



Kids enjoy a healthy snack before getting help with homework at the After School Program.

### Special Events at Pomona Hope

We are always in need of volunteers at the center. So if you wish to make a difference in a child's life come down and volunteer Monday to Wednesday from 3-5pm at the center.

Pomona Hope Kids is looking for the following donations. Please contact Emily at the phone or email below.

- colored construction paper
- folders (the paper kind, not binders)
- art and educational supplies of all kinds
- toys/prizes/fun things for the store (for a girl or boy between 6 and 14)
- books for the library
- fun and/or educational board games
- foosball table
- air hockey table
- computer mice (3)

## A New Year Begins by Joe George

The 2007-2008 Pomona Hope Kids program kicked off on October 1st with a lot of new faces! While some children are returning for their third year of Pomona Hope, new friends and neighbors are attending for the first time. Hearing about Pomona Hope by word of mouth or by just seeing our sign, parents showed up during Saturdays in September to enroll their children in our program. In addition to new kids, new volunteers are joining our team. Pomona Hope is continuing to recruit partners from the nearby Claremont Colleges, promoting volunteer opportunities at the college InterVarsity fellowships as well as at the five-college chaplaincy.

However, one of the most important new faces of all is that of our new program coordinator Emily Peine. A native of Hastings, Minnesota and a graduate of Coe College in Iowa, Emily brings a great deal of talent and

experience to our team. Emily has worked as an Educational Coordinator at the Bresee Foundation, a full-service youth program in Los Angeles where she developed math curriculum and coordinated group tutoring sessions for children and youth. Emily is also in her second year serving as Pomona Presbyterian's Youth Ministries Director, a position which has enabled her to already meet many of the families in our neighborhood. Emily is looking forward to a great year of partnering with the people of Pomona Hope.

Beloved former Director Bob Linthicum is currently studying full-time to complete a degree at Azusa Pacific University while preparing for an exciting new business venture in Australia. We're grateful for Bob's incredible two years of service and wish him the best of luck!

### Contact Us:

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Soon more of Pomona may be lit up with streetlights, thanks to the organizing efforts of Pomona Hope and OneLA.

## Community Transformation

Pomona Hope has been partnering with other organizations to improve the lives of those living in the community surrounding the Community Center. Habitat for Humanity approached Pomona Hope and asked us if they could work with us to pilot this new program called, "A Brush with Kindness." Instead of building a whole new house, this program aims to make house repairs and seeks to build a sense of community by enlisting the help of others in the neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity also sent over their teams of workers and Sherwin Williams donated the paint. It wasn't exactly a barn-raising, but numerous neighbors turned out to help give one neighbor's house a face-lift. Well, alright... it was a new coat of paint. Here we are smiling and sweating together as we scraped off the old layers. Soon, the lady you see in front here will have her house "done." Hers will be covered in stucco. It will have a new porch built along with a new fence. It adds a new twist to the phrase, "painting the town," doesn't it?

### The Turn-Around by Meg Connors, PHCC Community Liaison

It's hard to say exactly how many people live in the house I can see from my office window. There's a trailer or two in the backyard and lots of people coming and going. Some of the kids come to the after-school program. Living among them is an uncle, but not exactly the warm and friendly type. He "manages" the ladies that solicit on our streets. We are aware of each other's work, and aware that we are at odds in our efforts. He says very little to me and I to him, but he'll glare at me sometimes, and it reminds me to be careful and remember what our battle is about here in Pomona.

Now, over the summer, I'd stop by the house to drill times tables with the boys and sit on the porch chatting with the grandmother. A Mexican woman who is one tough lady, she had been having a lot of health problems this summer. One night in August, an ambulance came and rushed her to the hospital. Another neighbor told me, and I went to the emergency room. Standing outside was the family, and I found myself next to the uncle. He was visibly shaken by his mother's sickness.

"What happened?" I asked quietly. He told me of her kidney problems, and how she spiked a fever and became delirious. He started to tear up, and I put my hand on his shoulder. He nodded at me, then dropped his head. "How interesting," I thought, "that we should be having an-almost-tender conversation like this. Only the Lord....." It made me understand more about praying for our enemies.

The whole family is warmer to me now. It makes me realize how any work we do has to begin on our knees. "Poco a poco" (little by little) as they say in Spanish.

From the president:

For most kids, the beginning of a new school year can be accompanied by an odd mix of excitement and dread. However, as I helped Emily and Meg register children and families for this year's Pomona Hope Kids program, only excitement was in evidence. Kids were eager to get back to Pomona Hope. While parents filled our registration papers, children powered through a battery of assessments designed to target academic deficits and measure progress. Undaunted even by tests on Saturday, kids are returning to Pomona Hope in droves and new kids are enrolling! It is shaping up to be another great year!

In addition to Pomona Hope Kids, we are looking forward to another exciting year of organizing. After last year's success in closing down the smoke shop, new families are joining the neighborhood watch. We are looking forward to continuing work with Habitat for Humanity as well as exploring a potential partnership with Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences.

Thank you so much for your partnership and support of Pomona Hope. I am constantly overwhelmed by the amount of prayer, financial contributions, volunteer hours that support and bless our work. Living here, I get to see the difference it makes in people's lives and on their behalf and on behalf of the board, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Joe George