



the harbor light

A publication of Boys & Girls Harbor

FALL 2005

Breaking the Cycle of Abuse

My mom got drunk one night and beat up my brother, sister and me. What was different this time is that I ended up in the hospital with a concussion. I'm the oldest and have been taking care of the younger ones for a long time. I did not want us to be around her when she got out of jail. We could not live with our dad because he is irresponsible and sexually abused me when I was younger. A friend told us about the Harbor, and I decided this was the right place for us, and it is.

"At Boys & Girls Harbor, we are actually helping the community by breaking cycles of abuse and neglect," says Colin Rae, campus director. "When a child leaves the Harbor, he or she goes back into the community a very different person. They go back as good and responsible citizens. People you would want as neighbors."

"We have kids who come out of homes whose parents are alcohol and substance abusers. They have experienced severe physical abuse. Some have watched drug transactions. Others have witnessed killings. But here, while they are safe and being a kid and having fun, they become very productive individuals."

"Most graduate from high school and many go on to college. When they marry and have children of their own, they create loving homes like the one they were exposed to during their time at the Harbor. Of course, what we accomplish costs money, but it is nothing compared to the millions spent on prison inmates. We believe in prevention." The Harbor does not receive United Way funds, government grants or any type of federal support.

Boundaries and incentives are the basis for what children learn at the campus. It all begins in the homes where the children experience "family-style" care. They live with dedicated and loving house parents, who are well prepared to meet this constant challenge. Regularly, children leave

and others arrive, sometimes one or two at a time but it can be 30 at a time. Because of a lack of space and beds, the Harbor turns away one child a day, often five a week and more than 200 a year.

For the house parents, the challenge is blending the many cultures of the children, not ethnic or religious, but the blending of their value systems. One child cannot wait to take a shower and put on clean clothes, yet another does not understand the importance of being clean. Many children come to the Harbor needing very basic child care. They do not know how to brush their teeth or comb their hair.

"Some of these children have never been exposed to basic personal hygiene that most people don't even think about," observes Coach Rae. "The house parents often have to start from scratch."

It takes a lot of patience and caring. Success depends on being consistent, which is really difficult considering the number of unexpected things that come up in the course of a day.

"Compassion is a very important element for those who work at the campus. Many children arrive angry because they do not know why they are here," explains Sylvia Lee, assistant campus director and director of social services. They know they did not do anything wrong. They do not like change and suddenly find themselves in a place with rules and boundaries.

"Coming to the Harbor can be really difficult for the oldest sibling, who has been the caregiver for a long time. This happens more often than you might think, and some of these 'juvenile parents' are as young as seven and eight. They have literally raised their brothers and sisters because no parent was home and accessible. Some adjust to giving up that authority and go back to being a kid, but others resent suddenly being demoted to child status and being told what to do."

Another challenge is deciding when a sibling group can remain together or if separation into different houses is necessary.

Currently, the campus is at capacity and school has just started. This is one of those times when everyone is grateful for the community support both in donations of clothing and school supplies and money.

Coach Rae is quick to tell everyone he meets that "the campus is your home. Come and visit any time, just let the office know when to expect you. Without you, we would not be here. We need your help to continue our work. Our objective is to send children back into society with strong family and social values. They will not make the same costly mistakes their parents did, and they will be a contributor, not a burden to our community."

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Good Skipper Vince Morvillo Honored

Vince Morvillo was the honoree at the Harbor's Good Skipper Award Dinner & Auction, which brought in more than \$115,000.

The medal-winning sailor and owner of Sea Lake Yacht Sales in Seabrook, Vince does not let the fact that he is blind keep him from obtaining his goals. Co-hosts for the event, held at the Lakewood Yacht Club in June, were Bill and Melissa King of Kemah and the Honorable Robin and Gloria Riley of Seabrook.

Sponsors for the event included Basell Poly Olefins, Port of Houston Authority, Sulzer Hickham, Inc., Michael and Ann Wismer-Landolt, Catherine and Peter Badger, Vicki and Jack Rizzo, Houston Pilots, Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, Lockheed Martin, Sea Lake Yacht Sales, the Fleming Foundation, Kirby Inland Marine, the Majestic Foundation, Charles and Valerie Buckner, Coby and Diana Knox, Chevron/Texaco, Munsch, Hardt, Kopf & Harr P.C., and United Space Alliance.



Good Skipper honoree Vince Morvillo is flanked by two Harbor kids during a visit to the campus.

Castex Presents Check



Castex's John Stoika presents Harbor President Bill Jeter with a check for proceeds raised during the annual Castex/Isaac 1 Foundation Boil-B-Que. Pictured from left to right is Ron Rinard, Laura Holeman, John Stoika, Bill Jeter and Colin Rae.

Special Thanks to those companies and individuals who contributed to the Harbor in the last quarter:

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Wal-Mart Foundation
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YP.Com Internet Yellow Pages

Ways You Can Give to the Harbor

Make a contribution on-line at www.boysandgirlsharbor.org. Gifts of any size are welcome and appreciated. Monetary gifts are a vital source of funding that provides unrestricted operating funds for the Harbor. The Harbor uses these funds for electric and utilities, we maintain our child-sensitive campus, and allows us to buy necessary supplies for the children. We invite and encourage you to take this opportunity to give. With the number of children we serve, we need this support more than ever before.

Will your Employer Match Your Gift?

Many companies have matching gift programs. Does yours? If so, your HR department can help with the paperwork to double your gift.

Gifts in Honor or in Memory

Make a gift to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or accomplishment, or to pay tribute to a special person. We will send an acknowledgment of your gift to the person or people you choose, but will not disclose the amount of the gift.

In Kind Gifts

Provide the children we serve with essential items that allow them and us to save money.

These donations range from clothes, to shoes, toys, toiletries, furniture, books, school supplies, computers and other items

Buy a Brick in the new Legacy Plaza

By purchasing a personally engraved brick, you and your family will become an enduring part of Boys & Girls Harbor for many generations.

Each brick will be installed in the Harbor's new Legacy Plaza and will help beautify the campus grounds. The funds raised through the Harbor's Legacy Plaza program will enable the Harbor to continue further improvements throughout the campus. Please call 713-688-6262 for more information

Others ways you can give:

- Attend an event
- Host an event
- Give appreciated stock
- Become a volunteer or advocate & get others involved
- Donate clothes, furniture, food, or other items
- Make Boys & Girls Harbor part of your estate plan

Donor Appreciation

Donors and supporters of Boys & Girls Harbor were recognized for their generous contributions during the 2005 Donor Appreciation reception at the Houston Racquet Club on May 19th.



"On behalf of the board, staff, children and donors, I want to thank Fred for his leadership and commitment to the Harbor mission and the objectives of the building campaign," said Bill Jeter, President and CEO.

Guests joining in the applause included Catherine and Peter Badger, David Bridges, J.R. and Linda Kickliter of the Bill and Helen Crowder Foundation, Thomas O. Dean, Grant J. Harvey, Chyra Townsen, Hershel and Hilda Rich, Alejandra and Matt Johnson of the Fluor Foundation, Cooky and Howard Mays, Elizabeth Montle of the Houston Golf Association, Alexis Eaton, Charles Stephenson, Sharon Berryman, Kris Stockberger and Terry Bires, George Crosby of U.S. Trust Company of Texas, Ken Womack, Phil and Sharon Nathans, Gladney Darroh of Piper Morgan Associates, Bill Bachman, and George and Sarah McLellan.

Each year the Harbor honors its donors with a remembrance of our children.

Kids Corner

School is under way and Marcus, a third grader, and Tony, a high school senior, are studying and aiming to do as well or better than last year.

"I have learned to study since I have been at the Harbor," says Tony. "I do not like school as much as some of my friends do, but I want to be a success in life, and I know making good grades is a way of reaching that goal." Because Tony is on the La Porte High School football team, he has learned to manage his time for studying. He has learned to keep his grades up because he wants to stay on the team – no pass, no play.

Marcus would rather be playing outside than sitting in the classroom, but he makes good grades. "I like school because I want to be with my friends, and math and counting are real fun," he says.

Many children who come to the Harbor are several grades behind in school and do not read well. With a true team effort by the Harbor staff and tutors, the children are given the opportunity to catch up. Graduating from high school becomes a real goal for the very first time in their lives. Many of the children earn above-average grades and are on the A and B honor rolls.

School supplies for this year were donated by the employee groups of Lyondell Chemical Company and Kaneka Texas Corporation as well as several churches, including Friendship Community, Bay Area Unitarian Universalist, Clear Lake Presbyterian and Grace Community. The churches also made it possible for each Harbor child to have new clothes and shoes.



Marcus and Tony



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or visit our website at
www.boysandgirlsharbor.org

A Special Wine Reception

A special wine reception was held on Sunday, August 21 to kick-off and celebrate the upcoming Harbor gala "Once Upon a Time". Presented by O'Rourke's Steakhouse, the reception was also held to honor the underwriters who have already made commitments to the event. More than 50 guests attended the celebration and Harbor alumni Chris Stockberger addressed the guests and shared his story about his time at the Harbor. The gala is October 22 at The Corinthian. Co-chairs for the event are Grant Harvey and Chyra Townsen, and this year's gala is honoring Fred and Janet Wahrlich. For more information or to purchase tickets/table, please call 713-688-6262.



Gala co-chairs Grant Harvey and Chyra Townsen



Janet and Fred Wahrlich

Construction Begins on the new Legacy Plaza

Your tribute to the past....Your gift to the Future

Construction has begun on the Harbor's new Legacy Plaza which will include special "Walls of Honor" designed to recognize the Harbor's most generous donors. The plaza will also contain special commemorative bricks which are currently available for purchase through the Harbor. By purchasing an engraved brick, you and your family will become an enduring part of Boys & Girls Harbor for many generations.

Each brick will be installed in the Harbor's new Legacy Plaza and will help beautify the campus grounds. The funds raised through the Harbor's Legacy Plaza program will enable the Harbor to continue further improvements throughout the campus. For more information, or to purchase a commemorative brick, call 713-688-6262.



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