

VISION

The Newsletter for Dysart Community Center

Issue No. 2



Record temperatures in the West Valley have not stopped Dysart Community Center from having a fun-filled summer program.



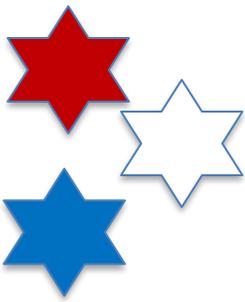
We hope you enjoy our second issue of the 'Vision' newsletter full of information about all our work in the community.

We had 148 children registered for our summer camp, with a waiting list of 48 youths. It was wonderful to see the center buzzing with activities and all that youthful energy!

An amazing team of interns, volunteers and staff managed to make this an unforgettable summer program. Each week had a theme (see the photo of the staff on Super-Hero week) and we are delighted to share some of this magic with you in this quarterly newsletter.

My warmest and most sincere thanks go to everyone who helped to make this such an incredible summer of fun!

Many of our adult Citizenship, GED and ESL students continued their studies through the summer as well. Their dedication to learning and improving their skills was so encouraging.



Priscilla, Freddie, Wally, Lord, Annie & Susie

Volunteer Focus: Francisco Portillo



Francisco is a native of El Mirage and has volunteered at Dysart Community Center's summer Camp for five years. He is a senior at Dysart High School and hopes to attend University of Arizona Medical School in the field

of dermatology.

Francisco plans to return to El Mirage after university because his family is here and he wants to give back to the community that has made him who he is. He believes there is so much good about this community and hopes to reach out and help others feel the same way.

His greatest wish is that more teens would get involved in the Teen Arts & Action Program, which he believes makes such a difference in the community and helps him feel connected to something important.

Francisco feels the bonds he has formed with everyone at Dysart Community Center will always be special to him and form the foundation of his future. He loves to see the children grow and develop over the years. "Watching them grow up before my eyes is amazing" he says. He welcomes the challenge of helping the new children gain confidence, get involved and continue participating.

His best day was water day, "It was awesome seeing the kids participating in everything that day, they are still talking about it."

Summer Camp Dancing

Rascapetatiando Dance Company is a Latin-based dance troupe that resides in El Mirage, AZ. They teach a balance of traditional dance and lyrical representations of Mexican folkloric traditions. Their mission is to provide quality dance training and instill discipline, self-confidence, and professionalism in their students. Under the general and artistic direction of Frank Ornelas, the company has flourished since its inception in July of 2016.

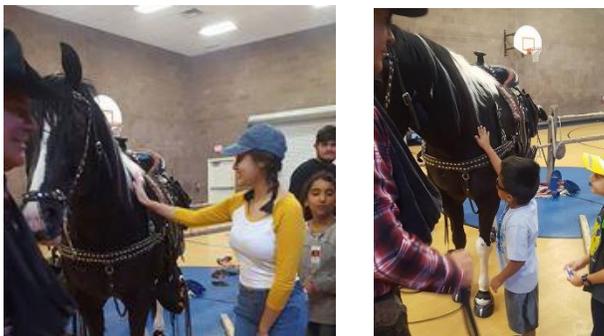
Dysart Community Center was given the benefit of this amazing training for our summer camp students on Mondays and Wednesdays. Mr. Ornelas brought together a group of children in a very small amount of time and incorporated all the wonderful values that serve his company's mission.

The children were delighted to practice this innovative form of dance, and quickly developed confidence in their abilities. The dance lessons incorporated life lessons as well, teaching the importance of working together, listening to each other, respecting each other and paying attention.



Gary the Singing Cowboy

Gary and his horse 'Dusty' returned to entertain all the youths this summer. Dusty was loved by everyone. Gary emphasized being kind to animals and respectful of each other and sang the "I'm a Happy Cowboy" song.



ASU Interns

A huge shout out to our Arizona State University Intern teaching students who joined us for the summer semester. Scot Johnson and Justi Randall jumped in at the deep end helping to teach every age group attending summer camp.

Scot is retired military, returning to school with the goal to teach science. He was an inspiring and amazing teacher who found teaching moments in every day experiences. One day he brought in a laptop that he had completely dismantled to show the youths all the parts that make up a laptop computer.

Justi worked primarily with the youngest children and loved teaching them art projects. Both instructors were joined one day by their University Service Learning Administrator who took photos of the two interns in action.



Scot Johnson



Justi Randal



Science/Technology and Just Plain Fun



Miss Debbie joined Priscilla in teaching cooking and nutrition classes this summer. Check out our new aprons and our first recipe of 'fruit pizza'.



STEM classes were taught daily, including 'egg drop', rocket launches, rocket cars, making ice cream, stress test structures and building towers.



Twin Day



TWINS

Abraham Rodriguez Jr. Summer Camp Scholarship



Henry and Lupe Galindo of Lupitas Restaurant in El Mirage began the Abraham Rodriguez Jr. Scholarship Fund for Dysart Community Center's Summer Camp Program in honor of their grandson. Abraham Rodriguez Jr. Born September 16, 1988 passed away too soon on January 22, 2013.

Abraham was a determined young man who worked hard to achieve his goals. He was a loving husband, father, son, brother and grandson. His spirit will live on through the many hearts he touched. Abraham is survived by his wife Ashley Patterson-Rodriguez; son Jeremiah Rodriguez; parents Abraham and Denise Rodriguez; sister Gabrielle Rodriguez; brother Daniel Rodriguez; grandparents Henry and Lupe Galindo and Julio and Mary Rodriguez; and many loving cousins and family members.

This second year of the scholarship, other members of the community joined in to contribute in the memory of Abraham Rodriguez through our scholarship funding enabling sixteen children in financial need to attend Summer Camp free of charge.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the family of Abraham Rodriguez Jr. for starting this practical gift of love.

Water Day

Thursday, July 29th was our Summer Camp Water Day, what an adventure this was for everyone. The morning began with the arrival of five water/bouncy houses being set up in the parking lot.

Lunch was served courtesy of Chick-Fil-A and their team of volunteers who stayed to help us all day. The El Mirage Fire Department brought Fire Personnel and an engine. They helped fill all the pools with water and sprayed all the children.

La Fiesta Catering provided four five-gallon jugs of refreshing watermelon, pineapple, lemonade and fruit drinks.

Many thanks to all the friends of Dysart Community Center for their time and donations.

Volunteer Recognition Event

Wednesday, April 26th, was the opportunity for Dysart Community Center students and staff to celebrate the volunteers who give so selflessly to our community.



We enjoyed a wonderful meal of tacos and refreshing drinks, performances by the children and all volunteers received a certificate commemorating their service to our programs. Louisa Kellam, the Chairman of our Board and Volunteer ESL Tutor to five students, cut the celebration cake.



Again, thank you for your service and we appreciate everything you do!

