

## **El Toro Youth Center – Status Update**

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On the brink of closure at the end of June, Community Solutions at the last moment generously decided to fund the El Toro Youth Center (ETYC) for two additional months. So the Center's summer program is in full swing while we make some great progress toward keeping ETYC open for the next school year and beyond.

We had been looking for an organization to take ETYC under their wing, replacing Community Solutions who was no longer able to keep this program going along with the many other programs they administer. About mid-June, we discovered that Catholic Charities was very interested in a program like this in the southern part of the county. They run similar programs in San Jose and wanted to establish a presence down here. The one problem, however, was that their funding for the 2007-2008 fiscal year was already fully committed.

We struck a deal whereby if we could raise about \$100,000, the additional amount necessary to run ETYC in 2007-2008, they would commit to administering it in 2007-2008 and determining permanent funding sources for future years. Thanks to the fantastic generosity in and around Morgan Hill, we are doing extremely well in our efforts toward the \$100,000 goal, with about \$60,000 pledged to date.

Always so generous to this community, Fry's Electronics has pledged \$20,000. Newlyweds Jeff and Carmella Garcia were able to visit ETYC on July 14, and left us with a \$10,000 check from their Garcia Pass It On Foundation as well as promises of more equipment for the kids and additional Foundation funding in the future.

Randy Kirk, through his Kirk's Kids Foundation is working with us on the effort and is looking for other companies, foundations or individuals that will join him in a "matching grant" program. If he can find 2-4 others that will promise to match up to \$5000 in pledges, then every \$1 pledged will be bringing in \$3-5, and the total with matches from this effort could bring in as much as \$25,000. Please contact us if you would like to join with Randy on this effort.

Our always supportive local businesses are also being generous. Manou Mobedshahi through his Mobeshahi Family Foundation, Johnson Lumber ACE Hardware/Johnson Garden Center, Techcon Landscape Construction and South

Valley Developers have pledged nearly \$20,000 in total. Several other individuals and businesses have made \$1000 pledges.

The Rotary Club of Morgan Hill has been a partner and supporter of ETYC for many years, and they have pledged \$2000 while holding out the possibility that they could do more once Catholic Charities is committed and has concrete plans in place.

We are making fantastic progress but have a way to go. We welcome all pledges (we won't collect the actual donation until Catholic Charities commits to taking over). The sooner we receive pledges, the sooner we can get Catholic Charities on board. Since we need to fund the entire fiscal year through June 2007, we can accept pledges now with the actual donation being made up until April of 2008, so payment can be deferred to next year if that is advantageous.

We are planning a fund-raising event on Saturday, August 25 at the Friendly Inn and Galvan Park on Crest Avenue, just down the street from ETYC. Tours of the Center will be given and there will be great food, drink and entertainment available, along with opportunities to make your pledge for the Center, if you haven't already. Of course you do not have to attend or wait for the event to make a pledge. We also need help to put on the event, so contact us if you are interested in that.

We are determined that this great program must continue in Morgan Hill, and are well on the way to making it happen. We appreciate the community's past support of ETYC and will deeply appreciate continued support in this current time of need.