

Our Family Values



Volume 21, No. 1 - Winter 2007

The Newsletter of The Family School / STRIVE San Francisco
servicing San Francisco's neediest families

New Leadership In Key Roles For TFS



**TFS Executive Director
Michael Lynch**

Neighbors are important people. I've always lived in a big city; my neighbors knew me, and I knew most of them. Over the course of a lifetime of city-living, my family and I came to depend on our neighbors for many things. We shared candles in black-outs. We ran errands for each other. We were community babysitters. We cheered as brides went off to be married. We cried when loved ones went off to war. Our neighborhood was an important part of my growing up. Now I've moved to San Francisco, and I am one of your neighbors. I live here and I work here. I am the new Executive Director at the Family School. My name is Michael Lynch. It's my pleasure and my duty to be a good neighbor.

In my first year as ED, here's what I've come to know about our neighborhood: there is a lack of available jobs; there is a need for better and longer daycare; there is a need for teen development and outreach in the communities to keep the kids off the streets. People like you and me are struggling to make a home, earn a living wage, and put down roots. We read and hear about lots of work in neighborhoods to make them 'family friendly' again.

Here in our neighborhood, we have been able to help in securing supportive answers for some of these concerns. We're helping real people with real solutions. Daily our neighbors, our parents and children at the Child Development Center (full-day daycare), our students at the STRIVE job readiness training, and our staff interact and enter into a relationship of mutual support and respect. Our neighbors come through our doors seeking daycare and job readiness training, parenting help and life-skills development. We celebrate birthdays and family losses together. We gather at the mailbox, waiting for letters (and bills). We play in the yard, attend community meetings, share meals, even clean up rainy flood waters together.

We are getting ready to celebrate 21 years of service as a good neighbor! Plans are underway to host a party; form a "First Mom's Club"--our first alumnae association; celebrate with city officials; collaborate with service partners; build our relationships in the community.

Feel free to give a call, or drop in! Any one of our staff would be glad to talk to our neighbors and show you around our facility.



**New Board Chief Louis Alessandria
chairs fruitful meeting**



Former TFS Board Chair (and part-time chef) Richard Bright helps cook Christmas Dinner for neighbors at the St. Vincent de Paul Multi-Service Center.

see page 2



In This Issue

TFS/STRIVE news	1
Board Report	2
TFS Holiday Activities	3
Family Friends	3

Sr. Cathryn deBack, OP
TFS Foundress

Honorary Board Members

Delena Sunday
HR/ Diversity Affairs
Nordstrom
Exec. Vice Pres.

Anette L. Harris
Past President
SF Junior League

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Council**

Tamara Johnston, Chair
Sam Leftwich
Diane Zimmer



From the new President's Desk



The Family School Board of Directors expresses our deepest thanks to you for your support during our 2005--2006 year. Your help makes it possible for us to provide the San Francisco Bay Area with the high quality of programs and services The Family School offers throughout the year.

This past year has been a time of challenge and growth for The Family School, both at the Board level (adding new members) and staff (a new Executive Director, and a full-time Job Developer/Community Outreach Specialist). We are ready to take new steps into our third decade of service. A major milestone for us is the hiring of a new Executive Director, Michael Lynch, whom we feel will further our rich tradition and mission that firmly places The Family School in the forefront of community service.

Our Board believes in community commitment, qualitative services, and programs which San Franciscans can be proud of, working together to assure one standard of quality care with a focused commitment to helping improve services in the community.

As we move forward, we STRIVE for greater efficiency and we are grateful to our partners who provide our funds, and to our friends in the private sector whose generous gifts help us extend and enhance our services.

I wish to extend my ongoing gratitude to my fellow board members, in particular to Richard Bright, our out-going President and long-time Board member. With their help and guidance, we have had an opportunity to serve over 400 children, women and men daily in our various programs. Our excellent staff has achieved recognition by city officials for running extraordinarily efficient and effective programs. Over the next few months, our board of directors will be working on a new strategic plan to ensure that we serve into the future in a way consistent with our own family values. I'm excited about the challenges we face, and the prospects before us. By the grace of God, our collective efforts will continue to bear fruit.


Louis Alessandria, Jr.

Upcoming Events



We're preparing to celebrate our 21st Anniversary! We are excited to announce our Annual Benefit Celebration Luncheon on Wednesday, May 23rd, 2007. Save the date! Details to come!

You're only 21 once!

**GIVE US YOUR CAR AND
WE'LL GIVE THEM HOPE**

 **Donate to SVDP**

St. Vincent de Paul Society
San Francisco
Serving the poor since 1860
Donate your Car, Boat or RV
1-800-YES-SVDP

Our Family Friends: (Received 07/01/06 - 01/31/07)

Anne Burke
Barbara Elaine Miller
Bernice O'Brien Trust
Bersentelsen Ttee
Brian F. Kiernan
Celeste Kathleen O'Donnell
D. Seebock
David Rupert & Judith O'Brien
Dawn & Clark MacDonald
Denise Martinez
Don Clay
Donna Larsen Endlich
Jacqueline Samuels
Janet & Richard Hart
Jill Gallagher
John Moylan
Joseph & Mary Dooling

Joseph O'Connell
Karen Tyree Corommie
Katheen Marie Lenihan
Katherine M. O'Shea
Kathleen M. Richter
Kathy Kehoe
Katie & Jom Kohmann
Laura Luster
Lee & Bridget Nordlund
Louis & Brenda Alessandria
M. Rita Howe
Maria Louise Harris
Mary Ann Granieri
Michael Lynch
N.J.Love
N.Y.M.Dunn
Nancy Pietrafesa

Patricia Mary Enois
Patricia & Walter Mcguire
Patricia Berberich
Pieter & Jannie Bonsen
Richard Bright
Robert & Nancy Pease
Robert & Sharon Eichinger
Rodrick & Rita Arriaga
Sheila Doyle Kiernan
Sr. Cathryn deBack, OP
Stephen & Susan Phelps
Teresa Tomasello
Thomas & Barbara Job
Thomas & Margaret Tenney
William M. Harris
William Roger Boorman

Foundations, Grants, Supporters:
(partial listing)
San Francisco Dept. of Children,
Youth and Their Families
Mayor's Office of Community
Development
The Private Industry Council
Office of the District Attorney, SF
Miriam & Peter Haas Fund
The Morris Stulsaft Foundation
The Ceres Foundation
The Genentech Foundation
Nordstrom
WellsFargo Foundation
IBM
The Cresent Porter Hale Foundation
GezelligCreative

There are Many Ways To Give

A Way to help yourself, your neighbor and the work of The Family School

Mail, Phone or On-line

Mail your check to TFS or call us with credit card information.
Or you can visit us on-line at www.thefamilyschool.org/support .

Matching Gifts

Double or even triple your gift by asking if your employer will match your gift.

Memorial Gifts

Make a donation in honor or remembrance of a friend or loved one by telling us the name of the person the gift is honoring. We will notify the individual or family. We are a designated entity at United Way too.

Goods and Services (In-Kind)

The gift of goods, services and time are greatly appreciated. Please call about volunteering and to learn about our needs for tutors and readers, or to see our 'wish-list'.

Legacy Gifts

Remember The Family School in your will, life insurance policy, retirement plan, or charitable real estate gift. (Just check with your life insurance agent for details on which forms to complete.) If you have owned your home, a vacation home, acreage, or a farm for many years, a charitable gift of that real estate can be especially tax-advantageous.

For confidential information on estate planning call Michael Lynch, Executive Director, at 550-4173 or consult your estate planning attorney. All donations to TheFamily School- a 501(c)3 organization-are tax deductible as allowed by law. Federal Tax ID#94-2978835.



Holidays Keep Our Families and Programs Busy



Our families gather to celebrate special season days with us at the Child Development Center.

Budget and insurance constraints may have kept us from travelling in search of the "Great Pumpkin", but we sure enough found a "great Pumpkin Patch" in our own backyard. Teachers and parents worked hard to make the late year holidays meaningful and fun for our youngsters. Pumpkins scattered about were collected and decorated.

+++Later in November, one of our dads helped us make sugar skulls for the "Dia De Los Muertos" ("Day of the Dead") neighborhood celebration. Paper flowers adorned altars of remembrance, and we told powerful and sweet stories about our ancestors, our grandparents, our friends. You can see plenty of pictures of our beautiful work at www.thefamilyschool.org/event

+++Our Turkey dinners (complete with strained peas) were yummy.

continued on page 4



from Page 3

+++Santa made a visit to our very own “Holiday Card Workshop”, bringing toys and books to our eager students. A number of our families also participated in the “Christmas Store” at St Dominic’s Church, where our Foundress, Sr. Catryn deBack OP worked with parishioners and students from St. Ignatius High School to help our families enjoy a brighter holiday time!

Supervisor Tom Ammiano pays a visit to Dante and students in the Infanct play space.

+++Montly parent-focused workshops give us an opportunity to connect with our families and share health and wellness tips, led by our visitng nurse from the Department of Public Health and our child mental health consultant from Fu Yau Project.

+++San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris dropped by to see our “Changing the Odds” young adults, and Supervisor Tom Ammiano dropped in for a check-up in the rainy season.

+++Through our partnership with United Way of the Bay Area and their fantastic “Raising a Reader” program, we were selected to recieve a new IBM Young Explorers computer and work station to enhance our pre-K classroom. This new partnership with IBM could lead to bigger and better learning tools for our children and theri families in our Computer Lab, using state-of-the-art bi-directional multi-lingual translating software.



Making paper flowers for the Dia de los Muertos celebration altar.



The Family School / STRIVE

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This issue of Our Family Values is edited by Steve Maraccini. Staff and volunteers also contributed to our newsletter.

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Child Development Center: (415) 550-4178
Patricia Becerra, Director

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Darren Gapultos, Job Developer- ext. 327

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GED and Social Service referrals
Anna Lopez, Gradute Services Representative- ext. 328

Administrative Offices (415) 550-4173
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