

PHCC director, Bob Linthicum blows out the candles of his birthday cake celebrating with some parents and the kids from the after school program. The parents evaluated the year's program with praise.

Stern and Hopeful Days

by John Whitney, Pomona Hope board

Pomona Hope continues to serve undocumented immigrants without reservation and with enduring fervor! Pomona Hope works to achieve that hope for our undocumented brothers and sisters through organizing, and the Bible's command to be a just community!

Last January, a Latina member of Sacred Heart Church drove through a sobriety checkpoint in La Verne with an expired driver's license: as an undocumented immigrant she lacks the necessary proof of legal residency to renew her license. At the checkpoint, this mother of three was stopped, asked to get out of her car, handcuffed, and then jailed for hours. When she asked why she was being held, officers told her "we're trying to figure it out," and then held her longer than the dozen other drivers they arrested that day. They released her last, telling her that she needed to "be taught a lesson" – namely that she did not have the right to ask questions.

Meanwhile, a white member of one of our neighbor churches, while driving home from Pomona was stopped at a similar checkpoint in La Verne. He had forgotten his driver's license at home and the officer nonchalantly waived him through.

As part of a delegation to Sacramento

we've learned first hand that there is a growing fear that illegal immigration is creating "dark days" for our state. During an Assembly Transportation Committee meeting we saw one assembly member grow increasingly enraged at the discussion of undocumented people. For him, everything was cut and dried, and undocumented people were the reason for our state's "crumbling." His rage was extreme, expressed vehemently, and shocked us beyond words. After his emotional eruption, I wondered if the committee's ability to govern had been lost. Thankfully, a strong committee chair took control of the hearing, called it to order, and we carried on.

At Pomona Hope we realize that there are days when things are very cut and dried, but those are usually days when something dreadful has happened, and disasters or body counts are coupled with them. We live in a complex world, and in a complex political state, and issues are not always easily tagged as simply "this is the problem." Indeed at Pomona Hope, we do not believe that our state is crumbling, nor even that the future of its outlook is full of shadows and gloom based on the population of a people who contribute over 11 billion annually to state sales tax (<http://www.ccsce.com/>).

Special Events at Pomona Hope

- Summer Open Gym Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm- 5pm

- After School Program enrollment Sept. 18-22

- After School Program begins Sept. 25

- We are always in need of volunteers at the PHCC, if you would like to help, please contact us at the phone number or email addresses below

"We are... working together to build power enough to act on issues of mutual concern."

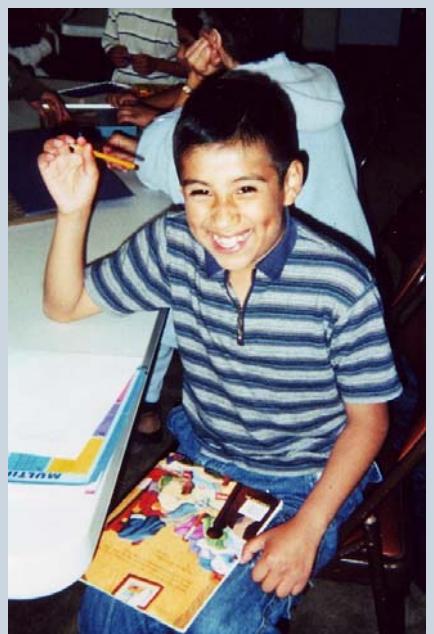
Carlotta Garcia, organizer

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Learning is made fun at the Pomona Hope Community Center.

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Regardless of legal status, we find ourselves eager to be of assistance, subscribing to a higher law, finding the currently enacted state laws needing to be changed based on hundreds of stories like the aforementioned. Therefore, we, along with our neighboring congregations, have helped introduce SB-626, a bill that will continue to empower local law enforcement to enforce the rule of law, and yet make the rule of law less selective upon when and who it should be enforced. SB-626 seeks to reduce the number of days for vehicle impoundments from 30 to one from state funded checkpoints that impact immigrant families the hardest. In numerous conversations with law enforcement, it also reduces paperwork and improves community relations with local officers.

These are stern days, with complex issues like immigration that will decide

whether our country will live in vibrant, RESPECTFUL prophetic-hope; or shirk its great mission and shrink in to the growing shadow of irrational rage and fear. Join us and ask Governor Schwarzenegger to sign SB 626 in to law as a symbolic stance of that hope!

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Volunteer Highlight

Every week, retiree, John Guthrie spends an afternoon with the kids from Pomona Hope Community Center. He never comes empty-handed. One week he brought real dinosaur objects, another week it was arrowheads. Another week he had them making electricity and running little homemade cars.

"I want to make them ask questions about how and why things work. Then we explore the answers together." How do our young scientists respond to John's approach? We can't peel the kids away.



From the president:

As you have read in the newsletter, Pomona Hope has been busy. The organizing dimension of Pomona Hope reached new heights with our participation in the June 25 "action" with Mayor Villaraigosa. Since the after school program's end-of-the year party in early June, the Pomona Hope Community Center has been hosting "open gym" several days a week. Kids have been coming to shoot baskets, play games, use the computers, or just hang out with Director Bob and volunteers. Director Bob has also been busy building relationships with other Pomona churches in an ongoing effort to invite more churches into a partnership with Pomona Hope. Our Funding Task Force is hard at work pursuing new grants and resources. After such a fantastic first year, we can hardly wait to see what the Lord will do next year. Thank you so much for your support of Pomona Hope. Your partnership helps make it all possible.

If you want to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact us at info@pomonahope.org.

Joe George

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead