

# Pomona Hope News Summer 2008



Students ready for another day at the center!



## Important Dates:

- *Volunteer/ Community Work Day, Saturday September 6, 10am-5pm. We would really appreciate your help for half an hour or the entire day—any amount of time you are available!*
- *Pomona Hope Kids Volunteer Training, Tuesday Sept 9, 6:30pm at Pomona Hope Community Center*
- *Tentative date for start of After School program: September 15*

*"[Pomona Hope] had become not only another home, but also a source of light and life which had broken through not only the academic cloud, but the spiritual cloud of hopelessness."  
-Veronica McKelvey*

## Hope Leads to Results

by Veronica McKelvey, teacher in Pomona Unified School District

Javier\* first came to my attention at the very beginning of the school year. I was to be his second grade teacher, but his first grade teacher warned me that he had some kind of learning disability and would probably need a referral for Special Education. I kept this in mind, but tried to give him a "clean slate" as a student in my classroom.

Two things quickly became clear to me: Javier was unable to focus for even the ten minutes my mini-lessons required. More importantly, while he was quick at math and could understand concepts, Javier's short academic career had been clouded by great difficulty in learning to read and write.

Despite working at home with his mother, private tutoring in the classroom and a reading buddy from 5th grade, Javier

was not making much progress in reading and writing. Most frustrating for him was the dreaded weekly spelling test. No matter how much he studied, he could never break a 'F'. His mother expressed a similar frustration as we conferenced at the end of the second trimester. When she asked if there were any free resources available for Javier, I tentatively mentioned Pomona Hope. As an employee of the State, I was a bit hesitant to send a student to a church, but she was more than enthusiastic, being a Christian herself.

Javier began to come to school with stories of his times at Pomona Hope, which he sheepishly called "The Church." He particularly enjoyed snack time and

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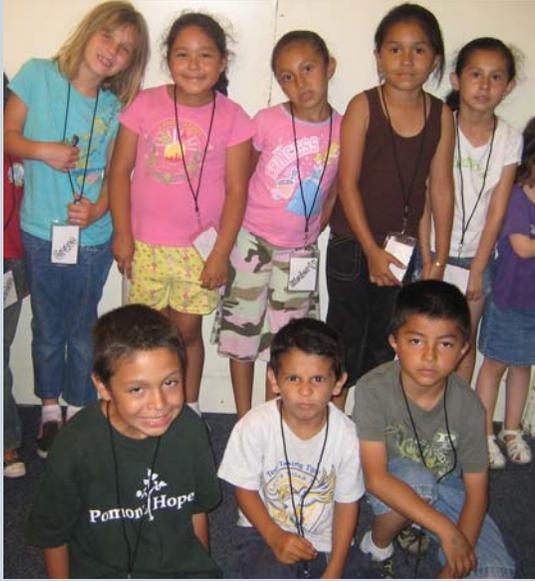
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Enjoying the first day of the Summer Reading Program.

## Summer Reading Program

This summer, the Pomona Hope Community Center is running a Summer Reading Program. The program runs weekly, Monday through Wednesday from 12:30 through 3pm. There are currently 34 students attending and there is a waiting list to get in. The program is run by Emily Luttrull, a rising junior at Scripps College.

In early spring Emily approached Pomona Hope about working with the organization full-time this summer. Upon our agreement, Emily applied for and received a grant from Scripps College. Emily is a very capable, dedicated, and focused young woman. She has worked diligently to create and implement a fun, exciting, and educational Summer Reading Program for Pomona Hope Kids. She is being trained and overseen by Emily Peine, the After School Program Coordinator.

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playing in the gym, and he frequently mentioned Emily and a lady with "white hair." Everyday as he was leaving, he would ask, "Do I go over to the Church today?"

Before long, the stories about the Church were accompanied by completed homework assignments, improved grades and a most dramatic change in attitude—this child was really beginning to care. The pinnacle of my shared joy with Javier came when he received 100% on a particularly grueling spelling test. We both had tears in our eyes and he even let me hug him.

On the last day of school, Javier showed up in his green Pomona Hope t-shirt. I got the feeling as if he felt he belonged there at "The Church." It had become not only another home, but also a source of light and life which had broken through not only the academic cloud, but the spiritual cloud of hopelessness.

\*student's name has been changed

### Wish List for Pomona Hope Kids:

- staplers (4)
- tape dispensers (4)
- glue sticks
- kids scissors
- construction paper
- recycling bins (5)
- pencil cases
- pocket folders
- spiral bound notebooks
- kid-sized classroom tables/ chairs (contact Emily Peine for specific examples)
- Toys/Gifts for boys in the following age brackets (for the Pomona Hope Kids store): 5-7, 7-9, 9-12, 12-14
- Toys/Gifts for girls in the following age brackets (for the Pomona Hope Kids store): 5-7, 7-9, 9-12, 12-14

If you would like to donate any of the above items, please contact Emily Peine at (909)921-3618 or [erpeine@gmail.com](mailto:erpeine@gmail.com).

Monetary donations of all amounts are also greatly appreciated. Pomona Hope's fiscal year ends July 31st. Please help us finish strong with a gift this month. Thank you for helping to give Pomona hope.