

# Girls Club of Los Angeles

## **GCLA Representing in the Community**

### Message from the Director

#### **Watts Christmas Parade**

From Compton Ave, rounding the corner of 108th and Central, down to El Segundo the **GCLA** Crew was in full effect with three trucks, a low rider, and plenty of children and adults walking along side. Staff and children from all GCLA programs were on hand to make sure that GCLA was well represented in the 2003 **Watts Christmas Parade**. Children wearing their **GCLA** shirts were in and out of the trucks passing out rulers and letting the residents of Watts know what **GCLA** was all about. See the insert for more pictures.



#### **Community Day**

On January 17, 2004 **GCLA** participated in the **9th Annual Community Day 2004** presented by the Hope For Life Foundation. Community Day was held at the Department of Public Social Services Southwest District Office located on Imperial and Normandie. During the day was a clothes distribution, food giveaway and vehicle raffle. Many agencies were on hand to present community members with information about their programs and to sign people up for services. **GCLA** Staff were present to pass out information about the agency and inform families about the openings at the Faith Children's' Center.

#### **Black College Expo**

On January 24, 2004 **GCLA** staff escorted 14 youth from **Project LEAD Fremont & YEC Black College Expo** at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The Expo is designed to promote higher education and self-development, to empower African-American youth to strive for the best and to provide a mixture of education, information, and entertainment. The Expo featured a very informative college fair, representing well over 50 Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and educational organizations. Activities included a Fraternity and Sorority Step Show, and informative seminars on, and a Career Panel.

**GCLA - We Do Things Differently**

*Since 1972 over 35,000 boys and girls and their families have been served by GCLA programs!*

## **GCLA PROMOTING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PROJECT LEAD (LEADERS IN ENRICHMENT OF ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT)**

### **Fremont**

**Project LEAD—Fremont** reached over 500 students in Fall 2003 through the *Comprehensive Sexuality Education Component* which occurs during the 9th grade health class. Staff incorporated the California Department of Education content standard including a culminating task where students were required to deliver a presentation stating reasons why/how to prevent early childbirth and/or sexually transmitted diseases. The *Service Learning Component* has a core group of 12 students who are monthly exposed to life skills workshops which have included topics such as: Defining the Community, Identifying Community Resources, and Advocacy. This past year workshops have been revised to aid the students in their personal and academic lives as well as our monthly service project. Service projects are scheduled for each month of the school year. These projects give the students a great opportunity for practical application in a setting outside of the classroom. This also will provide the participants with a consistent number of service projects to be involved in for the year. Students have participated in the Youth Opportunities Unlimited Van - Meter Walkathon and surveying Redondo Beach residents about their opinions regarding Smoke Free Beaches & Piers.

### **Watts Labor Community Action Committee**

As part of the **WLCAC South East Family Development Network**, **GCLA** continues to provide a quality youth development program providing homework assistance, life skills workshops and field trips. In 2003, ninety-eight (98) youth participants were impacted by this project. Youth were given the opportunity to participate in the **Los Angeles County Office of Education Teen Passport to Success**. Youth attended a 5 session course which focused on goal setting, health/safety, and employment/finances. Youth also participated in county-wide field trips. **GCLA** also introduced youth to the Cal WORKS Youth Jobs Work program. By providing 90 hours of paid work experience and 50 hours of paid educational time this program prepared participants for future employment and provided them with skills that involve responsibility and time management. **GCLA** was successful in providing jobs for more than 25 students. The **FDN** also serves as a primary referral source for families participating in other **GCLA** programs such as the Faith Children's Center. In 2003, seven (7) families were provided with services that ranged from housing assistance to receiving food vouchers. So far in 2004, approximately 20 families have been referred to FDN and are awaiting much needed support.

### **Youth Enrichment Center**

In 2003, the **YEC** summer day camp provided 50 girls with recreational/cultural activities, life skills workshops and weekly field trips. Due to a decrease in funding **YEC** has been operating on a smaller scale. Currently **YEC** offers limited workshops such as the **Work Readiness Training** where 15 youth receive stipends to participate in job skills workshops and conduct a 2 week internship. Participants have also been able to participate in field trips such as to television show tapings and the Black College Expo. **GCLA** has been able to conduct these activities due to the generous contribution received from the **Estate of Wilt Chamberlain (\$30,000)**, subcontracts with **Youth Opportunities Unlimited** and the support of civic organizations like **CHUMS, Inc.**

### **Students Run LA**

**GCLA** is in the 4th year of participating in **Students Run LA (SRLA)**, a non-profit sports-based youth education and intervention program. **SRLA** uses the experience of training for marathons from 5K runs to the 26.2 mile City of Los Angeles Marathon in March to teach at-risk youth important life lessons in commitment, dedication, discipline. 10 Youth from **Project LEAD— Fremont and WLCAC** have committed this year to completing the program. As **SRLA** participants, they receive a running shoes, t-shirts, caps, water bottles and other fun prizes throughout the course of their training. Transportation and race fees to all the events are covered by **SRLA**. Youth train 2-3 times a week. Trainings and events are supervised by Project LEAD staff Chris Medina, Mario Cardona, & Diana Gonzales and Program Director Sonya Vasquez.

## **SMOKE FREE PEER MENTORS CLEARING THE AIR**

The **Smoke-Free Peer Mentorship Program**, an anti-tobacco project spearheaded by youth between the ages of 12-18, has been in existence for the last 5 years. The program trains youth on how to conduct presentations and mobilize the community. The youth have worked on several projects to change community norms regarding tobacco usage.

The youth have worked hand-in-hand with the **Committee for Smoke-Free Parks and Other Public Places** to pass a smoke-free zones ordinance (children's play and sports areas) at all **City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Centers**. They are currently working on building awareness creating a smoke-free policy at the Redondo Beach pier and beach.

**Administrative Office/  
Faith Children's Center**

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**Youth Enrichment Center**

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***Making A Difference  
Day by Day***

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**GCLA** is always looking for passionate individuals who are interested in supporting our efforts. **GCLA** has many opportunities for you to donate your time.

- Be a Presenter
- Teach a Class
- Be a Tutor
- Share your career at Career Day
- Help out at GCLA events
- Help repair & build things.
- If you are in school and would like experience give us a call.
- Or if you have another way you can help out give us a call so we can see how your needs match ours.

For volunteer opportunities contact Akeisha Davis, Volunteer Coordinator at (323) 754-2122x33.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**GCLA** is a non-profit organization that operates on contributions made by organizations and individuals. Only with your help can **GCLA** make the future brighter for the children that we serve.

**GCLA Wish List**

- Computers
- Computer Software
- Copy Paper
- Photo Paper
- Card Stock Paper
- DVD Player
- Balls & Outside Sports Equipment
- Flash Lights
- Newspaper
- Magazine Subscriptions
- Educational Books
- Video Surveillance Equipment
- Monetary Donations

Please remember that any donation is welcomed and appreciated.

All contributions are Tax Deductible  
(TAX ID#23-7203822)  
Thank You.

**Volunteer Corner**

There are several ways for students, parents, family & friends to volunteer at GCLA!

The **Foster Grandparent**, **SER Jobs for Progress**, **Volunteer Center of Los Angeles** and **GCLA** have provided meaningful volunteer opportunities for over **159** low-income older persons. At the **Faith Children's Center** the grandparents are trained as teaching assistants, receptionists, yard aids and office assistants.

The **Youth Workers** are paid through the several agencies to work at **GCLA**. Youth are trained in areas of childcare assistants, office management, leadership skills and community mobilization. **GCLA** also provides a yearly **Work Readiness Training** with paid Internship for 15 youth.

Another program we are involved with is the **Greater Avenues of Independence Welfare-To-Work** **GCLA** serve as worksite training. The work experience is designed to promote the development of good work habits and job specific occupational skills required for participation in the workforce.

The court refers youth & adults to complete **Community Service** at our sites if they unable to pay the court fees. Over 90 persons have completed there court appointed time we us. Youth can also volunteer for there **Service Hours** required graduating from High School.

**To date in 2003 -2004 GCLA has had the pleasure to host X volunteers from all of the above mentioned programs. GCLA thanks all Present & Past Volunteers for making us a Premier Agency.**

**Events to Look for in 2004**

<b>FCC Valentines Raffle</b>	February 13, 2004
<b>FCC Black History Month Program</b>	February 25, 2004
<b>Month of the Young Child</b>	April 2004
<b>Take Our Daughters &amp; Sons to Work Day</b>	April 2004
<i>Over 40 girls &amp; boys are taken on a tour of various businesses in the community and treated to presentations from women working in non-traditional fields.</i>	
<b>Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month</b>	May 2004
<b>Fremont Teen Rally</b>	May 2004
<b>Fall Celebration</b>	October 2004
<i>Party for the whole family with food, face painting, dancing and games.</i>	
<b>End of the Year Celebration</b>	June 2004
<b>Annual Bar-B-Que Fundraiser</b>	July 2004
<b>Annual Talent Show Case</b>	August 2004
<b>Annual Picnic</b>	August 2004