

First Annual POWER 4 Youth Mini-Golf Tournament a Success



Local residents and community members gathered together at [Boomers Fountain Valley](#) on Monday, September 26 for POWER 4 Youth's 1st Annual Miniature Golf Tournament. Teams of four competed for lowest golf score and other prizes, while POWER 4 Youth students assisted in managing each hole. After the tournament, all participants enjoyed dinner, award ceremony and silent auction. The event, slated to become POWER 4 Youth's signature fundraising event, brought participants together for a fun afternoon, while raising essential funds for the mentoring program.

event, along with all the local businesses and individuals who supported the event through participation, tee-sign sponsorships and other donations. Additional special recognition goes to [Mon Ami Events](#) for donating their event-planning services to the afternoon.

"My motto is to always keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging." Hank Aaron

"We would like to match 50% more teens this year, and open new sites in areas currently underserved in the community," explains Val Parker, Executive Director. "The funds raised at this event will help POWER 4 Youth to serve more youth in the coming school year through its academic mentoring program." She also notes that everyone should mark their calendars now to join POWER 4 Youth's tournament again next year.

POWER 4 Youth especially thanks [Orion Risk Management Insurance Services](#) for its major sponsorship of this unique

Mission

POWER 4 Youth provides academic mentoring for struggling students by connecting youth with caring adult mentors. POWER 4 Youth helps at-risk middle and high school youth to do better in school by addressing the issues that are keeping the students from doing their best, and motivating them to be good citizens of the community.



Match Supervisor Joins POWER 4 Youth

Welcome to Amanda Gilchrist, who joined POWER 4 Youth with the new school year as Match Supervisor. Amanda will be responsible for providing support to the program's volunteer mentors and students. Amanda joins us after relocating recently from Northeast Florida, where she worked for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Amanda holds her Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of North Florida. In her free time, Amanda volunteers as a mentor with Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters, enjoys baking, scrapbooking and the beach. She lives in Orange County with her husband and dog.

Thoughts from Val

As the new POWER 4 Youth program year gets underway, I am once again enthused about our program, and plans for the new year—seems like every year gets better and better.



First, we've found the perfect Match Supervisor in Amanda Gilchrest, who began with the new school year. She brings experience, along with new energy and ideas to the program. Her role will be to provide training, program activities, and support throughout the year to the mentors and students.

With Amanda in place, we will be able to significantly build capacity. This year we are striving to serve 50% more youth this school year, and hopefully add a new site or two. Program-wise, we will be able to offer more workshops and activities to the student/mentor pairs.

Of course, we are also indebted to our wonderful Site Supervisors, Mirza and Kattie, our intern Mayra, and Miasha, who continues as our Program Assistant.

We thank everyone who participated in our 1st Annual Mini-Golf Tournament in September. As our first major fundraiser event, we are pleased with the success of the afternoon. The event went off without a hitch, and everyone had fun while raising much-needed funds for the mentoring program.

Thank you to all those who support us in so many different ways. We truly would not be here today if it was not for the contributions of time, talent, and financial donations by so many!

Val Parker, Director

Notes From the President



My name is Jennifer Tellers and I am the newly elected Board President for POWER 4 Youth. This is my 3rd year on the board, and I am very excited for this new assignment! In the past few years we have laid a solid foundation, and now are able to focus on raising funds to build program capacity to allow us to serve even more children. We added more staff, as well as a diverse and talented board of directors very engaged in the cause. We are working with Ron Milam from the Long Beach Non-Profit Partnership to help take POWER 4 Youth to the next level.

This would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors and volunteers. I am thankful to each and every one of you for believing in this important cause and donating your time and money towards creating a positive force in a child's life. As a mother of 3, I understand how vital it is for a child's self esteem to feel that someone truly cares about them. This can make all the difference in their future, POWER 4 Youth strives to be just that for all our kids. I look forward to a great year and many exciting things to come!

Follow us on:



You can make a donation through our website with PayPal!



Make a donation today.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of (circle): \$50, \$100, \$500 other \$_____.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ email _____

Please make checks out to POWER 4 Youth. POWER 4 Youth is a tax exempt non-profit. Mail gifts to: POWER 4 Youth, 607 E. 3rd St., Long Beach CA 90802.

Your help is needed.

POWER 4 Youth Sets Goals for the New Program Year

Last year (2010-11), POWER 4 Youth served 52 youth at four different sites located throughout Long Beach and Lakewood. We were excited to open our newest site on the Westside of Long Beach, reaching a previously underserved neighborhood. With hundreds of hours donated by our mentors, we were able to reach more youth than in any previous year.

This year we look to serve more youth, and continue to move into new neighborhoods. The Board of Directors has set a goal to create 75 matches through the school year. Besides serving more youth at our existing sites, we also hope to expand into Central Long Beach.

We do not lose site, though that as we add more student/mentor pairs to the program, the outcomes remain the same: POWER 4 Youth students will stay in school, with specific objectives to improve grades, improve social skills, improve reading skills, and increase their participating in extra-curricular activities.



*Hey M! Its' A, your student :) ...I had a blast with you and I just hope we stay with each other for a long time, We make a fun pair.
-A!*

Amanda Gilchrist Match Supervisor

In the short time I have been here I have noticed some truly remarkable things. One is an eager group of students who show up early every week to POWER 4 Youth and are so positive and happy to be here. The second is the level of commitment from the mentors who take time out of their busy work week to meet with their student longer than the hour and a half they are required to complete.

It takes a special person to be a mentor. A selfless and giving person. A kind and patient person. Mentoring is not for the faint of heart, it takes guts. Mentoring is not a onetime volunteer opportunity; it is a long term commitment. As a mentor you are a cheerleader and a coach. You are a soft place to fall, and a hero in someone else's eyes. A great mentor is consistent, and doesn't give up because it gets too hard. How do I know all this? Because, I see these qualities in all of you.

POWER 4 Youth Board of Directors

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Teacher, LBUUSD

Teacher, Bellflower Unified
School District

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ment, JF Shea Co, Inc.

Val Parker (non-voting)
P4Y Executive Director
Paul Renaker

New Research Confirms Positive Outcomes for Mentored Youth

New research confirms that mentoring programs not only seem to improve outcomes for young people in the areas of academic achievement, behavior, and social and emotional health, but they also can improve these outcomes simultaneously. Read the full report at http://www.mentoring.org/news_and_research/news_releases/new_research_confirms_positive_outcomes_for_mentored_youth

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