



A renovated classroom- before and after.

Pomona Hope Kids is on the move! by Joe George

On the first Saturday of 2008, a team of volunteers descended upon the Pomona Hope Community Center to move our tutoring operation from the third floor to the first floor!

Wanting to increase our accessibility as well as cut down on wasted time running up and down two flights of stairs, Pomona Hope Kids Coordinator Emily Peine had been planning the move for some time. "Moving everything to the first floor seemed like a good way to be more welcoming to parents and kids," explained Emily.

For the last several years Pomona Hope had been renting several classrooms on the third floor of Pomona Presbyterian's Education building. Used as Sunday school classrooms since the 1930's, these rooms have been ideal sites for the homework and tutoring sessions offered by Pomona Hope. The distance from the street, however, unfortunately limited access to parents and children showing up late or coming early for pick up. Precious time was also wasted tramping up and down two flights of stairs. According to Emily, relocating

to the first floor not only streamlined our operation, but also "gives kids more time to work on homework and to play."

Our hard-working team of volunteers included members of LaVerne Heights Presbyterian Church, Pomona Presbyterian, parents of kids in the program, students from Pomona College, and teenagers from the Pomona Presbyterian Youth Group. Dorothy, a professional chef who has volunteered with Pomona Hope, prepared a spectacular lunch of chili, cornbread, and chocolate chip cookies. Thus fortified, our crew of workers added a second coat of paint to our new rooms, removed old and broken furniture, and moved our resources down from the third floor.

"Each volunteer had expertise in some area or another which made it such a successful work day," explained Emily. On behalf of the kids and volunteers using the new first floor rooms, thanks for making it possible!

Special Events and Needs

Upcoming Events:

- **Volunteer Social!**
Wednesday, February 6 from 5pm-6pm. Refreshments Provided! A chance for volunteers to relax, share stories, and learn from one another
- **Open House!**
5-8pm Wednesday, March 5. Refreshments Provided! An opportunity for parents, community members, and volunteers to mingle and get a tour of the newly renovated center!

Needs:

- A large paper cutter
- Items for Junior High Girls to purchase at the Pomona Hope Kids Store
- 4 wall clocks
- Black Sharpies
- carpet laid in 2 rooms
- carpet cleaning for 2 rooms

"What kind of existence will Pomona and its people have ten, twenty, fifty years from now? It depends upon us."

Robert Linthicum Sr.

Contact Us:

Pomona Hope
401 North Gibbs St
Pomona CA 91767

(909) 623-0400

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





Students enjoying the sun before receiving help with their homework from dedicated tutors.

“A City Not Forgotten”-

Pomona Hope Fundraising Dinner

Pomona Hope is, in a sense, an ongoing community action to ensure that Pomona never becomes a forgotten city. Support our transformational organization, enjoy a wonderful meal, and learn more about the history of Pomona and the ministry of Pomona Hope on February 24, 2:00 pm at the Pomona Valley Mining Company Restaurant. The afternoon event will include a wonderful meal in one of the restaurant's panoramic view banquet rooms, a walk through some of the most interesting aspects of Pomona's history, and information on the impact that Pomona Hope is having on the city today. Tickets are \$35 a piece or \$250 for a table of eight. To purchase a ticket or to get more information, contact Tanya Eveleth at 909-292-3976 or tevelth@gmail.com.

From the president:

My relationship with Pomona began in 1992 when volunteering at an after school program. I formed a number of meaningful relationships with both kids and their parents, and felt compelled to move here shortly after graduation. I continued to work with youth for a number of years in different volunteer capacities. While I experienced tremendous joy in those settings, I was also deeply frustrated and discouraged. By 2002 virtually every kid I had ever worked with had either dropped out of high school, fathered a child as a teenager, was locked up, was dead, or had moved out of Pomona. While I know a number of teens who have had great lives and have experienced tremendous success coming from Pomona, (two speakers at my college graduation had attended Pomona High,) my experience in talking to kids and their parents was often one of hopelessness and despair. People were unhappy and there was a sense that things would never change. After hearing similar stories from a number of friends and neighbors, we decided to create something that could grow larger than ourselves and that would give our neighbors and community a safe place to come together and work for change. In 2003 we incorporated as the non-profit Pomona Hope. That's basically how we started. With an all-

volunteer board and only one part-time employee, we are building our organization around these five aims:

- Community Education
- Community Organizing
- Community Development
- Community Health
- Community Spirituality

In earlier newsletters I have highlighted victories and accomplishments made in the first four areas. This issue I'd like to explain a little bit about the Community Spirituality component to Pomona Hope. Community Spirituality is our most difficult, but perhaps most important aim. Pomona Hope is not about recruiting anyone to a particular church. However, we are passionate about calling others into living lives of significance and justice. Board members like myself have had the chance to address groups and challenge people to radically take up Jesus' challenge to love our neighbor -especially when that neighbor seems different from you. Most people find, as I did, that neighbors that seem very different, are usually much the same. We hope Pomona Hope can be a place where people can engage one another on those matters of greatest significance to their lives.

As we seek to build a community of hope in Pomona, your partnership is vital. Thank you so much for your support of Pomona Hope.

Joe George