

# **BUILDING CONNECTIONS**

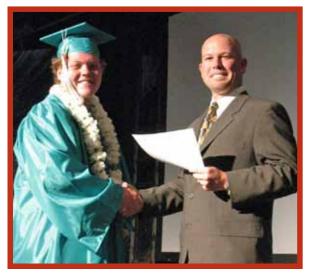
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#### **New Haven Proud of Five 2010 Graduates**

Five success stories were very visible this year with the graduation of Stephen, Craig, Alex, Anthony, and Peter.

Stephen spoke of how his time at New Haven helped him learn the coping skills needed to better deal with his anger. He now intends to pursue a career in a computer-related field.

Craig expects to pursue a career in culinary arts. He had a good start at New Haven, where he's fondly remembered for his lasagna as well as his sense of humor.



Craig accepts diploma from Principal, Bret Calhoun

Continuing his exemplary New Haven academic record as a student at Palomar College, Alex is wielding his artistic talents toward a degree in graphic design.

Anthony, a voracious reader, intends to pursue a degree in cinema arts, though his myriad academic interests could take him in many directions.

Peter hopes to pursue a degree in psychology and become a therapist (see next story).

We wish each of our graduates a happy and successful future!

#### A Succession of Successes

New Haven is a succession of successes, and Peter is just one of them.

Peter has had his challenges. But like each of our 2010 graduates, Peter has met those challenges, interspersing successes with setbacks. And even the setbacks were ultimately part of his success.

"Even when I made stupid mistakes, the staff was always there to help me get back on track and not judge me. I mean, they held me accountable, but in a caring way," says Peter. "I think the thing that helped me the most were the relationships I made at New Haven.

"When I first came here from another program, I felt like I had jumped through all the hoops that I needed to in order to leave, but I didn't really feel like I had made many internal changes. I was still very angry at myself and the world, and had a lot of issues that I needed to deal with and overcome."

The issues were dealt with, and overcome. Today, Peter is a graduate with a succession of successes ahead of him. But he says he may be back.

"As far as the future is concerned, I plan on attending college and working part time. I want to major in



Peter celebrates his success with Dr. Robles and case worker Sarah Mackey.

psychology and work in a program helping other kids overcome their problems like I have here. Eventually, I think I would like to be a therapist. Maybe one day you'll even see me working at New Haven."



# **Teacher Spotlight: Omar Mercado**

As a resource specialist, Omar Mercado has taught special education for the last eight years. He joined New Haven last September, inspired by our organization's belief in restoring hope. "There is a trend in society where at-risk youth get sent to jail instead of into an education system that provides real opportunities for (Continued on last page.)



#### A Message From Our Chairman, Donn Bleau

It's an exciting time for New Haven. In 2005, we founded Trade Tech High as part of a strategic plan with the goal of providing project-based, career-technical education opportunities to reluctant learners in our surrounding communities. Today, Trade Tech is thriving because our students are thriving.

Of course, Trade Tech could not have been realized without the generosity of so many people. I am continually amazed by the spirit of giving exemplified by firms like TaylorMade Golf, Home Depot, and Hess Oil, and by the unwavering support our students receive from our "Friends of New Haven," foundations such as the Girard Foundation and Gary & Mary West Foundation, and our hundreds of volunteers.

In the year ahead, I hope to expand New Haven's services to accommodate even more youth; further strengthen our organization by continuing to foster a caring and dedicated environment; improve our programs to produce the best possible outcomes; and cast a recognizable beacon of light into our communities for those who so desperately need our services. I invite you to come along.

Donn Bleau, Chairman

### We Get By With a Lot of Help From Our Friends

This year New Haven not only transformed the lives of 200 boys, we overhauled the campus's Teen House.

The arc of the renovation will be familiar to anyone who's done work on their house. "It turned out to be much more than we expected!" says Crista McClure-Swan, president of "Friends of New Haven" and the dynamo facilitator behind much of the hands-on efforts.

Starting in March, volunteers removed drywall and pulled up floorboards, and at almost every turn they found things that needed to be dealt with. It was a continuous set of challenges, though McClure-Swan says it was all worth it. "The Teen House is now a much safer, happier, and healthier place to live."

While the project itself was challenging at times, there was never a shortage of generosity. Home Depot Foundation came on board with a \$15,000 grant, and HD Supply donated \$2,500. Additionally, 20 Home Depot "star" employees came out to help for a day, one of whom was a prior graduate of New Haven. Now that's a full-circle moment!

All in all, \$95,788 in resources were donated to this remodel, and we certainly couldn't have completed it without the added efforts of countless service volunteers who gave far more than their time – they modeled service to others, while also communicating personal care for our youth. Stay tuned: we're hosting an Open House in February and you're invited!



#### Come On In, the Water's Fine!



On July 17, approximately 40 volunteer lifesavers rescued New Haven's pool area. "It was in pretty bad shape," explains Bill Kincaid, New Haven's Director of Development. "In the summer, the pool plays an important role in the boys' recreational program. Things go wrong when teens get heated.

The pool provides an outlet for them to cool down, literally and figuratively."

Those who reported for duty were TaylorMade Golf employees, families and friends. Under the blazing summer sun, they did everything from painting the fence to gardening and laying granite. A donation of redwood from J & W Lumber enabled New Haven students to build six Adirondack chairs as part of the school's Woodcrafts Etc. program. Volunteers later stained the chairs.

The net result was "a complete (Continued on last page.)

## **Trade Tech On the Grow**

The Trade Tech High campus appears out of the ordinary. And it is. This year, the charter school

took over new facilities at 1126 and 1130 Melrose Drive. But the larger facility is not because the previous space affected our students' success rate. Last year, our students' "Hope Index" proved the biggest improvement in the nation. Why? Parents provided resounding our football support, team was undefeated.

and all of the school's academic goals were met. The fact of the matter was we'd simply grown too big for our bricks and the new surroundings would allow for expansion and innovation.

One of the most significant aspects of Trade Tech's success is how our exceptional Advisors connect our students – boys and girls – to local mentors, community employers, the Vista Chamber of Commerce, parents

and colleges. No less significant is our curriculum. Leaning on the core subjects of science, English,



Trade Tech student perfects his drafting in Engineering



While learning the principles of plumbing, students also learn the principles of teamwork.

mathematics and history, lessons interweave project-based study in

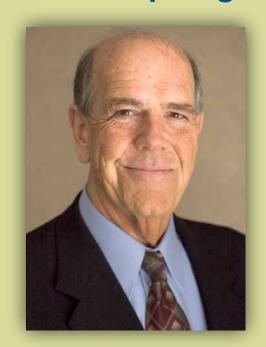
engineering, architecture and the construction trades and emphasize green building and alternative energy technologies. Further, students learn the value of giving back through their newly acquired skill set. Student projects have included sheds for low-income seniors and the installation of student-designed benches in our parks.

By bringing career technical education into the 21st century through state-of-the art curriculum,

equipment and lab practice, we ensure our students are prepared for the rapidly emerging needs of the work world. And with continued support from community partners like Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), HG Fenton, Echo Pacific, and numerous other individuals, the future at Trade Tech High looks very bright.

For further information, visit www.tradetechhigh.org.

# **Board Spotlight: George Chamberlin**



You have undoubtedly heard of New Haven's newest board member. George Chamberlin is the executive editor of The Daily Transcript, San Diego's only daily business newspaper. He is also the business editor for KOGO Radio and host of "Money in the Morning," a personal finance program heard each Sunday. And in his copious spare time, Chamberlin serves as the Money Advisor for NBC 7/39, and is the publisher and editor of a national newsletter, "Investing for Rookies". His efforts have earned him Media Advocate of the Year

honors from the Small Business Administration—three times!

George says his recent decision to become involved with New Haven was based on the dedication of the staff and other directors in helping troubled youth find a path to success. "Sounds simple, but it takes something special to turn these lives around. As a resident of Vista, I see how New Haven is a benefit to the community in so many ways. As a parent and grandparent, I want to do what I can to help others who are less fortunate. I look forward to working with the other board members in this effort."

#### **New Haven Mission**

Building positive futures for youth, their families and our communities.

Visit www.newhavenyfs.org to learn how you can support New Haven's mission.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# **Fundraiser Helps Create Lasting Memories**



Jeannine Resha and Crista McClure-Swan all smiles at Friends fundraiser.

On Nov. 2, New Haven's "Reclaiming Youth" charity event was held at Coyote Bar & Grill in downtown Carlsbad. The howlinggood fundraiser was organized by our dear "Friends of New Haven," – an all-volunteer group whose mission it is to contribute time, talents and resources for the benefit of New Haven's youth – and netted over \$35,000!

Planning and execution of the event went off without a hitch thanks to the tireless leadership of Site Chair Jeannine Resha and Committee Chair Crista McClure-Swan and a dedicated committee comprised of Betsy Landers, Bonnie Frazier, Cathy Seward-Wozney, Chrissy Soler, Katie Wyatt, Kay Nord, Linda Smith, Patrice Saxon, Tami Eshelman, Tashi Maldonado and Cristine Clark.

Clark's talent for scoring in-kind donations resulted in a fantastic silent auction, which was complemented by the auctioneer services of Troy McVicker of Event Source. "It's so hard not to work with New Haven once you meet the boys, and the Coyote event was truly phenomenal," says Clark. "With the money we raised, we hope to fund some great memories for the boys, like surfing lessons and birthday parties complete with cake and presents – things that many children growing up take for granted. Some of our boys have never even seen snow!"

Thanks also go out to the owners of Coyote Bar & Grill, Bob Burke and Jeannine Resha, who went well above the call of duty. They not only provided their amazing venue free of charge, they supplied food, drinks, a live band, donations of silent and live auction times, and urged many of their friends to bid and donate to New Haven.

It was truly a tremendous fundraiser. Thanks to all who participated!

(The Water's Fine continued) transformation," says Kincaid.

Kevin Limbach, director of operations for TaylorMade, was not only amazed by the amount of effort his team put in, but how up to the challenge the New Haven boys were. "They worked right alongside us, and were very thankful," he says. "Having that direct connection was heartwarming because we were able to provide so much more than an anonymous donation. You could see in every boy's face how appreciative they were."

In total, \$7,000 worth of donated labor and supplies made New Haven's pool-area renovation possible, including an installation of Astroturf that came later, courtesy of Ray and Jacob Sever.



(Omar Mercado continued)
positive change," he says. "I'm passionate
about changing that trend, one student at
a time."

Before arriving at New Haven, Omar was a teacher at his Alma Mater, North Monterey County High School. He enjoyed his work there immensely, but now feels even more connected to healing youth, their families, and the community at large. "I firmly believe in New Haven's principles of teaching our youth to be safe; be trustworthy; show respect; build community; and show personal integrity."

He also believes in inspiring our students through his own actions, which may be why he's so popular! "I come in every day with a positive attitude," he says. "I think our students need examples of adults who face adversity yet continue to show respect and follow New Haven's principles." When it comes to schooling, he empowers students by incorporating content they can relate to, such as technology, and encouraging them to use multiple sources to find answers and solutions. His greatest reward? "Being able to watch our students mature, grow and succeed!"

For information on how you can help support New Haven Youth and Family Services, contact Doreen Quinn at 760-630-4035 or visit our website at www.newhavenyfs.org/giving