

Taking the LEAP

Fresno READS

Friendly Visitor Service

Jumpstart Fresno

ReadFresno

SMILE Center

University HOPE



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Welcome!

You are reading the first issue of *Taking the LEAP*, the Project LEAP newsletter! It is still a work in progress, so changes could still occur and any suggestions are more than welcome. If there is any news or information about your program, or something useful or informative that should be brought to the attention of all the Project LEAP partners, feel free to send them in (pictures would be great, too) and I will work to get it in the next issue. Please direct any feedback to Ryan Dion, Project LEAP Resource Development/Community Relations Coordinator VISTA at (559) 224-9052 or dion_101@hotmail.com.

Fresno READS

In an effort to ensure that every child can read by the end of the third grade, California State University, Fresno developed the Fresno Reading Enrichment and Academic Development through Service (Fresno READS) project. Through one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, Fresno READS serves to raise the reading and academic abilities of hundreds of kindergarten through third grade children every year. Along with the children, the Fresno READS tutors involved benefit from the personal and professional development experiences provided by the project.

In the 2005-06 academic year, Fresno READS tutors devoted over 13,620 hours of service to provide 600 children from low-income neighborhood schools with academic tutoring and support services.

Fresno State showed its support of the program by providing approximately \$119,000 in Financial Aid Work Study to pay the Fresno READS tutors. During the current year, the program will employ 40 tutors, each working an average of 12 hours per week.

From Kindergarten to third grade, children learn to read. From the fourth grade on, they read to learn. Fresno READS tutors work not only to teach their children how to read, they help their children to love to read.

The Fresno READS office is located on the University campus in Science Building, Room 136, 2555 E. San Ramon Ave., M/S SB120, Fresno, CA 93740.

For more information on Fresno READS, contact:

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Fresno READS is a part of the Civic Engagement and Service-Learning program at Fresno State.

Fresno READS

From Kindergarten to Third Grade, children learn to read. From the Fourth Grade on, they read to learn.

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Friendly Visitor Service

Two types of service are offered:

Care Provider Service involves part-time, in-home care.

The Student Visitor Program allows students and seniors to build a better understanding through intergenerational communication.

Friendly Visitor Service

The Friendly Visitor Service is a unique program that has served the community since 1976. Sponsored by Catholic Charities, the Friendly Visitor Service enables elders to remain living independently by offering two types of service: Care Provider and the Student Visitor Program.

Care Provider Service involves part-time, in-home care, which can include light household tasks, respite care, accompanying clients on errands or to medical appointments, and general companionship.

The Student Visitor Program sees students visit assigned senior citizens once a week for the number of hours requested by their course instructor. Together, the students and seniors listen, share, and

develop a mutual friendship, helping to build a better understanding through intergenerational communication.

At the Friendly Visitor Service, college students perform paid or volunteer community service by providing assistance to individuals sixty years or older. The students gain a further understanding of the special needs of the aging community. It is an opportunity for valuable educational and career experience while helping elders to remain independent and productive members of society.

The Friendly Visitor Service is located in the Lutheran Campus Ministry building, across from the Fresno State campus, at 2311 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93710.

For more information on the Friendly Visitor Service, contact:

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libbyc@csufresno.edu



For more information on Jumpstart, contact:

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Jumpstart Fresno

Jumpstart at Fresno State has continued to grow since it began in 2001, with the mission to work toward the day when every child in America enters school prepared to succeed. After evaluation by the regional office in March of 2006, Jumpstart at Fresno State has been ranked top three in the nation out of over 60 sites located across the country.

During the 2005-06 academic year, Jumpstart at Fresno State employed 75 tutors, working to improve the language, literacy, and social skills of 250 children. Six preschool sites across Fresno were able to benefit from Jumpstart's work—Campus Children's Center, Head Start King's Canyon, Head Start Wesley, Head Start Yosemite, Head Start Dakota Circle and Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center.

Due to the program's excellence and the need for additional services to children in Fresno, Jumpstart at Fresno State has partnered with Fresno City College. With 30 new mentors serving the community

through Jumpstart Fresno City College, the program has been expanded to 17 preschool classrooms, where 110 college students will serve Fresno children in need.

On August 24, 2006, Jumpstart held its annual Read for the Record event, a national campaign designed to engage adults and children in setting the world record for the largest shared reading experience ever. A key component was the publication of a new edition of *The Little Engine That Could*, sold during the month of August with 100% of sales benefiting Jumpstart. While the official count continues to be tallied, as of September 11, 825 locations have been documented, accounting for over 125,000 participating children. The numbers are anticipated to keep climbing, setting a record that they intend to break next year.

Jumpstart at Fresno State is located on the University campus in Science Building, Room 136, 2555 E. San Ramon Ave., M/S SB120, Fresno, CA 93740.

ReadFresno

ReadFresno is a community wide literacy initiative focused on having every child reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade. Two approaches are used to accomplish this goal: helping children get access to books and the use of volunteer reading tutors. ReadFresno volunteers work one-on-one with first through third grade children in schools, and in partnership with other organizations, to inspire in children a love of reading and improving their opportunity for success in the future. In addition, books are given to children to take home and share with their families.

ReadFresno is focused on reaching children below grade level in the lowest performing elementary schools in Fresno

County. By collaborating with families, schools, faith- and community-based organizations, and other institutions, the program which began with four schools in March 2005, has quickly expanded to eight schools by February 2006; and as volunteers and resources become available, additional schools will be added.

Over the summer, ReadFresno moved into a newly renovated facility, the Carriage House behind The Long/Black Home on the City Builders campus, in downtown Fresno. The Long/Black, built in 1908 with over 8,500 square feet of office space, serves as the headquarters of One by One Leadership. It is located at 1727 L Street, Fresno, CA 93721.



ReadFresno

The **vision** of Read Fresno is to have every child read at or above grade level by the end of third grade.

For more information on ReadFresno, contact:

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www.readfresno.org

SMILE Center

Established in the fall of 2000, The SMILE Center was the result of a collaboration of University students, supported by a partnership with Vinland Elementary School, Fresno READS, and Lutheran Campus Ministry; a partnership that continues today.

The SMILE (**S**upport **M**akes **I**nvolvement in **L**earning **E**njoyable) Center is open four days a week, for two hours after school, at two elementary school sites. The staff, made up of both Fresno State work-study students and volunteers, works closely with Vinland and Wishon Elementary staff to create a program catered to the needs of the children. Together, they establish and maintain a safe, supportive, and encouraging learning environment where children can receive daily academic assistance. At the same time the children are getting valu-

able help, the Fresno State students are given an opportunity to learn through service and gain experience in teaching and mentoring fourth through sixth graders.

This year, Kelly Scott has joined the SMILE Center as the Program Coordinator VISTA. Born and raised in Fresno, she is coming back to the area after attending Westmont College in Santa Barbara and teaching in the Ukraine for 27 months as a Peace Corps volunteer. Kelly is eager to use the skills she gained, and excited about what she will learn, while working with college students and children over the course of the year.

The SMILE Center office is located in the Lutheran Campus Ministry building, across from the Fresno State campus, at 2311 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93710.



S.M.I.L.E.

Support
Makes
Involvement in
Learning
Enjoyable!

For more information on SMILE Center, contact:

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 Phone (559) 224-9058
smilecenter_fresno@yahoo.com



"Building HOPE in our community...one home at a time."

2006-07 Construction Site

The Construction Site is located at:

1395 4th St.
Clovis, CA 93612

Workdays are generally held on Saturdays, from about 8am until 5pm.

University HOPE

University HOPE (**H**ousing **O**pportunities through **E**ducation) is a program dedicated to providing housing for local low-income, first-time homeowners, and to rehabilitate the existing homes of needy families. The primary goal of the organization is to improve neighborhoods, but we look to provide positive, hands-on learning experiences for the volunteering students, faculty, and staff of Fresno State, and the community.

During the 2005-06 academic year, University HOPE completed its eighth

house for a low-income family of seven in Clovis. Construction on house number nine- a two bedroom/two bath home in Clovis- has already begun and will continue throughout the 2006-07 school year.

The University HOPE office is located in the Lutheran Campus Ministry building, across from the Fresno State campus, at 2311 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, CA 93710.

For more information on University HOPE, contact:

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Project LEAP

Leadership Education to Address Poverty

2311 E Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710

Name
Organization
Street Address
City, STATE zip