

Boys & Girls Clubs of Merced County

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2009

CAHSEE Academy Expanding Youth's Horizons

Improved study skills and University visits expand the horizons of Merced County's youth.

This past Spring nearly 75 students participated in the California High School Exit Exam (CASHEE) Academy at the Club. The Academy was aimed at helping at risk youth in the 10th and 11th grades improve their study skills, grades and better prepare for a future in college.

In addition to enhancing study skills and emphasizing the need to improve classroom performance, the CASHEE Academy included a presentation at the club by UC Merced representatives and visits to UC Merced, CSU Stanislaus and UC Berkeley. "By providing opportunities for youth to visit our state's universities we're helping open their eyes to greater possibilities and opportunities beyond high school," said Executive Director, Tony Slaton.

Back-To-School Fundraiser

School supplies & clothes to those who need it most.

With summer vacation here we turn our sights to the upcoming '09-'10 school year. The Boys and Girls Club is launching a back-to-school fundraiser to help ensure the at-need youth of our County receive school supplies and clothes to help them succeed in the upcoming school year.

The current recession has impacted our region particularly hard with unemployment rising to near 20%. Through your generous donations we can help lessen the adverse effect of the recession on our County's youth. Our goal is to prevent these difficult times from depriving our County's at-need youth from having needed school supplies and clothing.

To donate to the Boys and Girls Club Back-To-School Fundraiser, call Executive Director, Tony Slaton at 722-9922 or donate electronically by visiting www.bgcmerced.org and selecting the Back-To-School donation link on the main page.

Summer Class Provides Advancement in Math

Youth prepare themselves for Algebra in the Fall

As part of a partnership with UC Merced and the Center for Educational Partnerships, this summer the Club will be host to 60 incoming freshmen who will take part in a 4 week intensive pre-algebra course at the Club. The classes will be taught by local area high school math teachers and be offered from June to July.

Successful completion of the pre-algebra course will enable these incoming freshmen to enter high school at an algebra I math level. This means that they enter high school on track and start-off on the right-foot in their college preparatory work.

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Toastmasters Builds Confidence

Youth gain public speaking experience and build confidence at the Club.

Public speaking and leadership skills are subject areas that many of our community's youth fail to receive with their general education. This Spring eight of our club members completed the Toastmasters' youth leadership program.

At the completion of the program students were able to showcase their newly developed confidence and skills by speaking before nearly 200 people at the Annual Boys and Girls Club dinner and auction. Board President, Nellie McGary said, "It's amazing to see how much progress each student made from the time they entered the program to the speech they delivered at our annual dinner. The confidence and skills gained will help them throughout their lives."

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Summer Class Provides Advancement in Math

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To lend further support to participating incoming freshman and all other Club members, in the fall the Club is happy to announce UC Merced math tutors will be on-site at the Club on a regular basis to provide tutoring services to members who need help with their math homework. The presence of the UC Merced tutors will be a much needed addition and resource to all members at the Club.

Toastmasters Builds Confidence

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Designed to develop speaking and leadership skills for adolescents and teens, Toastmasters eight-week Youth Leadership program is similar to a regular Toastmasters meeting. Classes last about two hours, and the students run the meeting while the coordinator provides training and guidance. The informal course focuses on teaching students communication and leadership skills. They learn to overcome nervousness when speaking in front of groups, to organize and present ideas logically and convincingly, to listen carefully to the ideas of other students, and offer helpful advice.

BE GREAT.

Creating a positive place, full of hope and opportunity, for every child.

Our Boys & Girls Clubs of Merced County believes every child has the potential to BE GREAT. In support of this strong conviction, our Club strives to build caring, responsible citizens. Here's a sample of how our current Club members seek to BE GREAT!

"When I grow up I want to be a veterinarian because I love animals... If I want to be a Veterinarian I have to get good grades, go to college, and like to take care of animals."

"When I grow up I want to be a lawyer...or a Boys and Girls Club staff (member). I know that I will have to be responsible, good to parents, play fair and treat people the way you want to be treated."

New Computers Arrive at the Club

UC Merced's Service Learning Team lends a hand.

This spring a much needed upgrade to the Club's computer lab occurred. The rapid pace of technological change has been a challenge for the Club. The computer lab now is able to support current software applications.

The Club's computer lab upgrade was made possible by help from UC Merced students from a contribution by Former Supervisor Kathleen Crookham. The students donated their time and labor to build twelve new PC units for the Club.

"We always put an emphasis on encouraging community involvement at our Club. The time and expertise of UC Merced students to help build these systems greatly reduced the cost the Club would have incurred to achieve a much needed upgrade to our computer lab" said Executive Director, Tony Slaton. "Our ability to offer our members more learning based classes and programs will be positively impacted by the arrival of these 12 new computers."



CLUB STATISTICS

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| Total Membership (end of year 2008) | 614 |
| Hours of Service Provided (2008) | Over 47,000 hours |
| Average Daily Attendance (School Year) | 60 |
| Average Daily Attendance (Summer) | 120 |