Live program with Boys and Girls Club-Begins
- 2/17 Showshoe Outing to Donner-North Star
- 2/21 Child Advocate Luncheon with Dr. Hopkins-St. Helena
- 2/22 Dr. Gary Hopkins Presentation-St. Helena
- 3/9 Promoting Internet Safety 6:15-7:30-Cybermill 3299 Claremont Way, Napa

Upcoming Events

- 3/27 Town Hall Meeting On Underage Drinking 7:00-St. Helena High School, Vintage Hall
- 4/6 Promoting Internet Safety 6:15-7:30-Cybermill 3299 Claremont Way, Napa
- 5/3 Northern California Tobacco, Alcohol, & Drug Educator and Youth Development Conference Berkeley
- 9/16,17 Cancer Society Relay for Life-Calistoga High School Field

## A Day to Remember by Edee Torossian

Saturday morning usually finds me sleeping an extra hour later than normal, and then getting ready for church. But December 17, 2005 found me down at the Angwin Community Teen Center, where I have the fun of being a supervisor. Alongside a team of adults and teens we packed about 100 sack lunches, and loaded the vans with jackets, blankets, and 75 Christmas stockings which we had previously stuffed with a warm pair of gloves, a beanie, a scarf, a T-shirt, socks and some essentials, finishing them with a stuffed animal and a personal mini Christmas Tree.

Traffic was heavy, and a chilly rain followed, as 16 of us headed to the Tenderloin in San Francisco to share our love for the hungry and homeless.

As I walked the street that day I passed by what I thought was a pile of rags and saw a foot at the end of the pile. I looked closer and asked the man if he wanted a lunch. He shook his head no. It seemed he was too weak to sit up or even speak. Another man got tears in his eyes as I handed him a Christmas stocking. He



thanked me over and over. Some of the shopkeepers even came out to thank us



for caring for those that they see homeless and suffering every day.

When we were on the way home, I tried to think of something I really wanted for Christmas. I have so much, and take even more for granted. I realized that I already had all that I could want

of the things the world has to offer – a family, home, warmth, a car, and much more.

And most of all I thank God for being the best Shelter of all.

## QUOTES FROM KIDS

### What do you like best about the Teen Center?

- Hunter and "Mole":** "Soldering, pool, foosball, ping pong, computers, Risk, food"
- Victoria:** "Lots of people to be with." Mr. P is my favorite supervisor."
- Chris:** "Friends, games, and food"
- Josh:** "Everything . . . no stress here"
- Luke:** "Food, games that I wouldn't have at home."
- Bradley:** "Friends and homework support"
- Ramiro:** "Meeting new friends, and a place to come, chill and not be bored."
- Pete:** "It's a relief coming to the Teen Center."
- Tanner:** "It's a place to come when I'm bored."

## DIRECTORS CORNER

# THE POWER OF ONE

At a recent presentation by Dr. Gary Hopkins the elements that lead to youth health and wellbeing and reduce high risk behavior included: (1) disseminating information (2) enhancing self-esteem (3) fostering resilience (4) at least one caring adult, (5) after school activities, (6) school as a community (7) service activities, and (8) parent communication.

It was explained that the knowledge that develops resilience and reduces high risk behavior has been present for years - needs have been assessed, research findings have been written, programs have been outlined, and articles and presentations have been produced. The question is, "Why haven't we had a higher level of success?" The answer, "It really does take the entire community to pull it off."

Programs and events play a very important role, in fact, they are required to qualify for grant funding; however, the power behind higher levels of success or not is YOU. We can no longer simply lay the responsibility upon families and schools. Each of us must see ourselves as a vital component to shifting the spiraling cycle. Each of us have the power to make



a difference single handedly, regardless of formal training. Research shows that simply knowing a child by name can make a major life changing difference.

Kids today need an adult to go to when life is out of control or stress builds. They must be

seen as safe, understanding, and free from judgment. The power is in believing in the "unbelievable," and loving the "unlovable."

Examples were recently shared by two college students as to the impact of special people in their lives. One young college student cited the fact that she came from a family with a drug dealing father, and a mother who was in prison for years, and the effect of one teacher in her life. Another shared the fact that she had three major disabilities, including reading on the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level and an inability to spell, and was able to graduate from college and be accepted into a doctoral program because of the help of community members. This was in spite of being told by a counselor that there was no possibility that college was an option. Yet another example described the transformation from a Gothic lifestyle to suit and tie, because of the value placed in him by individual community members.

The elements outlined above are not ideas that *might* work, they are elements that *will* work. All that is needed is **YOU**.

If you would like to meet with and be a part of a group of passionate community members that choose to make a difference in the lives of youth, please call Tom Amato – 963-1515 or email [amatomp@napanet.net](mailto:amatomp@napanet.net).

## New Board Members Join the Teen Center

### Kevin Groom

Kevin has been a member of the Napa Valley for the past 34 years, and is currently working as an Import Purchasing Agent with Wilson Daniels, Ltd. in St. Helena. He is a devoted father and husband, and extremely civic minded. In recent years he has become active in the local community as a member of the Napa County Alcohol and Drug Program Advisory Board, the St. Helena Partnership on Youth Substance Abuse, the Wilson Daniels Community Outreach Team, and a supervisor/volunteer at the Angwin Community Teen Center.

### Jillian Helmer

Jillian is a long time member of the community, owner of Jillian M. Helmer, CPA Firm for the past 10 years, specializing in tax preparation, trusts, and financial planning, and a partner in Helmer and Sons, Inc. She is the mother of two children both attending Angwin schools. Jillian is currently a member of the Board of Pacific Union College Elementary School, and is deeply involved in the community.

### Guy Qvistgaard

Guy has been a Licensed Marriage, Family Therapist since 1983 specializing in the treatment of individuals with substance abuse, adolescent's issues, and borderline personality disorders. He has worked as Manager of Chemical Dependency Services and the Teen Center for St. Vincent de Paul Shelter, Managing Director of Behavioral Health Group, Executive Director of the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center, and is currently the Vice President of Behavior Health at St. Helena Hospital. Guy is spearheading a Peer Counseling program for all four of the Howell Mountain Schools through the Teen Center.

### Meg Scrofani

As a teacher, school principal and employee of the State Department of Education, Meg spent nearly four decades working to improve the public education system in California. She has also been an active participant in many worthy causes including a Child Abuse Prevention Program, Battered Women's Shelter and Foster Care Casework Team. Meg is currently a resident of Angwin, a Board Member of the St. Helena Family Center, and President of the Linda Vista Mutual Water Company.

## NEW ADDITIONS!

**Donations by Credit Card** – Earn valuable air miles or gifts by using your credit card for donations. The Teen Center now offers a credit card option of Visa, Master Card, or Discover for contributions. We can also facilitate automatic monthly donations upon request.

**eScript** – Automatically make a donation to the Teen Center every time you purchase at retail stores, buy tickets, or enjoy a meal at a restaurant. Sign your credit cards up on the enclosed form.

**10% off Coupon for three outstanding Calistoga Dining Options** – Flatiron Grill, Checkers, and Brannan's – The owner is offering a very special opportunity for three outstanding restaurants in the Napa Valley. Come by the Center and pick up a coupon.

# THANKS TO 2005 DONORS

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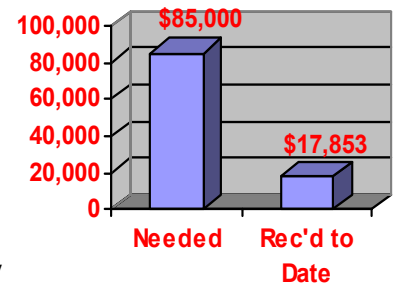
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## Teen Center Volunteer Staff

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Lauren Felter	Amanda Shipowick
Becky Galvez	Margo Slack
Kevin Groom	Ron Turner

## 2006 Funds Needed/Received



## TEEN CENTER ESTABLISHES INDEPENDENT 501C3 STATUS

The Angwin Community Teen Center became a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. This will position the Teen Center for eligibility of grants targeted for not-for-profits with the sole purpose of assisting teenagers in successful transitions to adulthood.

During the process of applying for non-profit status, the PUC Church graciously enabled the Teen Center to operate under their umbrella. "We were pleased to be able to be part of the early development of this important community resource. We recognized the need for a safe, structured place for teens and have been impressed with the generous support this community has given the Teen Center. We will remain supportive of the program and continue to collaborate with the leadership of the Teen Center," said Tim Mitchell, senior pastor.

All receipts for tax purposes will be issued directly by the Teen Center.

## ANGWIN COMMUNITY TEEN CENTER

P.O. Box 268  
19 Angwin Plaza  
Angwin, CA 94508

Phone: 707-965-7050  
Email: angwinteencenter@puc.edu

**A PLACE WHERE YOUTH  
ARE EMBRACED BY  
COMMUNITY**

Label goes here

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## TOGETHER WE **ARE** MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MARK PACINI

There was a time early on when I would leave the Center after an evening of supervision only to be drained and somewhat frustrated by experiences that were often less than enjoyable... basically, I felt like a babysitter. This was never the intent of the Center, and I wondered if we were fulfilling our mission, and even if we were, was it worth it?

I am happy to report that things have changed in a big way. Not only have our “children” grown up, but they now mentor newcomers and show them the way. It is a different place indeed, and now normally I leave refreshed as I witness first hand the changes taking place.

I am reminded of a verse in Scripture where Jesus reminds his Disciples that he now calls them friend. I now have many new friends. I see friends who once would disperse if an adult dared to enter their circle, now embrace the adults who have shown them gentle care. Many conversations between adults and kids alike take place daily. There are times when a teen even asks an adult for their opinion... can you imagine that? I am amazed at the progress, and I pray that some of this “good stuff” is being carried over into the home as well.

Kids, who once had to be asked to help, now jump up and

ask “how can I help?” Yes, big changes are taking place. I see healthy competition as the ping pong and pool tables are getting regular use, drawing people together young and old. We have become “family” caring for one another.

I know that other supervisors would also voice similar experiences and would express joy as they talk of the Teen

Center. They too have become bonded as the “family dynamic” develops relationships with other adults, as well as, our kids. Sharing a common mission almost always has that effect.

As you can see, developing relationships with young people comes with a price tag and an investment, but continued love and patience brings outstanding returns.

Can you tell that I am encouraged? Can you imagine a community where we all know the names of our kids?

Do you know how powerful it could be when a kid might think twice about his actions before proceeding to disappoint an adult who not only knows his name, but is also his friend? Yes, things are happening at the Center and I am pleased to be a part of it all. As we shortly enter our third year, I can only see it getting better.

Thank you for being a part of it as well.

