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.

Stephen, Craig, Alex, Anthony, and Peter.

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!

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.)
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.)
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 support, our football 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, 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.”
Fundraiser Helps Create Lasting Memories

On Nov. 2, New Haven’s “Reclaiming Youth” charity event was held at Coyote Bar & Grill in downtown Carlsbad. The howling-good 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!

(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)