

COMMUNITY LINK

Volume 1, Issue 3

07/05/03



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A YOUNG LIFE

For nine months, Carolyn Fitz has served as a local CASA worker, a Court-Appointed Special Advocate. Carolyn has been assigned a girl, 4 1/2, who is under court protection. Carolyn says, "I've fallen in love with her as if she were a granddaughter!" Carolyn spends about 6 hours per week with the girl. Carolyn picks her up from preschool and takes her on small adventures. They go to the park to feed the birds, to the library to explore books and reading, and to lunch. "I feel as if I've helped her develop a sense of humor." CASA of Santa Cruz

County is a private, nonprofit organization created in 1992 after several local cases of severe abuse received wide media attention. It is one of more than 900 independent CASA programs across the United States. The organization recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers. Each CASA becomes a long-term friend and a voice in the juvenile court system for one abused child. The CASA remains while foster homes and social workers change, and becomes critical in the assessment of what is best for the child. The

CASA reports to the court and makes recommendations on the child's behalf. "The judges rely on our insight and involvement," says Carolyn.

Last year, 138 CASA volunteers served more than 180 local children. "CASA is the only one who stuck with me through all of it," says Sonia, age 19. "There are a lot of let downs in foster care. but my CASA never lets me down," says Erin, age 18. Carolyn says of her experience, "I really feel as if I make a big difference in her life. This has opened my heart to children."

To learn more, call Juanita Mora-Malerva, CASA Outreach, at 761-2956 x14.

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WWW.CONNECTION 4 YOU!

Community Link and Hesed Interactive are proud to announce the relaunch of ChristianCruz.com, the online resource for the Christian community in Santa Cruz County.

Since its initial launch in late 2001, ChristianCruz.com has gradually become more well known among Santa

Cruz County Christians, currently receiving over 1,000 unique visitors per month.

The site has recently been relaunched with a greater emphasis on Christian news, a new message board system, a more comprehensive set of directories, and an improved navigation system.

The site's new format allows churches and ministries to promote upcoming events and report on past happenings to inform the broader Christian community of what God is doing in our county.

Be sure and check out the new site! (www.christiancruz.com),

Serving Christ in the Church and in the Community.

- Summer opportunities for Youth
- Reaching out to our communities to help

OUTREACH TO THE YOUTH - VACATION BIBLE CAMPS

Green Valley Christian Center

July 21st–25th

Mon thru Thur, 8:30am to 12:30pm

Fri, 8:30am to 8:00pm

For kids 1st thru 6th grade.

Contact: Peter Bobbit 728-1424
pbobbit@gvcs.org

Boulder Creek Community

August 4th–8th

9am to 12pm

For kids K thru 6th grade.

Contact: Church office 338-3700
office@bccchurch.org

Felton Presbyterian

August 11th–15th

2pm to 5pm

For kids 3yrs thru 6th grade.

Contact: Church office 335-6900
office@feltonpresbyterian.org

Mountain bible Church

August 11th–15th

9pm to 12pm

For kids K thru 6th grade.

Contact: Church office 408-353-2302
mark@mountainbible.com

Christian Life Center

August 18th–22nd

9:30am to 12:30pm

Camp location is at Redwood Bowl at
Bethany college

For kids kindergarten –5th grade.

Contact: Judy 426-7733 x17
judy@clcsantacruz.org



Mount Hermon

Different weeks throughout the
summer.

Check them on the web at

www.mounthermon.org/redwood

Or call 430-1233

Mission Springs

Different weeks throughout the
summer.

Check them on the web at

www.missionsprings.com

THE CORE

“Surf’s up!” and the CORE
is gaining momentum!

After a successful Schralpfest
(CORE language for surf contest),
the word is out and enthusiasm is
growing about the mission and
vision of the CORE.

The Schralpfest was a huge
success with over 80 competitors
and 38 local vendors who
donated items for prizes and
raffles. Over 500 spectators were
treated to free massage, BBO and
music!

Future fund-raising events will
include a surf movie night and
participation in the Wharf-to-
Wharf. Also look for jars in local
stores filling up with coins to help



the CORE.

Kim Hart and others who have
joined on, have a heart to provide
a center for teens to hang out
with friends, as well as learn
trades from mentors and earn
apprenticeships with local
businesses. They need a building!
Kim would like to have the center
fairly close to the water so the
teens could participate in surfing
activities.

If you would like to help, join the
CORE team or have any info
about a local “west side” building,
please contact Kim at
kim.hart@earthlink.net.

Join us for our next event!

First Annual

“Run-Swim-Run”

The run-swim-run is an on-the-
beach, wharf-to-wharf race with
three swims: one around the
Harbor, one around “Blacks”,
and one around “Wind and
Sea!”

The event is scheduled for
Tuesday, August 12 with a 6:am
starting time. Revenue from the
event will go to support the
CORE.

For more info or to register
online go to...
www.thecore.org



Are you between the ages of 12 to 20 years of age? Do you have a heartfelt desire to help your community? Do need service hours to fulfill educational requirements? Or are you just bored already with summer?

YouthSERVE may be just what you're looking for. YouthSERVE, works to empower and support young people to get involved in the community by participating in service projects.

Serving your community is a great way to learn new skills, meet new people, and keep

you from watching "Saved By The Bell" reruns every afternoon. In Santa Cruz county there are countless organizations that need help doing anything from mentoring to environmental restoration to child care. Your help is needed by organizations like Save Our Shores, Second Harvest Food Bank, or The Boys' and Girls' Club. Whether you spend one afternoon a week or

every day, volunteering can open up new pathways and provide you with valuable life experiences, enriching memories and life lessons.

So, if you desperately need to meet a community service requirement or want to find a way to make our community a better place, please call us for a list of opportunities that best fits you or check us out online at www.scvolunteercenter.com.

To contact YouthSERVE, call Marilyn at 427-5066.

volunteering can open up new pathways and provide you with valuable life experiences, enriching memories and life lessons

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Big Brothers Big Sisters of SC

Contact : Loretta 464-8691
Needs volunteers that are at least 18 years and older to be a mentor and friend to a child from Santa Cruz County for a year.

Best Buddies

Contact : Heather 393-9185
Needs "friends" (volunteers) to pair up with people with developmental disabilities in one-to-one friendships.

Doran Center for the Blind

Contact : Randy 458-9766
Needs volunteers that will be matched with a client who needs someone to come to their home and perform tasks like reading, helping with grocery shopping, or just visiting.

Scotts Valley Senior Center

Contact : Lizabeth 438-8666
Needs volunteers to answer phones, greet people, and schedule Van rides for passengers. Also, help needed in the kitchen.

KaBOOM Build Project

Contact : Patricia 724-6505
Needs volunteers to help at Green Valley Christian Preschool in Watsonville installing new playground structures. All welcome Friday, July 25th, 2003 between noon to 6PM.

Meals on Wheels

Contact: Amy Weiss 427-0901
Needs volunteers to assist in operations of the senior lunch dining center, including AM table set-up and coffee prep, reception desk sign-in, light clerical and serving lunch.

Seymour Marine Discovery Center

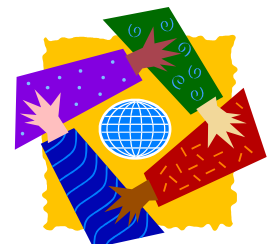
Contact : Christy 459-3854
Needs volunteers who love the ocean, have a curiosity about marine science, and like to share knowledge. There are a variety of tasks like feeding critters, helping with special events and fund raising, working in the Discovery Ship and leading tours.

Live Oak Resource Center

Contact : Kristin 476-7284
Needs volunteers at 1438 Capitola road to help transform the current building into a resource center. The resource center will provide services in childbirth, substance abuse and positive parenting. Project help dates are, July 25th stripping paint, July 26th painting, August 1st computer installation and August 2nd furniture moving.

Vista Verde Child Development

Contact : Mary 724-3749
Needs volunteers to work 2 days per week for 2 hours (9-11am) reading stories, helping with activities and singing.



ABOUT US...

CommUnity Link wants to help churches link together to meet the needs of our community. Our goal is to be a hub of information. Our newsletter posts what's going on in the Christian community and tells where and how our united effort can make a "world of difference" in Santa Cruz County.

We seek key lay contact people in your church with a heart for community to become part of a team of people who meet and work with different community agencies, collect information about community and church-oriented initiatives as well as communicate and provide opportunities for the Church to reach its local community.



Together, we can save a life

SAVING LIVES

It's easy to save lives by just giving blood. "Donating blood costs you nothing, yet the feeling you get knowing you saved the lives of three people is priceless." says one blood donor.

For the American Red Cross having enough blood on the shelves each day to respond to regular needs as well as disasters is part of overall community preparedness - it is the blood on hand today that saves lives tomorrow. Too often blood banks here in the bay area and across the nation operate with less than a 2-day supply, while a 7-day supply is recommended in order to respond to a crisis. Taking just one hour out of your day - two, four or six times a year would help the American Red Cross ensure that local cancer patients,

premature newborns and victims of acute blood loss would have immediate access to the blood they need when they need it. Schedule a regular appointment to give blood. It is one of the easiest ways to make sure your community is prepared.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Blood Drive for Aug 15th and/or 19th, please call Nishi Sarda at 510-773-2404.

Where can YOU go this summer to give blood?

7/24/03

First Presbyterian Church
350 Mission St. in Santa Cruz
12:30-5:30pm

For an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or log onto www.beadonor.com (code is SANTA).

7/28/03

Santa Cruz Bible Church
440 Frederick Street in Santa Cruz
11:00am -4:00pm

For an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or log onto www.beadonor.com (code is SCBC) or call Laura H. 831-429-1162

8/28/03

Santa Cruz Community Drive
First Presbyterian Church
350 Mission St. in Santa Cruz
12:00-5:30pm

For an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or log onto www.beadonor.com (code is SANTA).



SERVING OUR CITY

What is 2nd Harvest Food Bank?

The mission of 2nd Harvest is to educate and involve individuals to end hunger and alleviate malnutrition in communities.

2nd Harvest provides food to approximately 42,000 individuals per month through a network of 120 agencies and programs throughout

our service area.

One way you can get involved with 2nd Harvest is to participate in one of their Community Food Sorts. This is a great opportunity to reach out to hungry families and join a "Hand on" activity to help eliminate hunger on the central coast.

When is the next Food sort?

The 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month from 9am to 1pm. The next scheduled Food Sorts are:

Saturday, August 14th and 28th from 9am to 1pm.

Or for more info contact Susan Olson at 831-722-7110 extension 205 or email her at susan@thefoodbank.com.



We're on the Web

www.christiancruz.com

**WE meet the 2nd and 4th
Thursday of every month!**

Please contact us at

Phone: 831-429-1162x232

email:communitylink@mac.com

