

CYO today



Catholic Charities CYO

Issue 2, Number 1 Spring 2006



building
strong
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CYO's commitment to youth



Last June, Board members **Jack Fitzpatrick**, Chair of Parish and Community Response and CYO Athletics; **Clint Reilly**, CCCYO Board President; and **Bill Ring**, Chair of CYO Golf Day, spearheaded Catholic Charities CYO's commitment to youth in the recently crafted strategic plan. Jack Fitzpatrick explains, "The strategic plan serves as a roadmap that sets forth priorities for Catholic Charities CYO as it enters its second century of service in 2007. The implications of this plan include an agency refocused on the growth and healthy development of youth."

The youth-centered priorities include:

- *Strengthening CYO Camp's program quality and position of value in Bay Area communities. Program enhancements will be realized at CYO Summer Camp, Caritas Creek Environmental Education Program, and CYO Camp retreat facilities.*
- *Strengthening CYO Athletics' legacy of leadership and youth development. Facilities will be improved, and in some cases newly rebuilt; programs will be enhanced, and we will continue to build on CYO's superior reputation to ensure its viability and financial stability through expanded fundraising efforts.*

Of central importance to the success of these strategic priorities was creating a new position to oversee the CYO Athletics program in San Francisco and Marin. In December, team player **Courtney Johnson** joined the staff of Catholic Charities CYO as Director of CYO Athletics.

This issue of CYO Today celebrates the theme "Commitment to Youth." In these pages you will discover the many ways in which our Board, staff, volunteers, and the children, youth and families we serve have united around this common goal of putting our young people first.

Epitomizing the heart and soul of this commitment, CYO Athletics serves more than 13,000 youth in San Francisco and Marin Counties through organized team sports leagues at the parish level. Did you know that CYO Athletics offers year-round sports activities in the non-school hours to ALL youth, including youth attending public schools within those parish boundaries?

CYO programs, while distinct, are connected by several common threads, including a commitment to the healthy growth and development of youth, providing learning opportunities for youth in a culturally diverse environment, and emphasizing the value of teamwork and commitment. Our strategic plan underscores the need to cross-pollinate all of our programs, and the importance of discovering the ways in which our youth programs share common goals and objectives.

Evidence of Catholic Charities CYO's commitment to respond more deeply to the needs of youth and their families can be found in the agency's newly formed Parish and Community Response team. **Mary Schembri**, Director, and **Rory Desmond**, Coordinator, are busy forging relationships with parishes and community partners throughout San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula.

A basic cornerstone of this parish work is harnessing the potential of the gyms we use for sports as community centers that can serve as a hub within a community. This is what

we've done at Pickleweed Park in San Rafael's Canal district with our Kids' Club program, and also at Mission Day Care in San Francisco. Currently, we're collaborating with the YMCA in the Bayview district to provide an after school sports program at the former site of St. Paul of the Shipwreck Elementary school. This is also our goal at St. Emydius in the Ingleside district. We expect to have this gym ready for practices and games in September.

CYO Programs have traditionally spotlighted the needs of 3rd-8th grade kids. In the future, CYO will be developing more opportunities for high school and college-age youth, 18-24 years of age. One area we have already begun to expand is a volunteer program at CYO Camp for college-age youth.

This commitment to youth is a driving force that gives Catholic Charities CYO the opportunity to network with community partners and service providers within parishes, assess needs, and address them through the development of youth and family-centered services that extend beyond the topmost layer of kids signing up to play sports. This approach of reaching out to youth and families at a fundamental level can help alleviate early signs of family stress that can lead to advanced problems later on, which in turn require more advanced interventions.

Catholic Charities CYO has dedicated significant resources to make these priorities a reality. However, our resources alone are not enough to ensure that everyone who wants to participate has that opportunity. The fees alone do not cover the costs of the CYO Programs that benefit so many.

Without generous public and private support, CYO would not be able to continue building strong futures for our youth.

NEW CO-ED SUMMER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

June 12 – August 4
SIGN UP NOW!

In February, CYO Athletics was awarded a \$25,000 grant from Team-Up for Youth to "get more young people in the game" by securing new gym space at St. Emydius in the Ingleside District of San Francisco, and piloting a new, eight-week summer recreational volleyball league for 3rd-8th grade girls and boys. The new league will provide two games and one practice per week for a total of 3-4 hours of activity per week for eight weeks. The league will run from June 19 through July 28. The cost per participant is \$15.00 for the eight-week league. The deadline to register is May 26. Visit www.ccyo.org to register.

Thank you Team-Up For Youth!



All parish and non-parish youth in San Francisco are invited to join CYO's new summer volleyball league.

NEW LEAGUE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer coaches are needed for the new volleyball league. If you are interested in volunteering, or want to find out more about how you can get involved, please contact Courtney Johnson at 415.406.2370 or cjohnson@cccyo.org.

Catholic Charities CYO Programs that support the healthy growth and development of youth include:

- CYO Athletics
- CYO Camp
- CYO Summer Camp
- Caritas Creek Environmental Education
- Retreat groups
- CYO Transportation
- Mission Day Care
- St. Joseph's Family Center
- Canal Family Support Program



Our New Director

Courtney Johnson grew up in Antioch where she played on CYO basketball teams. She attended UC Berkeley on a full sports scholarship, receiving a B.A. in Sociology and her M.A. in Education with an emphasis in Athletic Administration.

Courtney played Cal basketball all four years, was voted MVP, and is a former first team all Pacific-10 Conference player and three-year team captain.

In her professional life, Courtney has been an administrative fellow for the Pac-10 Conference, assisting in sports championships, handled public relations for gymnastics, and worked with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Before joining our team, Courtney served as Director of Education of the California Interscholastic Federation in Oakland, where she directed all educational programs (including their youth clinic for state basketball championships), presented the curriculum to administrators, coaches and parents, and served as liaison for volleyball and tennis championships. Welcome, Courtney!

CYO Programs Connect the Dots

Matthew is a fifth grade student at Star of the Sea parochial school in San Francisco's Richmond District. In April, Matthew attended Caritas Creek Environmental Education Program for five days with his class, learning about science and natural history at CYO Camp, two hours north of San Francisco in the redwood forest of Sonoma County. For those five days and nights, Matthew shared experiences in an outdoor classroom and shared a cabin with seven of his classmates.

When this school year ends, the highlight of Matthew's summer vacation will be a 10-day session at CYO Summer Camp, where he'll travel to the redwoods for Camp again, but this time he'll get to know kids from all over the Bay Area.

Leading by Example
A Win-Win for Mission Dolores

When **Father William Justice** lost his athletic director at Mission Dolores, he thought he would have to close the gym. He was already without a janitor, and there was no way to keep the gym open without someone to manage it. All of the community events that took place there – basketball, bingo and parties – would have to find new homes.

"When we found out about this, we were horrified," says **Marty Rea**, director of CYO Youth Services. "We used Mission Dolores gym for a lot of CYO basketball games. Without this space, which they so often and so kindly made available for teams without their own gym, we would have had nowhere else to turn."

Traditionally, CYO manages the complex process of scheduling all the teams in the league. Schools or parishes usually manage gyms, along with team rosters. For many teams from less affluent areas, a place to play games is hard to come by.

"We got in touch with Father Justice as soon as we could," remembers Rea. "He was very receptive to the potential partnership solution. I cannot say enough great things about him."

The deal was simple: CYO would manage the gym and provide janitorial services during the CYO games; Mission Dolores would keep their gym open.

"The real winners in of all this are the kids," explains Fr. Justice. "The partnership has worked out very well, is mutually beneficial for both of us, keeping the gym in order and available for games."

In trying to teach kids about respect, sharing and compassion, CYO and Mission Dolores are both leading by example.

When school starts in the fall, Matthew will be signing up to play CYO sports with his parish team at Star of the Sea school, which provides organized team sports leagues in soccer, basketball, and track and field from September through May. Perhaps Matthew will even see some of his Caritas Creek or summer camp friends on the soccer field or basketball court.

And how will Matthew connect all of these CYO "dots?" By traveling on a CYO Transportation school bus, of course!

CYO Camp 707.874.0240
CYO Athletics 415.406.2370
CYO Transportation 650.757.2110



Dear Diary,

It's Day 5 of our 10-day session at CYO Camp. Today I woke up to the sound of birds chirping and my cabin mates (there are 8, including me!) giggling. We looked around at each other, and through the windows we could see redwood trees. It felt cozy inside our sleeping bags in our bunk beds. Our cabin counselor, Erin, played a song for us on her guitar. We jumped out of bed, grabbed our camp sweat-shirts, and walked to the bathhouse to brush our teeth. As we headed back to our cabin to get ready for breakfast, we ran into campers from the cabin next door. We walked with them to the Lodge, where the whole camp comes together for family-style meals.

After breakfast the day really took off. Today was special because it's the first time our cabin buddy group went on a hike together. Our cabin counselor guided us and explained things as we hiked through the redwood forest. Today we looked for different animal tracks and found raccoon, deer, and skunk tracks! The hike is a team-building experience with games and exercises that build bonds and trust. The greatest part for me was being outside all day and having a picnic with my cabin friends.

Here at Camp, it starts getting warm after breakfast. By afternoon, it's time for a swim! After dinner we had Skit Night in the Lodge. Our cabin group has been working on our skit all week about meeting people from different places and coming together as one community at camp. The skits were awesome! Some cabins sang, others danced, and some kids performed on their own with guitar or whatever their talent is.

The walk back to our cabin was great, too, because the stars were out and the air was cool because we're close to the coast. Tonight before bed we sat in a circle and Erin lead a discussion (which is just a time to share) about what we did today and what we're going to do tomorrow. I can't wait!

Please don't worry... I'm having a blast and learning stuff, too.

Sarah

P.S. I can't wait to see the new friends I'm making this summer NEXT summer!!!

CYO CAMP SCHEDULE

JUNE - JULY - AUGUST

1a	June 19-23	(5-day session)
1b	June 19-30	(12-day session)
2	June 26-30	(5-day session)
3	July 03-12	(10-day session)
4	July 15-24	(10-day session)
5	July 28 - August 6	(10-day session)
6	August 9-18	(10-day session)

Info: 707.874.0200



Thanks to The Guardsmen for supporting CYO Camp

Catholic Charities CYO's Mission Day Care & Canal Family Support Program Exemplify a Commitment to Children and Families

When Catholic Charities merged with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in 2003, it signified much more than the restoration of a valuable partnership.

The merger reenergized a commitment to combine the highest quality youth development and human service programs to nurture not only the recreational, but also the educational, social, and emotional needs of children and their families. The agency's Canal Family Support Program and Mission Day Care—both former CYO programs—embody some of the best opportunities for the healthy growth and development for youth created by this union.

For nearly 30 years, Mission Day Care has served vulnerable children and families of San Francisco's Mission, Outer Mission, and South of Market neighborhoods. Developmentally-appropriate and culturally sensitive before/after school day care and critical family support services are provided by a highly skilled and caring staff. Costing families less than a \$1 per hour, Mission Day Care's childcare options meet the educational, recreational, artistic, and socio-emotional needs of children during non-school hours (including Winter, Summer and Spring recesses), while providing an affordable service for working parents struggling to achieve greater economic self-sufficiency. Program Director, **Liliana Rossi**, has been with the program for over 20 years and is committed to the healthy growth and development of the children and families of Mission Day Care, and of the community at large. With that track record, Liliana knows firsthand that her program is a vital community resource



for children and families facing significant barriers to their well-being as a result of economic, legal, and cultural isolation. "Five or six years later, they are standing on their own two feet, maybe for the first time in their entire lives."

—Generous financial support for this program is provided by Gap, Inc., the Morris Stulsaft Foundation, UBS, and Wells Fargo

Similarly, the Canal Family Support Program serves the needs of many immigrant children and families in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael in Marin County. A CYO program since 1999, the Canal Family Support Program strengthens parent-child relationships, encourages educational achievement, and cultivates community vigilance against destructive behaviors in this low-income and densely populated community. In providing affordable extra curricular enrichment activities and family support services, the program gives youth opportunities to succeed in school and in life, while empowering their families to accomplish goals of increased self-reliance. **Carlos Garcia**, Program Director, came to the program with more than 20 years of experience working with low-income children, youth, and families in the Bay Area. Through his unwavering commitment, he has gained the trust and respect of the families participating in the program, as well as City and County administrators, school personnel, and other social service providers working in the area.

—Generous financial and in-kind support for this program is provided by the Allensby Charity Fund Trust, City of San Rafael, Darrow Foundation, Fireman's Fund Foundation, Jay Pritzker Foundation, Joseph R. Parker Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, and Wells Fargo



cyo athletics champs

San Francisco Athletics

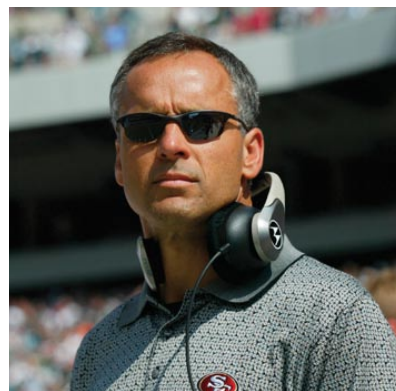
CYO San Francisco Boys' Basketball league celebrated the conclusion of its season on February 5, continuing a tradition of modeling the highest and most ethical standards of sportsmanship and camaraderie as a foundation for skill building. Approximately 3,300 youth participated on 370 teams this season, utilizing 30 facilities throughout San Francisco, Daly City, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay. This season also celebrates the first time that all San Francisco CYO Athletic coaches were able to attend a Positive Coaching Alliance workshop, where they learned new skills to implement CYO Athletics coaching philosophy and help players develop good sportsmanship. Over 400 coaches and 300 parents attended these workshops, which were made possible by a grant from Team Up For Youth.

Congratulations to our CYO Boy's Basketball '06 league winners:

Our Lady of the Pillar • St. Stephen • Stuart Hall • Holy Name of Jesus
Our Lady of Mercy • Megan Furth Academy • St. Thomas More
Notre Dame des Victoires • St. Brendan • St. Monica • St. Anne
Star of the Sea • St. Finn Barr • St. Cecilia • Mission Dolores
Waldorf • St. Gabriel • St. Philip • Good Shepherd • Treasure Island
West Portal • Our Lady of Perpetual Help • St. John • Epiphany
St. Charles and St. Peter, Pacifica

Marin Athletics

In Marin County, the CYO Athletics boys and girls basketball seasons are still underway. Participants span a broad spectrum of age and experience with approximately 2,800 youth from 4th to 8th grade playing on 275 teams, including 157 boys' teams and 118 girls' teams. Final standings were determined at the Marin CYO Athletics basketball playoffs March 11-19. Please check www.marinhoops.com for standings and playoff results.



47TH ANNUAL



Many thanks to our 2006 Honorary Chair, 49ers Head Coach Mike Nolan, and to Tournament Chair Bill Ring for making the 47th Annual CYO Golf Day another great success. The May 1 event raised much needed funds to support CYO Camp.

CYO CALENDAR

may

8.....

8th grade Girls' Basketball Achievement Series Game

St. Cecilia Gym: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

9-24.....

Girls' Basketball Playoffs

St. Cecilia Gym: 5:30, 6:30, 7:30 pm

21.....

Catholic Charities CYO Loaves & Fishes Sunday

Once per year, all parishes in the Archdiocese of San Francisco take a special collection on this day for the benefit of Catholic Charities CYO programs. Because Catholic Charities CYO is not funded by the Archbishop's Annual Appeal or directly from the Archdiocese, we ask that you please attend mass and give as generously as possible during this special collection. Info: 415.972.1227.

27.....

Spring Track Meet Event

St. Ignatius High School: 9 am – 4:30 pm

june-july-august

JUNE 19 – JUL 28.....

Co-ed Volleyball League

september

9.....

Boys' Soccer League Begins

15.....

Girls' Volleyball League Begins



CYO Family Day at RAGING waters

Sunday
September
24

Join us for a full day of family fun at Raging Waters in San Jose, northern California's largest water park—reserved exclusively for Catholic Charities CYO participants.

Please call Rosie Balcunas at 415.972.1233 for more information, to make reservations, or to volunteer at the event. See you there!



Catholic Charities CYO

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