



Thank-you poster for an official who got STOP signs posted at a dangerous intersection near Lincoln Elementary School where most of our students attend

Special Events at Pomona Hope

- Pomona Hope's fiscal year ends July 31st. Thank you for donations to help us finish this year strong.
- We are always in need of volunteers at the center. So if you wish to make a difference in a child's life, please contact the director of the community center at the phone number or email below.

"Crime drops as ordinary people get involved in fighting it."

More Than Tobacco Burning by Meg Connors, Pomona Hope Comm. Liaison

Pomona Hope has been organizing the parents and neighbors around the community center to make a difference in their community.

Angry neighbors held a meeting to discuss the drug activity going on behind The Smoke Shop on the corner. One father found dirty syringes tossed in his yard. Others complained that they were unable to sleep entire nights as an agitated crowd of drug addicts and dealers, prostitutes and johns filled the parking lot for an evening's worth of noisy activity. Using the training from OneLA, we held individual and then house meetings and invited the police to attend them. They were incredibly supportive. We stated our stories and that we wanted The Smoke Shop owner's license withdrawn, and the shop closed. We also stated that we wanted to build a co-operative relationship with the police to make the area safe. The police told us what they had been doing in the area, and told us to use an anonymous phone line to report everything suspicious that we saw. The neighbors had little faith that the police would come through, but the first two calls made were responded to in two minutes flat.

The next four weeks were

phenomenal! The police descended on the area like a swarm of hornets. They made 100 contacts and 60 arrests on one street. The police chief came out at night several times and made arrests in the parking lot. Our city council representative made a number of lengthy visits to "hang out" in the Smoke Shop, making it most uncomfortable for the owner to continue business as usual. We contacted the local churches and soon teams of pastors came to The Shop evangelizing the owner. One ministry sent an evening team of women, some of whom were ex-hookers who targeted the prostitutes. The women shared how their lives had been transformed. Another night team was made up of recovered drug addicts who zeroed in on the users and dealers. One large, interdenominational group encircled the place and prayed and sang. We made that poor, old, drug-dealer just as miserable as we legally could. Not too many of his clients returned as the corner was crawling with cops and Christians. Finally, the owner gave up, forfeited his license, and moved out. WE WON! It was something that brought us closer together and took teamwork on the part of the neighbors, police, city council, and the local churches. It was a win that gave us all more hope.

Contact Us:

Pomona Hope
401 North Gibbs St
Pomona CA 91767

(909) 623-0400

www.pomonahope.org
info@pomonahope.org
donate@pomonahope.org

**Pomona Hope**



Family Literacy Night at the Community Center

From the President:

During these warm summer evenings, my family has made a habit of taking a stroll to our local park. On these walks we will invariably bump into a kid or a family whom we've met through Pomona Hope. These chance meetings never fail to remind me how much we, the people of Pomona, all have in common. Our concerns, our fears, and our hopes are stunningly the same. These conversations leave me with renewed energy to pursue the growth and development of Pomona Hope.

As the 2006-2007 school year closed, the second year of Pomona Hope's After School Program concluded as well. At an end of the year party, kids cashed out their "Bob's Bucks", (incentives for homework completed and goals met), and left with prizes they had earned through their attendance and achievement. Program Director Bob is spending the summer developing a wider volunteer base as well as a

larger funding base for the program. On June 20, families and neighbors on our street celebrated the closure of the notorious Smoke Shop, a site of drugs, violence, and general villainy that Pomona Hope had long worked to close. At times we almost lost hope that it would happen, but it did. Police Chief Joe Romero celebrated with us, commended neighbors and Meg Connors for her hard work, and led us in a toast. Chief Romero reminded us that crime drops as ordinary people get involved in fighting it and he encouraged us to continue to organize and work with him to reclaim the streets of Pomona.

Numerous exciting possibilities are on Pomona Hope's horizon as we look ahead to the fall. Pomona Hope has been in talks with Western University of Health Sciences to establish a permanent medical clinic within our building. For several months, we have been hosting a monthly medical clinic for Pomona Valley Hospital and we have seen that affordable, accessible medical care is a real need in our community. The plan to work with Western University opens up a whole new avenue of possibility for our organization.

Pomona Hope has also been meeting with Habitat for Humanity over the last several months to find ways to work together in our community. Habitat's values are deeply in line with our own and we are excited to find ways to build a community of hope in Pomona together.

As president, I'm uniquely blessed to see all of the amazing things that are happening at Pomona Hope. I'll never tire of saying it: your partnership makes it all possible. Whether you support us as a volunteer, a donor, or through prayer, you are a vital partner in our effort to build a community of hope in Pomona. Thank you so much for your support of Pomona Hope.

Joe George

If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.