



Ramon's children regularly attend the After School Program at the Community Center.

### **Strong Fences** by Meg Connors, Pomona Hope Community Liaison

Ramon's eleven-year-old son told his father that nightly he could hear voices outside his bedroom window. They were prostitutes and drug dealers saying lots of bad things. The crowd was agitated and loud into the wee hours of the morning.

"But in our house, Dad, I feel like I'm in a safe haven because we have the fence around us," his son told him. His father, Ramon nodded. He and his wife are very uneasy about their neighborhood. There are often loud fights outside. There is a heavy concentration of homeless and mentally ill people. Some are involved in the drug trafficking. There are few streetlights, and the police are slow in responding to calls for help.

Ramon used to think, "How will my children survive outside my fence?" The Community Center has given him new hope. Ramon recently shared his feelings about Pomona Hope, "I found your place, the community center. I could tell the kids were protected there. My kids are shy. I didn't want them to be around kids who would be mean to them. I saw that your kids aren't bad, and adults are always supervising. I know my kids are safe with you." So Ramon's three children come to us daily. A private tutor, who's a retired teacher, works with his little girl on her math skills. The boys, model students, but very shy are opening up while playing with the other kids.

Recently, the neighbors of Ramon's block

have held house meetings and invited the police to meet with them to strategize about how to deal with the problems. They have a game plan with the residents, business owners, and police. And the crime is lessening.

Ramon said, "We used to think that our only hope would be to move to a different area. But we have different expectations now. Because we have been holding neighborhood meetings at the center, we are making this community change for the better.

Things look brighter and we see that there are caring people who are willing to support and help us. Pomona Hope Community Center has really been a God-send to us."

That's the work that we're about here. Your support is necessary for the continued empowering of this community. At a recent board meeting we projected that we face a \$14,000 shortfall before July 31st. So many generous donors already give to this effort, we need more generous gifts from individual donors.

Whether we continue is contingent on whether we receive enough money to meet operating expenses. You can help make that happen with a one-time gift or ongoing support.

Please send your check today to:  
Pomona Hope Community Center  
401 N. Gibbs Street  
Pomona, CA 91767

### Special Events at Pomona Hope

- April 28<sup>th</sup> will be the Donor Appreciation Dinner. Please mark your calendar.
- 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 Friday from 3-5pm at the center.

*"Because we have been holding meetings at the center, we are making this community change for the better."*

*Ramon, parent*

#### Contact Us:

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The Price family helps out at the Pomona Hope Community Center.

## Volunteer Highlight

Meet the Prices! They come as volunteers every week and, as a family serve the kids at the community center by helping with homework. Shannon is 9 years old and Allie is 5.

Mom, Beth, says, "It's been really great to come as a family. This is our second year. We wanted a ministry we could all be part of. We pray for PHCC every bedtime. It's been rewarding to see how some of the kids have improved in their ability to focus and read and behave socially."

And the kids here love having the Prices, too.

## Some Ways You Can Help

Pomona Hope is considering running a summer program. This project is contingent on funding. If you would like to be a part of keeping the center open during the summer months, please send a check to Pomona Hope marked "Summer Program" in the memo.

The Center is always looking for volunteers. If there is a program that you would be interested in helping run or if you would like to help with existing programs, please contact the Center Director at (909) 623-0400.

The Center is always looking for donations to "Bob's Bank" of new or almost new school supplies, toys, and other kid favorites.

If you shop at Amazon.com, please click through the icon on [pomonahope.org](http://pomonahope.org) and a percentage of your purchase will go directly to Pomona Hope.

## From the President:

The hope and passion of our volunteers and donors continues to lift Pomona Hope to new heights! For months, Pomona Hope has been working to apply to the Department of Health and Human Services for a \$700,000 job creation grant. This week board members met with our congresswoman's field office and secured its endorsement of our proposal. Final approval by HHS is pending, but we are one step closer to creating these needed jobs in our city. The After School Program, already in its fourth semester, is continuing to evolve in positive ways. Kids are earning "Bob's bucks" as they work toward concrete goals such as improving their grades, coming prepared to work, and helping one another. By investing in "Bob's Bank", kids are learning about saving as they work toward earning one of a number of gifts donated to the PHCC. Parents of kids in Pomona Hope and our neighbors have been meeting to confront a surge in criminal activity on our street. This week police officers came to the PHCC to hear our concerns and to help us take action. It was for meetings like this that Pomona Hope was created! Your support is making these amazing things possible!

Please continue to join us in this effort through financial contributions and volunteer efforts.