

SVCF NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SILICON VALLEY CHILDREN'S FUND



FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, ROBERT JONES, MARK JONES, AND MONICA JONES



Silicon Valley Kids Triathlon™

"IN 2002 THE SILICON VALLEY TRIATHLON CLUB "ADOPTED" THE SILICON VALLEY CHILDREN'S FUND AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE NET PROCEEDS FROM OUR ANNUAL SILICON VALLEY KIDS TRIATHLON. WE PICKED THE CHILDREN'S FUND BECAUSE ITS GOAL OF HELPING NEEDY COMMUNITY YOUTH WAS CONSISTENT WITH OURS OF ENCOURAGING GOOD HEALTH AND SELF-CONFIDENCE IN COMMUNITY YOUTH THROUGH TRIATHLON. WE CALL IT KIDS HELPING KIDS, AND OVER THE PAST 9 YEARS OUR YOUTH EVENT HAS GENERATED CLOSE TO \$100,000 FOR THE SVCF. WE HAVE HAD A GREAT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FUND, WHICH CONTINUES, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO JUNE 5, 2011 WHEN WE AGAIN HOLD OUR KIDS TRI. ALTHOUGH I RECEIVED THE FUND'S COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD, I ACCEPTED IT FOR ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS WHO HAVE MADE OUR EVENTS SUCCESSFUL. ALL OF US IN SVTC ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN'S FUND AND ARE DELIGHTED TO SEE HOW OUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY COMMUNITY YOUTH." ROBERT JONES

Annual Dinner

Community Impact Award Given to the Silicon Valley Kid's-Tri

The 10th annual Silicon Valley Children's Fund Annual Dinner was held on September 16 at the San Jose Museum of Technology and featured the awarding of the first ever Community Impact Award. Joined by this year's MC, Irish Greg from the KFOG morning radio show and two Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members, Maria Guadalupe Diaz and Brandy Wright, the Community Impact Award was presented to the Silicon Valley Triathlon Club (SVTC).

Representing SVTC was Robert Jones, Race Director, and his son, Mark Jones, Race Announcer, for the Kid's Triathlon hosted by the SVTC.

Over the last 10 years, SVCF has been the recipient of the proceeds generated by the annual Kid's Triathlon. Last June, over 1000 participants showed up to race their hearts out not only for their health, but to support fellow youth in their communities.

To show their appreciation and to educate participants on the important work being done with their support, YAB members interviewed race participants and their families, thanking them for supporting the education of foster youth in Silicon Valley.

The Kid's Tri has raised over \$100,000 to support foster youth through college. The money raised by these athletes goes directly to providing foster youth with the educational support they need. Whether it is tutoring, mentoring, summer academic camps or scholarships, our YES Scholars have succeeded in part because of the efforts made by these young athletes. SVTC has also helped to raise awareness in our community for this important need. If you missed our Annual Dinner, please visit our website at www.svcf.org. You can also visit our Facebook and Twitter pages.

"Over the last 10 years, the Kid's-Tri has raised over \$100,000.00 to support foster youth through college."

FALL 2010 Highlights

- September 16th - Annual Dinner
- Community Impact Award Presented to Silicon Valley Kids-Tri
- October 3rd - Middle School Education Court sees first cases
- October 13th - Youth Advisory Board Workshop Conducted
- Launched High School Roadmap Program
- High School Roadmap Interns Trained
- High School Youth Connected to Interns
- YES Scholars Mid-year Application November 1st
- 50 Applications Received For Scholarships
- Mentor Training Workshop Completed

YES POST SECONDARY UPDATE:

YES to Higher Education

By the Numbers: For the 2010-2011 academic year, 86 YES Scholars are attending 35 different schools ranging from community college, public and private four year universities, liberal arts colleges, and vocational programs. This year we are supporting 7 students in their final year of high school as they finish requirements for their diploma or GED and take steps to start college in Fall 2011.

Outreach: YES has worked with ILP to provide two workshops during the Fall semester. Workshops were conducted on time management and personal statement writing to assist youth with their YES application.

YES HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

Roadmap to Independence Higher Education Summit

SVCF partnered with the Santa Clara County Higher Education Summit Collaborative, a partnership of several local agencies serving foster youth, to plan and participate in the 8th Annual Higher Education Opportunities Summit, hosted at San Jose State University by the CME Society. SVCF hosted a table at the event to share information regarding YES and our expanded High School Roadmap program to foster youth in grades 6-12. De Anza Summer Bridge Program

This year, 21 students participated in the six week Summer Bridge program at De Anza College. The program engaged students in Life Skills for Higher Education and a Nonfiction and Memoir Writing course where students were tasked with writing a personal statement that could be used for college

and scholarship applications. Students who completed the program earned up to 18 high school elective credits and 8 transferrable college units. Students also participated in college tours and visited San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, Stanford University, and San Francisco State University. The summer concluded with a luncheon that allowed students to showcase their artwork, creative talents, and to celebrate their success.

The De Anza Bridge Summer Bridge program is a partnership with De Anza College, Santa Clara County Office of Education – Foster Youth Services (COE-FYS), DFCS, East Side Union High School District, and SVCF.

Emerging Scholars Expansion

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Emerging Scholars Expansion

YES MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE:

Middle School Mandate

SVCF is proud to announce the launch of the Middle School Education Court (MSEC), the first problem solving court in the nation charged with overseeing educational outcomes for foster youth. Under the leadership of the Honorable Teresa Guerrero-Daley, the MSEC began education review hearings in September 2010 for a pilot cohort of middle school students. The development of the MSEC is an important step in ensuring that foster youth's educational needs receive attention and priority at a critical juncture and touch point in their lives. Over the next three years, the MSEC expects to serve 100% of middle school students in foster care.

The goals of the MSEC are to raise middle school foster youth academic outcomes and serve as a nationwide model for system-wide

collaboration and accountability. To achieve this, the MSEC team is developing the court structure and protocols to support an innovating education service model for students that provides for education advocacy, case management, and educational support services including a complete educational assessment. SVCF has also established a partnership with San Jose State University's Research Institute for Foster Youth Initiatives (RIFYI) for outcomes measurement and research.

Results to Date

- Fifteen students are currently calendared to participate in MSEC education hearings in 2010; Forty students are targeted for MSEC participation during 2010-2011.

Special thanks to LiveOps for their \$20K 2010 grant in support of YES to Higher Education.

YES Scholars attended the YES Scholar Orientation prior to the start of the 2010-2011 academic year. Scholars learned about campus resources, financial aid, money management, career advice, and from their fellow peers on tips to be successful in college.

The YES Mentor Orientation was a refresher course for our mentors on how to best reach out and support their YES Scholar mentees. Mentors heard from current scholars regarding their mentor/mentee relationships, a financial aid advisor regarding funding higher education and two county social workers who discussed how to handle sensitive topics and emergency situations.

Special thanks to Packard, Sandhill, SV2 for their \$45K 2010 OST grant to the High School Roadmap.

In September 2010, SVCF in collaboration with the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) and the County Office of Education - Foster Youth Services (COE-FYS), launched the expansion of the Emerging Scholars program. Interns who are Master's in Social Work (MSW) candidates from San Jose State University began working with approximately 40 high school aged foster youth in the East Side Union High School District. The interns are responsible for developing academic plans, connecting youth to academic resources, and serving as the youth's academic coach as they progress through a year of high school. The goal of the program is to increase the number of foster youth from Santa Clara County who graduate high school and pursue post-secondary education or a vocational program.

- Every MSEC student is receiving a Child Advocate through Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Every MSEC student is receiving a personalized academic plan and referrals to tutoring and other services.
- The Research Institute for Foster Youth Initiatives has completed baseline data gathering to assess systemic impact of MSEC.

Special thanks to CISCO Foundation for their \$20K 2010 grant to support the Middle School Mandate.

Congratulations 2010 Graduates!



Anomar DJ Amundson – Gavilan College Transferred to UC Santa Cruz



Odessa Powers - San Francisco State University (Cum Laude) Bachelor's Degree in International Relations



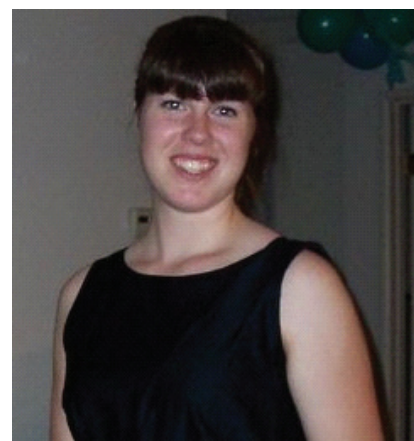
Rozena Abriha – De Anza College AA in Social Work Transferred to San Jose State University



Ying Lin - UC Davis BA in Economics



Kenyon Whitman– Fresno State University BS in Kinesiology



Amber Brown - De Anza College AS in Social and Behavioral Sciences Transferring to San Jose State



April Vance – Howard University BA in Communications and Public Policy



Mary Portwood – Fresno State University BS in Kinesiology



Brandy Wright - West Valley College AA in Women's Studies/Liberal Arts. Transferred to UC Santa Cruz



Amanda Madrid – Mission College AA in Biological Sciences. Transferred to CSU-East Bay

YESTM | **YOUTH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Nationwide less than 1% of foster youth graduate from college. YES helps foster youth fulfill the dream of obtaining a 2-year/4-year college degree or vocational training.

YES provides educational support, connections to mentors and financial scholarships to help foster youth succeed in higher education.

More 2010 Graduates

- Matthew Morgan –San Jose State University BA in Communications. Pursuing job opportunities in the entertainment industry and looking into graduate programs.
- Selam Tsegaslasie - AA from San Jose City College and is completing requirements to pursue her dream of becoming a registered nurse.
- Constance Williams – completed her Peace Officer (Police) Training at Youngstown State University and passed the Ohio State test to become a police officer.
- Esperanza Sanchez – Gavilan College A.A. in Spanish and Liberal Studies. Currently pursuing BS in Social and Behavioral Science California State University Monterey Bay.
- Maria Guadalupe Diaz - De Anza College AA in Liberal Arts. Currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts/Urban Education at San Francisco State University.

Our sincerest congratulations to all of the YES scholars on their accomplishments. We are so very proud of all that you have achieved and look forward to seeing your continued success in the future.

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Silicon Valley Children's Fund is a catalyst and partner to develop and support special programs and projects for foster youth – those fragile children in our community who ultimately will share the responsibility for the future of our society.

The Fund is dedicated to helping vulnerable kids heal, become productive members of the community, and achieve their dreams for the future.

Contact Us

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