



Grail Family Services

Empowering San José families

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Partnership Begins with Junior League

GFS is excited to announce a new collaboration with the Junior League of San José (www.jlsj.org) that will span the next four to five years. After a two-year, multi-stage proposal process, GFS was selected from a field of 20 applicants as the new Signature Project partner for the Junior League of San José (JLSJ). This partnership will bring GFS trained volunteers and funding for a minimum of four years. We are thrilled at the community impact and program expansion that will be possible through this collaboration!

Working together, GFS and JLSJ will create a unique addition to GFS' current program offerings - the Family Enrichment Program. The goals of the Family Enrichment Program are to increase parents'

awareness of child development, promote positive interactions between parents and children, develop positive discipline techniques and assist parents in setting realistic family goals that impact the healthy development and school readiness of their children.

“ The Junior League of San Jose is honored to choose Grail as its next signature project, and looks forward to several years of a strong and successful partnership.”

Lisa Hague, President, Junior League of San José



Become Part of GFS!

Are you ready to be part of a change: “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Barack Obama

As GFS ends it year of supporting change in families and children through educating our community we look forward to your continued support through your monetary contributions and your volunteering hours. Without the two we could not bring our services to our families. “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela

You can make a difference. Visit us at our website or send your contribution directly to GFS.

On April 25th change began with Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley, Aruba and St. Jude Episcopal Church organizations. Under the leadership of our house captain, Jeff Hultquist over 45 people could be seen throughout the day painting the trim and adding the new bold colors. We want to thank them and our board members who volunteered their time in making this upgrade possible.



Volunteers from Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley

Grail Family Services fosters learning and the empowerment of low-income families in San José's multicultural neighborhoods through the delivery of programs that educate, develop leadership skills, and build a sense of community.

Award of Excellence Presented to GFS

On May 5th, 2009 the California Council for Adult Education, Mid-Peninsula Chapter presented GFS with an award that attests the outstanding professionalism and excellence in collaborative services provided to the East Side Adult Education Program.

Through this partnership with East Side Union High School District, the Adult Education Program GFS has been able to provide ESL classes to hundreds of students. "Students taking ESL classes at GFS get the best of both agencies: effective instruction from ESAE and empowering services from GFS. The partnership between the school district and Grail Family Services is now 10 years old. We look forward to many more productive years with this strong partner," stated Rich Uribe.

We thank East Side Adult Education for this recognition. GFS values this partnership and knows that without our partners we could not be as effective delivering our comprehensive approach for family empowerment.

A Glimpse Into Our Programs

Family Story Hour

In Spanish. Story time and activities for parents and their children age 2-9.

Read-2-Me Program

In Spanish. Parent and children age 3-5 read, learn important early literacy skills. Adult/ Parent Program

Lee y serás® (Read and you will be) Program

This program shows parents how they can use their culture and experiences to promote their children's literacy development. Lee y serás serves parents with children ages 0-9.

NuParent Program

Parents of newborns gain knowledge and share support.

English Classes for Adults

Basic level English classes for parents.

Women's Group

Women meet and develop new skills in a supportive environment.

Case Management

Families receive an assessment to develop a family plan.

Case Management also provides counseling, support, and referrals.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers assist in many capacities. Share your talents and learn new skills.

Robert Severns Children's Library

Teach your children a love of reading! Borrow books from our Children's Library.

Health Library Section



GFS Welcomes New Board

Anusha Krishnamurthy - Board member

She is originally from India and currently works as a Component Design Engineer at Intel. She has a masters from the University of Cincinnati in electronics engineering. She is actively involved in the community giving campaign at Intel and volunteers at various activities that benefit the community. She is passionate about aiding the kids get an education that will make them proficient in moral values and skill sets.

A Word from the Executive Director

In the last six months GFS has been extremely busy preparing to launch the Yes we can...READ®, Children's Initiative. More than fifteen organizations have expressed an interest in becoming involved to increase children's literacy skills in East San José. If you would like to obtain more information, review our White Paper, and/or find opportunities in getting involved please visit our website at www.gfsfamilyservices.org.

Our Board and staff have been working on a Strategic Planning process that will provide the roadmap for the next three years. We are looking at the changes in the needs of the population we serve as well as our role in serving families with young children.

Needless to say, the year 2009 has been and will continue to be a challenging year. We have been exploring different avenues to respond to the challenges. One of the strategies that has already proven to be very successful in overcoming the storms has been the partnerships we have developed and the increased number of volunteers. Through a partnership with Rebuilding Together a group of close to forty volunteers painted and renovated our facilities, at no cost to GFS. In August, a group of volunteers from the Junior League of San José will support the expansion of our parent-child early literacy program during evening hours. We are inspired by the commitment of our volunteers and thank them for their efforts.

Your financial support is critical at this time of need. The education of our future generation is critical to a thriving economy. The development of children's literacy skills directly contributes to this goal. Data gathered through our Children's Library indicates that more than eighty percent of seven hundred and thirty families surveyed have fewer than ten books in their homes and are not reading to their young children on a regular basis; however, parents in focus groups indicate that they are interested in helping and supporting their children's learning activities. They find themselves with limited knowledge and information on how to do it. Parents of children already enrolled in school also report that at times they are overwhelmed with the educational system and do not know how to develop strong communications with teachers. GFS helps bridge this gap by supporting the development of the literacy skills children need to succeed, by working with their parents in helping them gain the needed skills to support their children, and by partnering with schools.

Without your financial contribution, we cannot serve the families that need our services. We need your support now, to make a contribution please go to www.gfsfamilyservices.org.

Sincerely,



Veronica P. Goei

Help GFS Meet the Sobrato Challenge

We have an important challenge and need your help. The Sobrato Family Foundation has granted GFS a \$15,000 challenge grant. They will match every dollar GFS receives from new donors and increased donations.

Please use the enclosed pledge card to make the most generous gift you can afford and ask your friends to help us meet this challenge. Your generosity is vital to the continuing of success stories like the one from a graduate of our Lee y serás and Read2Me programs.

Help us achieve our goal be part of the change. Make a difference, make a dream come true!

"My dream is that my daughter can be independent and have access to all the resources possible that she may need, so that she can develop and learn every day and become a productive member of society."

"My dream is to be able to learn new things and to teach my children so that one day they will be able to teach others."

More Information

For more information about GFS, please call us (408) 347-7892 or visit our website at www.gfsfamilyservices.org

