

Foundation News

The Pythian Youth Foundation of CA, Inc.



Tustin Dinner Dance to Send Children to Camp!

Changing the Odds for Troubled Youth
Wish List

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Tustin Lodge hosts Red Carpet Wine Dinner

Brett Oliver, Chancellor Commander Lodge NO. 84

On Saturday, February 26, the Pythian Hall in Old Town Tustin became alive with fun and festivity when Lodge NO. 85 hosted a red carpet wine dinner to raise funds to send children to camp.



The event included a four-course dinner prepared by Ugo Allesina, Executive Chef of the prestigious Prego Restorante in Irvine, music and entertainment

was provided by the legendary Phil Shane, and a silent auction that included sports memorabilia, and magnums of premium wine.

The main course of the dinner was Filetto Toscano (mesquite grilled aged filet mignon). Several wines were served with dinner, and a bar was available to guest who came after dinner to dance to the music of Shane who has a huge Orange County following.

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A Historic Merger: Children's Welfare & Pythian Youth Foundation

Sir Mel Pinkham, Director, Pythian Youth Foundation

The Pythian Youth Foundation was created for the singular purpose developing and maintaining a wilderness camp that would provide quality camping and outdoor education opportunities for urban youth.

On January 29, 2011 the Foundation merged with its sister 501(c) 3 in California, The Children's Welfare Foundation. This historic merger was aimed at strengthening and furthering the programs of both organizations, while promoting the Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters in the California Community.

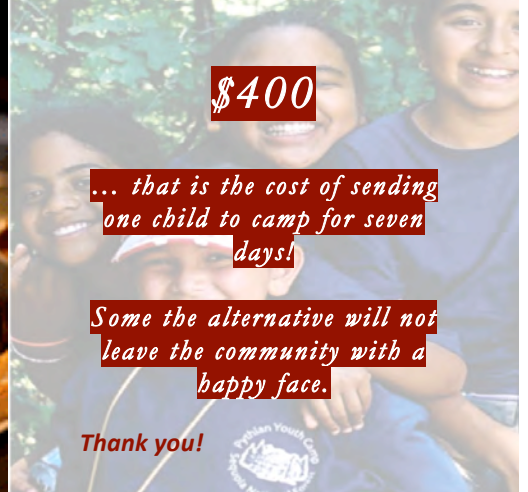
The programs now operated by the Pythian Youth Foundation

now include a head injury prevention program, a child literacy and book distribution, and wilderness camping.

The Head Injury Safety Program, or the Bicycle Helmet Program, helps prevent childhood head injuries by making safety helmets available through partnering municipalities. A major Public Relations program is now underway in Bell California through its Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members, in exchange for camp scholarships, will have the opportunity to place a special decal at their place of business.

Early Childhood Literacy, a book

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Help paint a happy face on some child this summer!

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Sponsors for the event, which raised approximately \$7,000 to send children to the Pythian Youth Camp in the Sequoia National Forest, included I Initial Embroidery and Signature Celebrations of Tustin, and Prego of Irvine. As a result of the event the Lodge will sponsor camperships for 50 youth.

Tustin Lodge NO. 85 is one of approximately 2,000 Knights of Pythian Lodges in the United States and Canada. Its home since 1925 has been in historic

Old Town Tustin at the corner of Main Street and El Camino Real. The lodge is also home for the Tustin Pythian Sisters, which is also a fraternal organization that was founded in 1888, 24 years after the founding of the Knights.

Did you know that through a modest \$300 tax-deductible donation to the Pythian youth Foundation you can recognize someone special such as a parent, family member or other person, by having his or her name placed on The Wall of Remembrance at the entrance to the Pythian Youth Camp. For information call Lynn Sideman at (310) 916-7934.

PHILIP HERRERA 2011 SUMMER CAMP MANAGER

Philip Herrera, native of Fresno, CA, was recently hired as the 2011 Manager of the Pythian Youth Camp.

Phillip, who teaches an After-School program, has been involved with the Pythian Youth Camp for the past several summers.

The Chicago Wilderness Alliance Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Every child should have the opportunity to:

1. Discover wilderness -- prairies, dunes, forests, savannas, and wetlands
2. Camp under the stars
3. Follow a trail
4. Catch and release fish, frogs, and insects
5. Climb a tree
6. Explore nature in neighborhoods and cities
7. Celebrate heritage
8. Plant a flower
9. Play in the mud or a stream
10. Learn to swim

CHANGING THE ODDS FOR TROUBLED YOUTH

Thomas White, Executive Director, Pythian Youth

I have always believed that summer camp is one of the most enriching experiences that we can provide our youth. Now, there is a growing movement to reconnect children with nature, citing that children from urban communities suffer from “nature deprivation” — a probable cause for much of their unrest and anxiety. The Pythian Youth camp was created for the singular purpose of changing the odds for challenged urban youth — to inspire and prepare them to be tomorrow’s leaders. Our one of a kind wilderness camp offers a nurturing environment and safe place to learn social, physical and spiritual skills. Our curriculum include a variety of the elements

that professionals say change the odds for troubled youth:

Physical Activities: Providing youth with high-quality camp experiences encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices that address issues such as childhood obesity. According to one source, children in residential camps take 19,500 steps per day, on average, which is well above the recommended guidelines for daily physical activity outlined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Children who spend time outside tend to be more physically active and are less likely to be overweight.

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MERGER Continued from page 1

collection and distribution program, that partners with the City of Long Beach Public Library and local hospitals and health care agencies to place age-appropriate books in the hands of young children.

Wilderness Camping is the core service of the foundation. We are gearing up for the 2011 Summer Camping season. Our plans are for five (5) seven-day sessions between June 26 and August 8. Our goal is to send 300 youth to camp for an exceptional seven-days of exploration and wilderness discovery.

Merger of the two foundations resulted in several new appointments developed to encourage member involvement in critical program areas such as fund raising, community outreach, and special events planning. New appointments include Barry Jaffe, Vice-president of Operations, Toni Mendez, Vice-president of Outdoor Education and Camperships, Phyllis Jaffe, Vice-president of Camper Recruitment, and Isaac Hausman, Vice-president of Resource Development and Fund Raising.

Wish List for Summer Camp

- Heart Rate Monitor (finger)
- Handsaws with chargers
- Electric Drill and charger
- 3 Commercial Toasters
- Impact Wrench
- 2 Lifeguard Chairs
- T2 Warming Trays (to keep food warm)
- Table Games
- Various Ball (footballs, softballs, soccer balls, etc)

Please contact Toni Mendez, Vice President of Outdoor Education and Camping for additional information or discuss delivery of items on the "Wish List." Toni may be reached at (775) 246-3518, or by email at tonimendez@aol.com.

CHANGING THE ODDS Continued

Opportunity to expand on school-year activities: Providing youth with high-quality educational experiences at summer camps will expand on school-year strategies and topics. For many educators and parents, the appeal of out-of-school time experiences such as camp lies in the opportunity to expand on school-day content in an environment explicitly designed to look and feel different from the school day. Parents, particularly low-income parents, consistently cite summer as the most difficult time to find quality programming and care for their children. Fifty-eight percent of parents say summer is the hardest time to make sure their child has productive things to do (Duffett, et al., 2004).



Promote emotional and Intellectual Development: "Play in nature, particularly during the critical period of middle childhood, appears to be an especially important time for developing the capacities for creativity, problem-solving, and emotional and intellectual development" (Kellert, 2005). Although learning can be considered through an "academic" lens, learning also involves acquiring behaviors, skills, values, and understandings that are not always

traditionally academic in nature. The American Camp Association's research into the developmental outcomes of camp experiences suggests how the camp experience prepares children and youth for learning.

Increased self-esteem and Independence: Direct experience in nature simultaneously stimulates all of a child's senses, and the use of our senses is essential to learning. By moving childhood indoors, we deprive children of a full connection to the world (Louv, 2005). Inner-city children show increases in self-esteem and well being after spending the summer in rural camps (Readdick & Schaller, 2005). Learning that occurs through the camp experience supports the development of twenty-first century competencies such as critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, adaptability, initiative, and imagination.

Wilderness Education: By spending time in the wilderness, children learn the importance of the environment, natural resources, and conservation.

When he gifted the Pythian Youth Foundation 19-aces of land in the Sequoia National Wilderness, President Harry S. Truman was aware of a child's need to laugh and play in the great outdoors. The Pythian Youth Camp is one of the few remaining wilderness camps for youth in California. One way to help continue the Truman Legacy is to include the Pythian Youth Foundation in your will.

This Edition of Foundation News is sponsored by:



We send children to camp!

I want to help! Here is my donation for:

\$100 \$300 \$500 \$1,000 \$2000 \$5000 Other dollar amount \$ _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

The Pythian Youth Foundation of CA, Inc is 501(c) (3) public nonprofit corporation (EIN: 950600610). Contributions to PYFC are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you have questions regarding a gift or contribution, contact Thomas White at (562) 881-0165 or email: pythianyouthcamp@earthlink.net. Make checks payable to The Pythian Youth Foundation and send to:

The Pythian Youth Foundation
1800 Robertson Blvd, Suite 314, Los Angeles, CA 90035

*Get Involved, we need YOU!
Your donation includes a \$35.00
Membership fee that entitles you
to a quarterly newsletter, a vote
at the Annual PYF Membership
Meeting, and monthly updates
from the Executive Director.*

*Help paint a happy face on a
child this summer!*

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*You can donate at our website. Visit
www.pythianyouthfoundation.com, and help send a
child to camp this summer.*

Thank You!

The Pythian Youth Foundation of CA,

1800 Robertson Blvd, Suite 314
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Meet Our Community Partners (a partial list):

The Tustin Police Athletic League; The Signal Hill Tribune; the Long City Council Offices of Rae Gabelich and Geri Schipske; The City of Long Beach Weed and Seed Program, Assemblymember Hector De La Torre; the Signal Hill Police Department; Saint Mary's Medical Center; The Long Beach Memorial Hospital, Supervisor Don Knabe; the University of California Cooperative Extension, Keesal, Young and Logan, The Downtown Long Beach YMCA, The Role of Men, and the Long Beach Convention Center.

The Pythian Youth Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Public Benefit Corporation founded in 1946