

THE DAILY PLANET



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District 4-C6. Serving the South San Jose Community

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Website: www.almadenlions.org e-mail: newsletter@almadenlions.org Membership: jeff.spedding@sbcglobal.net

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ALMADEN SUPER LIONS HELD MINIATURE GOLF FUND RAISER

BY LIONS MARLENE DUFFIN AND WEN DOONG

It was a beautiful, warm summer evening when Almaden Super Lions held their miniature golf fundraiser at Almaden Golfland. Over 92 people attended, playing golf, eating pizza and bidding on lovely raffle baskets. Over \$10,000 was raised to help with community projects such as Backpacks for Kids (see article below). We would like to thank the more than 30 corporate, individual and group sponsors and volunteers from Almaden Super Lions who made this event possible. Please visit our web site to view the pictures of this fun and rewarding event. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Lion Steve Marks watches wife Nancy point to the location of the hole while friends Steve and Joanne Foster and granddaughter Terra MacEwen look on.

Side Lines

August was a very busy month for Almaden Super Lions. We had our Backpacks for Kids and Miniature Golf Tournament fundraisers. Both activities were extremely well planned and very successfully executed. Thanks to Lions Judy Froom and Alan Woertink for their coordination effort. More importantly, we want to recognize all the volunteers in the Almaden Super Lions and other Lions Clubs who made the events possible. Thank you!

You will see in the News Room Section that the I Care Classic Bicycle Tour preparation has begun. There is never a dull moment in this vibrant club! Our motto of "We Serve" is alive and well.

Please write to us with your suggestions and comments at newsletter@almadenlions.org

Editor *Lion Wen Doong*



BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

BY LION JUDY FROOM

Most of us cannot begin to imagine what life would be like living at the Homeless Shelter, in a car, or in a friend's garage. It would be even worse if you were an innocent child. In 2006, there were over 1,200 homeless children living in the San Jose area. With the assistance of several other Lions Clubs, Wal-Mart, friends and family, the Almaden Lions Club filled 900 backpacks with school supplies for underprivileged children. Of these 900 backpacks, 300 went to homeless children,

while the rest went to children who were in desperate need of new school supplies.

On Sunday, August 19th at the Santa Clara Valley Blind Center, over 70 people from the East Valley, Sunnyvale

Host, Cupertino Host, Visionary, Saratoga Host, Scales of Justice, and Milpitas Executive Lions, worked for an hour gathering school supplies and putting it in backpacks. These backpacks were then distributed to the homeless



Members from Almaden Super Lions and other Lions Clubs prepared backpacks for underprivileged children.

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SPECIAL REPORT - WHAT IS AN AT-RISK STUDENT

BY LION JUDIE BENNETT



“ It is not unusual for these students to find a place where they connect and feel support. Sadly, this is often found in the support of gang members. The gang connection can lead to crime and imprisonment”

[Editor - This is the second article in the series discussing “Children at Risk.” We were very pleased when Lion Judie Bennett accepted our invitation to write several articles on this topic beginning this month. Lion Judie taught Social Studies and Language for 24 years, then became a Dropout Prevention Counselor for 8 years and Manager of the Healthy Start Center for 4 years. Since retiring, she has worked part time as Drug Free Schools Coordinator for 9 years. Lion Judie has a BA degree in Education and MA in Counseling Psychology. We hope that Judie’s report will bring awareness to the challenges that all of us, members of Lion Club and citizens in our community, are facing.]

There are many factors which contribute to the label "at risk". One of the most important is attendance. Poor attendance directly relates to dropping out of school. When a child is absent one day a week, they have lost a year of school by the fourth grade. Following in this pattern, a student is two years behind by the ninth grade; and it is at this time we see a large number of students dropping out.

By this time in their life, they are not as socially connected with their peers, they have large holes of learning, and emotionally their self-esteem has begun to crumble. It is not unusual for these students to then find a place where they connect and feel support. Sadly, this is often found in the support of gang members who have similar school experiences. The gang connection can lead to crime and imprisonment.

These ninth graders are generally one to two years behind in reading, and have missed out in many areas. They often lack the confidence children have who are in school every day. Besides their academic delays, social and emotional development take a hit too.

Educating parents is a big job for the school. If you are dealing with young parents with their first child in school, it is a matter of explaining the importance of every-day attendance. These parents can support the school by working with the child at home. Parents are the child’s first

and most important model. Working with the child at home on simple tasks that reinforce the teaching not only give the child confidence and skill, it tells the child that the parents think school is important.

Even today, with children entering Kindergarten with far more skills than ever, the school comes across many parents who think K is playschool and it is ok to miss a Monday after a big weekend. Keeping the child home is telling the child that school is NOT important.

On occasion, we come across the child that wants to be in school, but is kept home for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it is to baby-sit younger sibs or elderly grandparents. Sometimes the parent cannot manage to get the child to school. Schools with support staff, such as a dropout prevention counselor, target these parents as soon as they can and attempt to assist the parents by educating them on laws which mandate attendance, finding services needed in the community or creating a contract for the family which encourages them to get their child to school.

In severe circumstances, families are taken to court for keeping their children out of school. This can result in a heavy fine and time in jail. This process takes time and energy away from other student needs.

So, the question now asked is, "What do we do to prevent student failure and dropping out?"

The answer, I believe, is **prevention**. **Intervention** helps some if the dropout can be turned around and returned to school. This is a costly process. **Suppression** is the least effective, as that puts the person in jail and possibly leads to further involvement in crime.

Prevention takes many forms. Early parent education while children are still pre-schoolers can be quite effective. Parent

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“Wal-Mart was EXTREMELY generous and helped us with the school supplies. The Manager of the Stationary Department was on hand as well to help out with the assembly of the backpacks”

(From Page 1 - Backpacks for Kids)

program Families First, a foster families program, and schools in the Union, San Jose Unified and Franklin-McKinley School Districts.

Wal-Mart, Saratoga Host, Cupertino Host, Scales of Justice, and Almaden Super all donated money towards the backpacks for the children. Wal-Mart was also EXTREMELY generous, helping us sort and assemble the school supplies. The Manager of the Stationary Department was on hand as well to help out with the assembly process. The Blind Center donated the use of their facility to help lay out, sort, fill and distribute the backpacks.

At times it seemed like bedlam in that room with people constantly scurrying around. I think that each and every one of those who participated in this project not only enjoyed the process but felt like they were making a difference in a child’s life; THAT is what being a Lion is all about.

This was our strongest year for “Packs for Kids.” We were able to supply children with the tools to help them succeed throughout the school year, and hopefully encourage strong schoolman-ship to children who had previously been unable to even write their names on paper that they could afford. This kind of service impacts our communities in the spirit of Lions Clubs all over the world; to inspire youth, to assist those in need, and to touch the lives of other human beings. With the help of Wal-Mart, Saratoga Host, Cupertino Host, Scales of Justice, and the Almaden Super Lions, 900 children were proud and excited to start the school year, and there is nothing more important than being able to give that to the youth of our community.

(From Page 2 - What is an at-risk student)

education as to school expectations is necessary. It must be kept in mind that many of the parents of at-risk children were at-risk children themselves and going to school for meetings is not always the most comfortable. Many do not have positive memories of school. Visiting the homes of these families can be very beneficial to the family and to the school. Seeing the living conditions of some of our children helps school staff to better understand.

How realistic are the above ideas? Do teachers have the time to visit homes and work with the parents when they have ever-increasing demands put upon them by the state and the feds? These demands are so great at some schools that teachers don’t have the luxury of being able to teach many of the subjects they received as students. The demand to increase math and reading scores is so great, and this is where most of the teaching day goes.

Schools with outreach consultants or dropout prevention counselors are able to target their at-risk students and give prevention support and programs to both students and parents. Sadly, these people are often stretched thin, but what they do for children is one of the best ways to address their needs.



News Room



BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS

There are only a few slots left to host our monthly board meeting. The meetings are a great time for fellowship and exchange of ideas as to the future of our club. The timing is somewhere around the 3rd Thursday of each month with nothing fancy in a relaxed meeting protocol. Reserve your spot and have a great group of Lions show up on your doorstep. For up-to-date information, please log in our members only website at <http://www.almadenlions.org/clubmembers/index.htm>.

ALMADEN "SUPER" BOARD MEETINGS 2007 — 2008

JULY		Dinsmore @
AUGUST	23	Jimmy's
SEPTEMBER	20	Froom
OCTOBER	25	Woertink
NOVEMBER	15	Spedding
DECEMBER	20	Simpson
JANUARY	24	Hunt
FEBRUARY	21	Doong

WWW.ALMADENLIONS.ORG WEB SITE UPDATES

During the past month, we updated our website (www.almadenlions.org) with the following information.

- Pictures from Backpacks for Kids on August 19
- Pictures from Miniature Golf on August 30
- Updated Board Meeting locations (login required)
- Raffle Ticket Roster (login required)
- Committees and Chairpersons (login required)

If you do not know the login name and password to our members login area, please contact Lion Wen Doong.



I CARE CLASSIC BICYCLE TOUR PREPARATION BEGINS

2008 I Care Classic Bicycle Tour will be held on May 17 next year. Preparation has already begun for this important fundraiser. Everyone in the Club is expected to participate and help. Lion Don has provided the "Cookie Log" below. This log and other information will be posted on our website in the members login area. Please check for updated information periodically at <http://www.almadenlions.org/clubmembers/index.htm>.



In order to get the information out early to the cyclist community so more people can plan to join us next year, our goal is to get the new brochure redesigned in September (see far right picture) and start circulating them.

This year the Almaden Super Lions Art Department also took the challenge to use fewer colors than last year's T-Shirt design to convey the "Ride for Sight" message (see top picture).

2008 I CARE CLASSIC COOKIE LOG			
	DOZENS		DOZENS
BEMIS, J	10	HUFFERD	10
BENNETT	10	HUNT	10
BLOMBERG, G	10	HUNTER	10
BOOTH	10	ISAACSON, V	10
BREWER	10	KELLY	10
DINSMORE	10	KRAUSE, N	10
DONNELL	10	MARKS, S	10
DOONG	10	MCCLOSKEY, D	10
DUFFIN	10	MORALES	10
FERBER, L	10	MORIARTY	10
FROOM, J	5	ROSE	10
FROOM, R	5	ROSS, L	10
GOODHEART	10	RUIS	10
GRILLI	10	SCHAAPHOK, P	10
HALL	10	SILVERIA, R	10
HANNER	10	SIMPSON, D	10
HART	10	SMITH, T	10
HECHT, L	5	SNOW, G	10
HECHT, R	5	SPEDDING, J	10
HOWARD	10	WOERTINK, A	10
Total			380

The 17th Annual
I CARE
Bicycle Tour



Presents . . .

The South County Century
& fun ride 2008



Saturday
May 17, 2008

A Springtime Tour of
South Santa Clara Valley

September 2007							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 35	26	27	28	29 7a super meeting	30	31	1
Week 36	2	3	4	5 7a super meeting 12p Speaker B. Froom	6	7	8
Week 37	9	10	11	12 7a super meeting 12p Speaker Surprise 12p Raffle Tim	13	14	15 12p PDG's Picnic
Week 38	16	17	18	19 7a super meeting 12p Speaker Simpson 12p Raffle Lloyd	20 6p Board Meeting @ Woertink's	21	22
Week 39	23	24	25	26 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Lanny	27	28	29
Week 40	30	1	2	3 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Fiacro	4 Miniature Golf	5	6 9p White Cane Days

October 2007							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 40	30	1	2	3 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Fiacro	4 Miniature Golf	5	6 9p White Cane Days
Week 41	7 9a White Cane Days	8	9	10 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Schaaphok	11	12	13
Week 42	14	15	16	17 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Rick	18 6p Board Meeting @ Spedding's	19	20
Week 43	21	22	23	24 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Silky	25	26	27
Week 44	28	29	30	31 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Tom	1	2	3

Your Suggestions Count -

Please let us know how to make OUR Newsletter better. We welcome your input and article submissions.

Almaden Super Lions Newsletter

E-Mail: newsletter@almadenlions.org

Almaden Super Lions Club

Club President

Lion Eddie Dinsmore
eddiejunior@sbcglobal.net

Club Secretary

Lion Don Simpson
capt_don@pacbell.net

Club Treasurer

Lion Na'ndor Krause
geokrause@aol.com

Region 3 Zone 1

Mount Hamilton

1st & 3rd Thursday 7:00 pm, Baker's Square, Milpitas

San Jose East Valley

Every Tuesday 7:00 am except on the THIRD Tuesday at 7 pm, Carrow's Restaurant. 1696 Tully Road, San Jose

San Jose Host

Every Tuesday 12:00 pm
Moose Lodge, 1580 Hamilton Ave, San Jose

District 4C6

District Governor

Lion Bob DeUnger
Sunnyvale Host

Vice District Governor

Lion Marlene Duffin
Saratoga Lions

Cabinet Secretary

Lion Karen Fillmore
Scale of Justice

Cabinet Treasure

Lion Lila Johnson
Carmel Host

Region Three Chair

Lion Rick Silveria
Almaden Super

Zone One Chair

Lion Lois Ferber
Almaden Super

Zone Two Chair

Lion Bill Hart
Gilroy Lions