



590 Leland Avenue San Francisco, CA 94134

FALL 2005

# Inspiration



## "Happy Birthday, ROCK!"

Curt Yagi, Executive Director

Time sure flies when you're having fun. Once again, ROCK is celebrating another anniversary, this time its eleventh year of service to the children of Visitacion Valley. It is hard to believe that the organization, which started simply as an idea, has developed into a leading youth development agency serving hundreds of kids each year. I often reflect on the past year and enjoy reliving all of those precious moments that bring such life to our mission and happiness to those we serve.

In particular, during the beginning of the 2004-05 school year, we began tutoring our middle school participants in the ROCK office. I remember seeing all the new faces and worrying about whether or not I would be successful in homework assistance. After all, it had been years, if not decades, since I had last looked at middle school homework. One student, DeAurthur, while extremely intelligent, had temper and self-control problems when I first met him. Within the first couple of weeks, for a particular reason, I had to send him home early from programs. For the next two weeks, DeAurthur was upset and would not talk or make eye contact with me. Finally, one afternoon he was having difficulty with his math and because no other adult was available, he came to me for help. I did my best to help DeAurthur complete his assignment and a huge smile returned to his face. Finally, a breakthrough. Over the course of the past year, he would consistently walk into my office, flash me a huge smile and say, "I have math homework today" because I had become his math buddy.

In a time and place where kids are forced to grow up too fast with little or no positive opportunities to experience success, it is more important than ever that ROCK exists for Visitacion Valley. I am thankful and proud that the organization continues to prove its value in the community and has grown and developed every year since its inception. I want to thank you for letting me meet and bond with children like DeAurthur; please understand that ROCK wouldn't be the organization it is today without your continued support.

"Getting ready for a swim" - ROCK Summer Camp 2005



Summer Escape 2005



"Farm Camp was great. I wasn't only challenged by the many mile hike to the beach but also by a tough splinter! I'm impressed by the kids and staff from ROCK. Everyone treated each other as friends and with respect."  
- Alan, Volunteer

"ROCK summer camp is perfect for the volunteer with limited free time. You spend three and a half days with the kids. Their energy is infectious. By the end, you leave knowing you have made a difference. And the best part - Monday morning you walk into the office revitalized. Suddenly you realize you really were on vacation. What could be better?"

- Bernie, Volunteer



### ROCK's Mission and Programs

Real Options for City Kids (ROCK) was founded in 1994 in response to the needs within San Francisco's low-income neighborhoods for enhanced public education and positive after-school activities. ROCK's mission is to nurture the healthy development of children by listening attentively to their needs and by providing opportunities to those who might not otherwise have access. ROCK aims to promote the positive development and long-term success of the youth that it serves through a combination of in-school and after school learning enrichment, sports and fitness, leadership training, outdoor adventure and summer camp opportunities. ROCK's programs are designed to serve girls and boys, ages 6-14, who live in or attend school in San Francisco's Visitacion Valley.



## Volunteers & Advisors

Akiko Abe	Dan Greenblatt	Eric Jordan	Kelly Keegan	Mr. & Mrs. Foster	Shannon White
Alan Bradd	Dan Perkell	Eric Subido	Kelly Rush	Mr. Subido	Sharon Rimando
Alan Edwards	Dana Rohde	Ethel Galo	Ken Tomiyama	Nate Zimmerman	Shawn Davis
Alejandro Fong	Daniel Abella	Eugene An	Karen Ramirez	On Your Feet Project	Shawn Smith
Alex Butkus	Daniella Reichstetter	Gerard Bartolome	Kevin Cervantes	Our Lady of the	Sifu Ann Docena
Aline Li	Darlene Bosch	Giorgia Horrell	Kim Nutter	Visitacion School	Tamara Romanea
Amber Moyle	Dave Katz	Golden State	Kurt Kilgore	Pablo Fitting	Tiffany Bank
Annie Brown-Skiles	David Chan	Warriors Community	LaTeisha Quinn	Paul Nepomuceno	Tiffany Subido
Arjuna Sayyed	Debbie Mesaros	Relations	Lauren Lee	Pete Blum	Toon Harritnorn
Bay Area Scores	Deborah Davis	Heidi Kilgore	Leslie Pao	Phil Graf	Visitacion Valley
Bay Area Wilderness	Derek Zhai	Heidi Lam	Lisa Young	Phillip & Sala Burton	Beacon Center
Training	Derreck Connors	Hope De la Vega	Liz Daly	High School	Visitacion Valley
Bhavana	Diana Jimenez	Ingrid Fraunfelder	Lizzie Bowles	Phyllis Yagi	Elementary School
Vishnubhatta	Dina Washington	Isaac Dana	Luke Proskine	Professor Samuel	Visitacion Valley
Bill Rivette	Dina Wong	James Williams	Lydia Ruggiero	Lucas	Latchkey Program
Biren Bhandari	Edenika Lewis	Jamie Stark	Lyle Ross	Project Great	Visitacion Valley
Brandon Smith	El Dorado Elementary	Jasmine Jones	Margaret McKenna	Outdoors	Middle School
Brendan Byrd	School	Jazminn Fisher	Maria Turla	Quynh Nhu Trong	Wally Tseng
Brian Fearnow	Elena Gumina	Jay Wescott	Mateo Burtch	Raphel John Oriel	Whitney Barrett
Brian Kulich	Elise House	Jaylyn Silvestre	Mayor's Office of	Rebecca Hicks	Wholefoods
Bridgespan Group	Elizabeth Wood	Jazmin Fisher	Neighborhood	Rick Lewis	Wylie Peterson
Carl Kimmerle	Ellen Cronin	Joerg Schumann	Services	Sara Clow	Yamini Kimmerle+A54
Carolyn Starrett	Ellie Antrim	John Lowry	Melissa Hugo	Sara Weaver	Zulima Ndongo
Charlene Mendoza	Ely Christina Galang	Judith Chendo	Melody Chu	Sarah Snow	Abeso
Cheryl Mannion	Ely Rocio Galang	Kalekina Lewis	Metmei Sevinc	Saray Fey	
Chris Bitcon	Environmental	Kass Johnson	Michael Savitzky	Saskia Stokhof de	
Chris Ginieccki	Travelling	Kate Amanna	Mike Chan	Tong	
Christina Chung	Companion	Kathy Butkus	Mike Travis	SF Rec and Parks	
Christopher Chang	Eric Hansen	Kathy Shurtz	Monique Garrett	Department	

## A Community Camp Experience

Heidi Kilgore, Program Consultant

This year ROCK held its ninth summer sleepover camp for the children of Visitacion Valley. As most of you know, this four-day, three-night crazy, fun, adventurous experience is the highlight of the year for nearly all of our kids. The children literally glow with the joy and excitement at the chance to get "away from it all" and get into a whole new kind of environment, a ROCK family environment, an environment that ROCK staff and volunteers work hard to fill with peace, joy, wisdom, safety and silly, crazy fun. Not only do our little ones call year after year to ensure their spots at camp, but this year more than any other, so did the young people of the ROCK community! The ROCK camp alumni, 13 high school and college students from the ROCK community generously and enthusiastically offered to give up four days of their summer vacations to come to camp as leaders for the ROCK children! We had big brothers, big sisters, older cousins, camp alumni and even former ROCK participants who never got to come to camp as children, all volunteer. Some came by BART and even taxi from their new homes outside Visitacion Valley, just to be there for us. These young people truly made

camp possible for us this year, and without them, we would not have had nearly enough volunteers to bring our 55 kids to camp. I marveled as our youth scrubbed dishes for hours in the kitchen, hiked miles encouraging their slowest camper, swept "scary spiders" out of tents and even lead the way in their cabin skirts and the impromptu Barn Dance Party.

My hope is that one day our summer sleepover camp will expand to serve more kids with the help of more volunteers from the ROCK community. There's just something special, something precious, something moving about watching young people giving all they have to create a magical and memorable camp experience for the children of their community. To watch Monique and Kevin gently and lovingly guide their 6 year-old little brothers through their first ROCK Camp experience, the same way a ROCK volunteer once did for them is precious. They do this for no other reason than to remember and hold dear all the magical and memorable moments of their own ROCK camp experiences.

## ROCK's Board of Directors

Chris Ginieccki	Lyle Ross
Dina Wong	Pete Blum
Kathy Shurtz	Rick Lewis
Luke Proskine	Wylie Peterson



## Financial Investors

<b>Legends (\$10,000 +)</b>	The Karl and Debbie Matthies Family Foundation	<b>Winners (\$250 &amp; above)</b>	Baris Karadogan & Susana Rodriguez de Tembleque	Jeffrey & Donna Gathers	Ruth Hubbard
Electronic Arts	Wells Fargo	Chimmy Lee*	Bill Phillips	John & Hilary Walsh	Samuel Lucas
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Silver Giving Foundation		John & Mary Peterson	Chris Semain	Laura Anderson	Sean Sabarese
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	Youth Leadership Institute	<b>Sponsors (Up to \$250)</b>	Jeff Helm	Peggy Rivette	
		Agustin Marking		Ramsey Gregg	
		Andrew Donehower		Richard Ginieccki	
		Arati Prabhakar			
		Ashley Valentine			

\*Indicates both financial and in-kind donations

## A Successful Golf Tournament

Over 100 golfers, volunteers and spectators enjoyed a sunny afternoon of golf, food and fun during ROCK's 3rd Annual ROCK Open. This year, ROCK experienced a new event fundraising record, raising over \$18,000. A special thanks to tournament director Wylie Peterson and the entire golf committee who donated their time and effort - and it was a huge effort - all for the benefit of ROCK.

