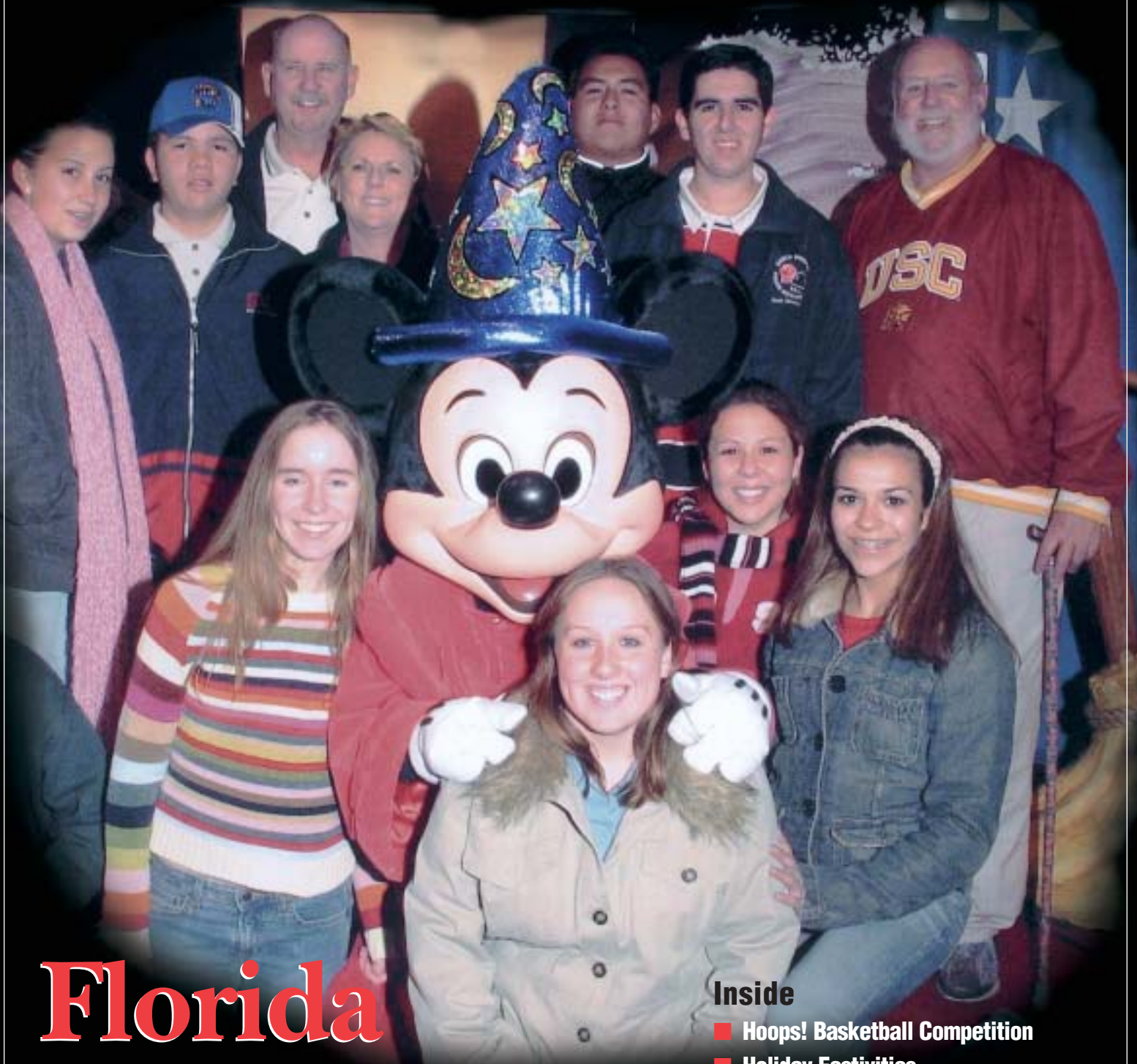


California
PAL
MAGAZINE

California Police Activities League

Volume 1
Number 1
Spring 2004



**Florida
Adventure**

Inside

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- Holiday Festivities
- Watsonville High's Gustavo Ramirez
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California PAL benefits local communities

From the Executive Director

Dear PAL Directors & Supporters,

I once heard a PAL officer say, “You know, drug dealers and gang members don’t take a day off, so neither can PAL.” As a statewide organization with over 120 PAL chapters serving over 300,000 kids, those involved in the Police Activities League throughout the state have an ongoing challenge keeping kids involved in positive and adult-mentored programs.

This challenge is only enhanced with the “Spring Fever” that kids catch each year. Over the last decade, juvenile delinquency increases in the spring as kids try to find activities (both good and bad) during their idle time. This is where PAL makes a difference. PAL officers and directors must meet that challenge and offer new and innovative programs to those kids. Some of the programs that have been offered by your local PAL for the last six or seven years may need to be reevaluated. But with budgetary problems that exist with the majority of cities and counties in our state now, it is very hard to find the help.

That is where California PAL can be of help to your PAL program. California PAL provides 18 different programs, tournaments and activities for all members of our organization. From boxing to basketball, fishing to martial arts, one-day events to one-week camps, from the beach to the snow-capped mountains to the deserts...PAL kids are there.

California PAL also provides new PAL officers training twice a year and an annual conference and training in the fall. California PAL offers two-day grant training, assistance with funding to attend the National PAL Conference and grant funding up to \$2,500 every two years. In addition, our very knowledgeable California PAL staff can assist PAL directors with just about any PAL related questions or issues.

If you are a PAL supporter, we need your help to keep providing these innovative services to our PAL members, who can in turn better serve our at-risk youth. Budget cuts for many California police and sheriff’s departments are making it more difficult to keep their PAL programs up and running. A donation to California PAL is the best way to help us support PAL services and programs throughout the state. We couldn’t do it without your generous support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregg Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregg Wilson
Executive Director

Who We Are

The California Police Activities League (California PAL) is a California 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1971. California PAL is California’s largest juvenile crime prevention program with over 110 member chapters and the active participation of over 300,000 youth. Each PAL member chapter is operated by law enforcement officers who network within their respective communities to create collaborative relationships with youth.



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Cover Photo: Youth Directors Council scholarship winners attended a leadership conference at the Walt Disney World® Resort.

Florida Adventure

It felt like they had landed in the wrong place. Braving below-freezing temperatures and icy winds, eleven PAL teens and four chaperones arrived in Orlando to find a very chilly Florida as the site for their annual Youth Directors Conference (YDC) at Walt Disney World Resort® January 7-12, 2004. The conference was sponsored by the State of Florida Association of Police Activities Leagues (SFA-PAL).

Things warmed up soon enough as 320 PAL youth and adults from around the country got to know one another and enjoy a weekend of leadership training, sightseeing tours and networking time.

“I loved the bonds I made with youth from California and other PALS,” said Los Banos scholarship winner Angela Pierce, 17. “And I liked being the most presentable PAL at the Conference in our California PAL shirts every day.”

The sixth annual YDC conference included a variety of motivational speakers who taught kids how to run a successful meeting, essential traits for becoming a good leader and hints for building a strong team. The “Youth Directors Reloaded” conference was largely designed with youth input. In addition to learning about leadership, the participants took an educational tour of Kennedy Space Center, and enjoyed the wonder of the Walt Disney World® Magic Kingdom, Epcot®, and MGM Disney® Studios.

“I really enjoyed taking the trip with these young leaders,” said Gregg Wilson, executive director of California PAL. “We set a high standard of excellence for participation in the seminars and classes. This group of kids will continue to be pivotal leaders in our state program in California.”

California PAL awarded eleven scholarships to PAL youth to attend the conference. In addition to Pierce, other scholarship winners included: Amanda Mychelle Castro, 16, Imperial County SAL; Mark Castro, 17, Blythe PAL; Salvador Cuevas-Macias, 15, Calexico PAL; Simon Hann, 17, Santa Monica PAL; Amber Larkin, 17, Santa Monica PAL; Jorgé Rodriguez, 17, Fresno PAL;



Amanda Michelle Castro, Griseth Zatarain, and Katryna Shattuck enjoyed the magic of Walt Disney World®.



YDC youth learned about the marvels of space travel at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center. Pictured (l. to r.): Row 1 – Barbara Robertson of California PAL staff, Amanda Mychelle Castro, Griseth Zatarain, Katryna Shattuck, Leslie Slate, Angela Pierce, Zachary Smith, Amber Larkin. Row 2 – Salvador Cuevas-Macias, Jorge Rodriguez, Simon Hanna, Gregg Wilson of California PAL staff, Mark Castro and Ron Exley of California PAL staff.

Leslie Slate, 17, Tehama County PAL; Katryna Shattuck, 14, Berkeley Boosters PAL; Zachary Smith, 14, Lompoc Valley PAL; Griseth Zatarain, 16, Calexico PAL. Adult chaperones accompanying the youth included Wilson, Barbara Robertson, Ron Exley and Luanne Wilson.

The students all represent very accomplished young leaders in their local Youth Directors Councils and their PAL programs.

“I’m looking forward to being on the California PAL YDC Board of Directors,” said Shattuck.

From the Editor

Our readers will notice some changes with this premier issue of *California PAL Magazine*. The Newsletter has been replaced with a magazine format and a new design that we hope you will find pleasing and easy to read.

The cover story features this year's PAL Youth Directors Council Scholarship winners, whose leadership qualities earned them one of twelve spots at the annual YDC Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. And thanks to reporter Julie Jag of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Gustavo Ramirez's story is eloquently told in this reprint from the newspaper. There are also stories about PAL chapter activities and sporting events for both kids and staff. And don't miss the heartwarming story about how police officers helped thousands of PAL kids and their families celebrate a brighter holiday season.

We have added some new features, as well. You'll find a guest column in each issue with helpful tips from management professionals. In this first issue, fundraising consultant Nivisha Mehta provides us with advice on building relationships with grantmakers. And we've added a Letters to the Editor section so we can share reader comments.

Since Police Activities Leagues were founded in the 1950's, you'll also find an Alumni News section where we highlight what former PAL youth are doing today. This issue includes a profile of former Norwalk, CT, PAL member Jerry Murray, now a pilot with the California National Guard. We'd like to hear from our PAL Alumni. Let us know where you are.

We will continue to publish *California PAL Magazine* quarterly. Please share it with your friends and family, and let us know if you think someone would enjoy a subscription.

Write us at PALMagazine@calpal.org or call at (510) 544-4300.



Victoria A. Emmons



“The bond between cops and kids.”

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Pilot chose a career in uniform

By Victoria A. Emmons

Jerry Murray's memory of attending his first professional baseball game is a little hazy. The statistics of the game are lost to him now without a quick internet search, but he easily recalls that the 1957 season was the last for the New York Giants before they made San Francisco their home. He remembers the polo field where the game was played and he remembers the uniformed police officers who took him there. Murray was only seven years old that year and a member of the Norwalk PAL in Connecticut.

Most of his family born and raised in Brooklyn, Jerry was the only son and youngest of three older siblings.

"My dad worked as a CPA in New York City and he wasn't real interested in professional games," says Murray, 53, a career pilot with the National Guard.

The Norwalk police who organized the baseball outing for their PAL kids made a lasting impression on the young Murray.

"I remember most being in the parking lot and the cops were organizing us to get into the bus. Everything was very organized. That

was my first exposure to law enforcement."

Raised in the suburbs, Murray says he had little contact with police officers prior to joining PAL. He soon discovered the uniformed officers hosted a variety of games and activities that he and his friends enjoyed.

"They were adults doing really nice things for kids," recalls Murray. "They gave me a really nice attitude about people in uniform."

Murray chose a life in uniform himself, graduating from Norwich University, Vermont, the oldest private military college in the United States and the birthplace of the ROTC. The founder of the university started the concept of the "citizen soldier" and Murray wanted to be one, too.

"I never thought I would do it as a career," says Murray. "I thought I'd be in for a little while and then get out and do something else. After 30 years, I'm still waiting to get out."

Murray readily admits that his lottery number of 22 as a college student helped convince him to enlist. He completed five years of active duty, and has continued in active Guard and Reserves ever since. His career has

taken him on assignments throughout the world as both pilot and flight instructor, attaining the rank of Major. He is currently a Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) by

choice, he says, "so I can keep flying." Murray currently serves as an Aircraft Survivability Equipment/Electronic Warfare-Tactical Operations Officer and is based with G Company, 140th Aviation in Stockton, CA. Since the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, Murray has worked with counter terrorism teams to help keep the homeland safe. He senses the public's support more than ever.

"Since 9/11, it has been like night and day," says Murray. "It's amazing how many times people would come up and thank us for the service we provide to our country."

Murray met his wife of nine years, Tracie, while

"[PAL police officers] gave me a really nice attitude about people in uniform."



National Guard pilot Jerry Murray, (middle back row) and his crew support the 5th Special Forces during counter terrorism training.

both served in the military. "She was carrying an M-16 when I met her," he says. "But I outranked her."

The couple lives in Los Altos, CA, where Tracie is CEO of a senior sub-acute and rehabilitation center. They have two children ages four and six, as well as a 19-year-old from Jerry's previous marriage.

Murray recommends that parents get their kids involved in a PAL and that people help keep PAL programs alive.

"I think it's really important that people support these programs," he says. "It's one of the best opportunities for kids to develop the best attitudes, just like I did. The money you give to PAL really goes to the children. There's a good return on investment."

PAL Alumni News: Where are they now?

We want to hear from you! If you were once a PAL kid anywhere in the USA, let us know what you're doing today. We'll share your success story with our readers and with other PAL kids. Email PALmagazine@calpal.org or write to PAL Magazine, 2000 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. Be sure to name the PAL to which you belonged as a youth and provide your phone number or email for confirmation.

Victor Jigalin (*San Francisco PAL*), is director of sales for Holiday Inn San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge in Emeryville. He earned a degree in business and has been in the hotel industry for 12 years. Jigalin says that soccer was his first experience with PAL and sports. "That got me going on the right track." The Holiday Inn is a familiar site for many PAL kids who come to the area for basketball and other California PAL tournaments.

Private First Class Jonathan Morales (*San Jacinto PAL*) serves in the Marines with the 4th Tank Battalion, HMS Company. He is a mechanic stationed at Mira Mar Naval Air Station, Mira Mar, CA. Private Morales was chosen as squad leader and Lay Leader (for people of the Catholic faith) for his platoon during boot camp. He also served as guide and class leader during MOS School training. "We are very proud of our first military alumnus," says PAL Director Myra Wood.

Jerry Murray (*Norwalk, CT, PAL*), 53, of Los Altos, CA, is a National Guard career pilot serving

with G Company, 140th Aviation, based in Stockton, CA. (See complete story on page 4.)

David Rodella (*Oxnard PAL*), 20, won the U.S. Nationals boxing title held last year at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado. The event was hosted by USA Boxing. Rodella, whose weight class is 132, also has won the Black Gloves Tournament in Texas and the 2003 California PAL Boxing Tournament. Rodella, who is a contender for the 2004 Olympic Boxing Team, was also selected to carry the winter Olympic torch through Oxnard last year. "David has been with PAL since he was 14," says Oxnard PAL Co-Director Terrell Harrison. "We're all very proud of how well he has done with his boxing talent."

Anthony Sanchez (*Albany PAL*), 19, a sophomore at Contra Costa College, is now serving on the Board of Directors of Albany PAL. Sanchez was named California PAL Youth of the Year in 2001 and National PAL Youth of the Year in 2002.

You Can Help: Ways to Give to PAL

Your donation will help California PAL and our member chapters continue the important programs that give our youth a better future.

Ways to Give

- Contribute to our PAL Annual Fund, which helps support our tournaments, youth conferences and other special activities. We accept gifts of cash, stock or property. Your check should be made payable to California PAL. Your donation is tax deductible, as allowed by law. We accept gifts via MasterCard, VISA or American Express. You may also make your credit card donation online at www.calpal.org, or call in your credit card donation at (510) 544-4300. Mail your check in the envelope enclosed in California PAL Magazine, or write to:

California PAL

Attn: Development Department
2000 East 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

- Donate your old car or boat to California PAL. Seventy percent of the net proceeds from the sale help support our programs. Just call us at (510) 544-4300 with the make, model, year and VIN number of your vehicle, as well as its condition, and we'll arrange for pick up.
- Select California PAL as your community partner organization when you shop at Albertson's. As a member of Albertson's Community Partner program, California PAL will benefit from each grocery purchase you make when you designate our organization. For more information on how to sign up, visit our website or call us at (510) 544-4300.
- If you'd like to leave a lasting legacy, consider including California PAL in your will. Donors that include California PAL in their estate planning will become part of our Legacy Team, which includes those who want to assure PAL is available to future generations. Call us at (510) 544-4300 for more information.
- Volunteer at one of the many PAL programs throughout the state. Call us for more information at (510) 544-4300, or visit our website at www.calpal.org.

Thank you from the PAL kids!

Welcome Aboard

California PAL would like to welcome our newest members.

- Buena Park PAL
- Dos Palos PAL
- LAPD Pacific PAL
- Mt. San Jacinto Community College PAL
- Santa Barbara County SAL
- Santa Maria PAL
- Susanville PAL

Youth voices are heard through YDC

by Jonathan Grantham

Volunteering on the California PAL Youth Directors Council (YDC) means something different for everyone. One person's reason or purpose for serving may be completely opposite from another's.

For example, one person may want to gain some insight about how a legitimate council is run and take that information back to his or her own PAL to organize their YDC and help out their PAL. Someone else's reason may be that he or she wants to utilize his or her leadership qualities and skills on a higher level involving more planning, more people and overall bigger events than his or her PAL currently has.

“On the California PAL YDC, we all have a voice...”

But, your purpose is your purpose. Not mine, not your PAL Director's nor your friend's. Every person has his own reason and I'm going to tell you about mine.

Until I joined PAL about three years ago, I didn't like to be responsible for situations and had a hard time taking charge of something. I got involved with my PAL's tutoring program when it first started.

I volunteered four hours per week. After the first four months, I began volunteering sixteen hours per week, plus I helped out with any other PAL events that I could. I was asked to go to the Sacramento Experience in 2002 and, after that trip, I knew I wanted to be more involved with my local PAL and California PAL.

Within the next year, I proved to myself and others that I was a leader and knew what it took to be on the California PAL YDC. I have been able to express my opinions and thoughts along with eleven other leaders.

In conclusion, through YDC I can use my leadership qualities to help others on a much broader basis than at my own PAL. I'm able to express my own thoughts and ideas and it doesn't matter if they are a little different or a lot different from what everyone else said. On the California PAL YDC, we all have a voice and our voices are heard and respected. And that is one of the few places where youth is actually listened to and praised for what they know.

I'm sure everyone can think of a time or place where they were not heard and had something to say. Being on the YDC and being involved with your PAL is a community where kids come first and no matter what you have to say, you will be heard.

That is why I continue to support and help my PAL, California PAL, and anyone else's PAL with which I'm involved.

Letters to the Editor

We want to hear from our readers and welcome your comments. Submit your Letter to the Editor by mail to Attn: California PAL Magazine, 2000 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94577, or email us at PALmagazine@calpal.org. We reserve the right to decline publication of letters and to edit for length.

Sun, Sand and Surf

I found the PAL Magazine in my dentist's waiting room recently, and read some of the articles. I had heard of the Police Activities League, but never thought about what PAL did for the community. I thought it had something to do with the Policeman's Ball, or parties for law enforcement employees, or something along those lines.

The article on Beach Play Days (*Fall 2003*) most interested me, since I live by the beach, and have for most of my life. In my growing-up years, I walked to the beach near my home in Pacifica, CA, on a regular basis. The Play Days article reminded me that not every child has this experience that I took for granted; to think that our "sun, surf and sand" is an exotic vacation for underprivileged kids is an eye-opener!

I want to thank PAL for all that you do for the kids who don't have the opportunities that more fortunate children have. I don't have much, but wanted to donate a small token as my appreciation for all that you do.

Deborah L. Wong
Moss Beach, CA

Snow Play Days

Some kids discovered the hard way that snow is cold and wet, especially when you're dressed in jeans. Yet wearing the wrong attire for snow did not stop PAL kids from having some slippery fun with the icy, white powder during California PAL's annual Snow Play Days. The two events, held January 31, 2004, at Big Bear Lake's Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain in Southern California and March 6, 2004, at Leland Meadows in Northern California, attracted over 1,260 boys and girls. Some were experiencing snow for the first time.

"Some kids showed up in jeans," said Sonja Scott, director of programs and events for California PAL. "If they've never been in snow before, they have a lack of knowledge about getting wet. But that's part of the fun of learning about snow – sliding and getting wet."

PAL kids from around the state arrived at the slopes in buses and vans. A lift took them up to their



Building a snowman is just part of the fun of Snow Play Day.

launching point, as they carried large inner tubes to the top of the snowy hillside. Squeals of delight echoed through the hills as the children twirled round and round in the

icy, packed snow on their descent to the bottom. The scenario was repeated hundreds of times throughout the day.

"The most life-changing experience happens for inner-city kids and those from desert communities who haven't seen snow," said Scott. "They can play in the snow, slide down the hill and enjoy themselves."

Member chapters participating in Snow Play Days included: Anaheim, Berkeley Boosters, Brawley, Bakersfield, Blythe, Brentwood, Calexico, Calipatria, Concord, Corona, Hollenbeck LAPD, Hollywood, Imperial, Imperial County SAL, Inglewood, Los Angeles School, LAPD Newton, Lennox SAL, Livermore, Los Banos, Monterey Bay, Monterey County, Napa County SAL, Oakland, Palm Springs, Pasadena, Redwood City, Richmond, Salinas, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus County, Vacaville, Watsonville, and Westmorland.

"The most life-changing experience happens for inner-city kids and those from desert communities who haven't seen snow."

Sonja Scott



Kids enjoyed hours of fun sliding down the hillside on the icy snow.

Hoops!

Basketball competition offers kids a lesson in teamwork

The buzzer echoed loudly in the cavernous gym heralding the start of the game. Faithful fans – mostly parents, friends and volunteers – clapped and smiled at each scoring attempt, no matter the outcome. The loyal audience had come a long way to watch their kids play in the 2004 California Police Activities League (PAL) Regional Basketball Tournaments held February 14-15 in Richmond, CA and Santa Monica, CA.

Over 630 PAL boys and girls from around the state competed in four age categories in the Northern and Southern California events. Late in the two-day tournament, most teams were still enthusiastic despite their win-loss record for the event.

“They have lost all four games so far,” said Tanya Ruiz, whose 14-year-old daughter Samantha Esparza plays for the Los Banos PAL girls’ team. “But the girls are having a great time and that’s what’s important.”

Ruiz, a former 7th grade basketball coach, said her daughter began playing basketball at age 9 while involved with the San Jose PAL program. “We moved

brother and grandfather were all in the stands at Kennedy High School in Richmond to cheer for the Salinas PAL girls’ 14-and-under team.



The Vacaville PAL boys team proudly wears its well-earned ribbons.

to Los Banos because it is a nice, small town and my daughter wanted to continue playing with a PAL team.”

Salinas point guard Edthel Lugo, 12, brought her own personal cheering section along with her. Edthel’s mom, dad,

Not only did the kids have fun, parents did, too. “It’s been fun for all the kids,” said Marlene Ingram, of Aptos, who was there to watch her 13-year-old son Nick play for Santa Cruz SAL. “And the parents have really had a blast. This is a good team and a good

group of boys. Some of these kids would not ever have the chance to be in a tournament like this. We are grateful as parents to have these tournaments.”

Bill Johnston of Aptos, a volunteer coach in youth sports for seven years and coach for the Santa Cruz SAL boys 14-and-under team, said his players were already asking to participate in the California PAL tournament again next year.

“Everything is really going great,” said Johnston, who is vice president of sales for Hitachi Storage Software. “This is the third tournament this year for our team. The PAL tournament has been well organized and the officiating has really been good. We have a great hotel and great accommodations.”

Johnston credited Henry Montes of the Santa Cruz Sheriff’s Department for helping get his team ready for the tournament. “He’s

done a lot of hard work. We wouldn’t be here right now without him.”



California PAL Executive Director Gregg Wilson (r.) congratulates Larry Lewis, executive director of Richmond PAL, for his teams’ success.

Maria Montes of Aptos, whose son Henry, 13, has played basketball since the age of five, said she was happy the boys had the opportunity to meet so many different young people from other places around the state. “This tournament helps the kids meet different people and better understand different cultures.”

Winning teams for the Northern California tournament include:

- Girls 14-U – 1st Seaside; 2nd Visalia; 3rd Napa;
- Girls 12-U – 1st Salinas; 2nd Seaside; 3rd Los Banos;
- Boys 14-U – 1st Richmond; 2nd Santa Cruz County; 3rd Napa;
- Boys 12-U – 1st Richmond; 2nd Seaside; 3rd Los Banos;
- Boys 10-U – 1st Los Banos; 2nd Richmond; 3rd Vacaville.

Southern California tournament winners are:

- Girls 14-U – 1st Lompoc; 2nd Anaheim; 3rd Fresno;
- Girls 12-U – 1st, Fresno; 2nd Anaheim; 3rd Brawley;
- Girls 16-U – 1st, Hemet; 2nd, Santa Monica;
- Boys 10-U – 1st Fresno; 2nd Palm Springs; 3rd Lompoc;
- Boys 12-U – 1st Fresno; 2nd Palm Springs; 3rd Lompoc;
- Boys 14-U – 1st Lompoc; 2nd Clovis; 3rd Santa Barbara;
- Boys 16-U - 1st, Santa Barbara; 2nd Pasadena; 3rd Santa Monica.



Richmond PAL boys team makes a play for a basket.

*“It’s been fun
for all the kids.”*

Marlene Ingram In addition to the winning teams, other



Three girls from Los Banos PAL celebrate their third place trophy.

PAL participants included: Calexico, LAPD Hollywood, LAPD Newton, Red Bluff, and Watsonville. Special thanks to the schools that served as host sites for the tournament, including: Kennedy High School and LaVonva Middle School, both in Richmond; Richmond High School and Contra Costa College, both in San Pablo; Santa Monica PAL, Memorial Park Gym, Lincoln Middle School, John Adams Middle School, all in Santa Monica; and to Richmond PAL and Santa Monica PAL staff for hosting the tournaments in their communities. Additional thanks to: Yankee Doodles Restaurant for providing a discount to participants; Santa Monica Pier for the 2-for-1 tickets to the pier attractions; and Amador Nuñez, Anaheim PAL, for completing the bracketing for the tournament.

PAL Highlights

Kids Serving Our Local Communities

BERKELEY BOOSTERS PAL

Mentorship Workshop and Community Service keeps youth active

In December 2003, Berkeley Boosters PAL joined with several other community agencies to take part in a mentorship workshop and forum. Three Berkeley Police Officers and 40 “at-risk” males from three Berkeley Unified School District Middle Schools took part in this exciting forum. The event took place at the Oakland Arena, where the kids were able to use the locker room and play an actual game on the same floor as the Warriors! After the game, the youth met in the Club Lounge to hear presentations from various speakers and to take part in a workshop on mentoring. They were given a chance to have their voices heard in regards to the types of things they would like to see. After the workshop, the participants had dinner at a local McDonald’s and returned to the Arena to watch the Warriors play the Celtics. It was a very successful evening; the kids got a chance to spend time with some of our outstanding Berkeley Police Department officers and see them in a friendly setting and out of uniform, ask questions about their jobs, and get to know them as friends and mentors. The officers, in turn, were able to get to know the kids in Berkeley in a little more intimate way, hopefully building bridges into the community.

In January, 15 students from Rosa Parks and 25 students from the Middle Schools after-school programs spent 12 hours each helping make our community a better place to live. They planted rose bushes at the East Bay Regional Parks, pulled weeds at the Peralta Community Garden/Berkeley Eco-House, and cleaned up the shoreline at the Berkeley Marina. It has been a great experience and the kids provided lots of positive feedback about how good they feel after completing the work.

David W. Manson, Executive Director

CALEXICO PAL

Over 13,000 teddy bears find a home

In partnership with Coronado Police Department, Chula Vista Police Department, Calexico Police Department, U.S. Customs agents from Imperial Valley, local churches and hundreds of San Diego County officers, over 13,000 teddy bears were collected in December for distribution to young patients at San Diego’s Children’s Hospital. Calexico PAL used its Holiday Grant from California PAL to add to the bear collection. The annual community event, started more than a decade ago by the Coronado Police Department, has grown into a gigantic teddy bear-a-thon. So many bears were collected in the past that children who were treated at the hospital continued to receive bears until late spring.

Officer Nestor Gonzalez, Executive Director

HOLLYWOOD PAL

Junior Police Academy helps kids learn about LAPD police work

At the request of Captain Michael Downing of the Hollywood Police Station, Hollywood PAL offered its first Junior Police Academy in late 2003 to 31 “junior officers” aged 10-14. The 10-week Academy allowed PAL kids an inside view of police work at Hollywood Station, Traffic Division, Police Academy, K9 Division, Air Support, Bomb Squad and to learn the value of support staff from the Latent Prints Unit and Communications. Kids experienced what making an arrest is like and learned about the booking process.

Hollywood PAL News

Member Moves

Send your staff changes, promotions or additions to PALmagazine@calpal.org.

Congratulations to the following new PAL directors who were appointed to their positions within the past several months. And thank you to those outgoing officers who have served their PALs with pride.

Lt. Mike McQuiston was named director of the Albany PAL, replacing Officer Ron Bennett.

Connie Cervantes replaces Stephen Joseph as director of Compton YAL.

Sgt. Timothy Hahn is the newly-named director of Fresno PAL, replacing Sgt. Greg Noll.

George Berrios was named director of Lompoc PAL and replaces Leo Garza.

Roger Coldiron was appointed director of Palm Springs PAL and replaces temporary director Gil Hernandez, who replaced Officer George Palomares.

Sgt. Bud Herring replaces Sgt. Jim Fujitani as director of Roseville PAL.

LASD LENNOX PAL

Holiday activities make for a busy season

LASD Lennox PAL successfully transformed its Youth Center into a two-story Halloween Haunted House maze for the second year. In December, the annual Christmas Carnival offered free rides, food, games, gifts and prizes for the kids. The 2004 year will begin with a basketball tournament, RC car racing and model car show. With a high demand and interest for boxing, the goal for this chapter will be to locate a ring and appropriate equipment to expand the fledgling program.

Deputy Eric Strong

NATIONAL PAL

Young California artists selected for 2004 Calendar

The creative work of four young California artists was selected for inclusion in the 2004 National PAL calendar. Four of the twelve months represented in the recently-released calendar display artwork from PAL youth in California chapters.

“Horse Back Riding” by Christian Fajardo Morales, 9, of Redwood City PAL is featured for January. “Police Activities” by Diana Hernandez, 9, of Anaheim PAL appears for the month of April. “PAL After-School Program” by Sekope Tagilala, 10, of Redwood City PAL was selected for June. “Horse Back Riding” by Graciela Barron, 9, of Redwood City PAL is on the July page. Congratulations to all these budding artists whose work now appears nationally.

SAN MATEO PAL

Team wins National Judo Championship

Congratulations to San Mateo PAL judo team, which captured a national championship at the 2003 United States Judo Federation Youth and Junior Judo Championships held July 25-26 in Boca Raton, Fla. Tessa Richards, Wing Luk and Peter Taylor all won medals. Richards won her second junior national medal by capturing the gold in the girls’ Intermediate 2, 64 kg division. Luk and Taylor each captured a bronze medal. It was Luk’s second national medal.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SAL

Donated building space creates new “home”

Thanks to a generous property owner, Santa Barbara County SAL has a new home. The owner has donated use of the building for SAL/PAL activities, which will include a boxing ring and equipment, small recreation area, a pool table, classroom space and an office for counseling youth. The building is conveniently located next to a martial arts school and the SAL hopes to use that facility for Judo classes.

Senior Deputy Eddie Pond, Executive Director

Telling our Story to State Legislators

Shaking hands and giving out literature, representatives of California PAL walked the halls of Sacramento’s Capitol Building for two days in January to visit elected officials. The delegation called on 25 senators and assemblypersons, or their legislative aides, to let them know what a difference PALs are making in their hometown districts.

“Those who make policy and fiscal decisions that will affect California youth should understand the value of PAL programs,” said Sgt. Charles Steadman, president of the California PAL Board of Directors and executive director of Hemet PAL. “We really appreciated the legislators taking time to meet with us. In March, the PAL kids will be at the Capitol themselves to tell their stories to elected representatives as part of the Sacramento Experience Conference.”

Steadman was joined in Sacramento by Tim Heiden, executive director of Barstow PAL; Brandon Hill, executive director of Salinas PAL; Jim Ainsworth, director of Tehama County PAL; and Ron Exley, director of Membership & Government Affairs at California PAL.

The PAL team visited the offices of Senators Sam Aanstad (R-04), Roy Ashburn (R-18), Jim Battin (R-37), Jeffrey Denham (R-12), Denise Moreno Ducheny (D-40), Joseph Dunn (D-34), Dean Florez (D-16), Dennis Hollingsworth (R-36), Sheila Kuhl (D-23), Bruce McPherson (R-15), Charles Poochigian (R-14), Jack Scott (D-21), and Assemblypersons David Cogdill (R-25), Rebecca Cohn (D-24), Robert D. Dutton (R-63), Bonnie Garcia (R-80), Doug La Malfa (R-02), Jay La Suer (R-77), Bill Maze (R-34), Gene Mullin (D-19), George Nakano (D-53), Robert Pacheco (R-60), Sarah Reyes (D-31), Todd Spitzer (R-71). They also visited Karen Pank, director of Public Safety in the California Governor’s Office.

Over \$13,000 in grants brightens holidays for kids and families



Young carolers from Modesto PAL went door to door with their music.

Her excitement grew as she awaited the arrival of Santa and his bag of brightly-wrapped toys. "I didn't think I was going to get a gift this year," said the little girl from Redwood City.

The same scene was repeated throughout the state over the holidays as



Children at Stanislaus County PAL in Modesto were delighted with their toys from Santa.

more than 6,000 kids and their families celebrated with police officers at parties, shopping sprees, and community service

activities. Thanks to more than \$13,000 in grant funds from California Police Activities League, 51 PAL chapters in California were able to share the holiday spirit with their member kids.

"The real holiday spirit comes from the thousands of donors who support our activities throughout the year," said Gregg Wilson, executive director of California PAL. "Thanks to our donors' generosity, we're able to make these holiday grants annually to help kids in need."

The PAL parties took on many faces from community to community with PAL events hosting as few

as four or as many as 800 kids ranging in ages from 4 to 18. Santas – played by police officers and civilian volunteers – arrived on foot, atop a Sheriff's

patrol car, in a SWAT "Peacekeeper" vehicle, a rescue patrol boat, and even a helicopter. Santa's gifts came in all

shapes and sizes from toys and books to brand new clothes, shoes or bicycles. As communities differ, so did each PAL in its approach to the celebratory event.

canned goods for those less fortunate.

Even corporate partners helped spread the spirit of the season. Employees of Telcom Services, Inc.,



Santa Claus is assisted by his "elves" Colton Police Chief Ken Rulon and Colton PAL Director Officer Ernie Mireles. Chief Rulon described their Christmas party for 61 kids as "a huge success."

Modesto PAL taught 19 children about manners and table etiquette, which they practiced at a formal meal served to them at the Modesto Police Department. After dinner, the kids learned carols which they sang for neighbors throughout town before they received their gifts from Santa, according to Officer Sean Dodge.

In Anaheim, over 450 kids from local motels and neighborhoods collected over three barrels of

located in Downey, Anaheim and San Leandro, collected approximately 150 cans of food to help fill 300 holiday baskets for Los Angeles County-Century YAL's annual citizens-in-need program. Telcom also offered corporate tours for kids in Anaheim and conducted food and toy drives to benefit Los Angeles, Anaheim, and Newark PALs.

San Mateo PAL joined with San Mateo Police Department Community

Policing Unit, Nick's Deli and San Mateo Police Cadet Unit to serve holiday dinners and present gifts to over 200 families in need, according to Officer Mike Buckle, executive director. Their event was even covered by Channel 7 News.

California State Parks PAL teamed up Costco, Orange County Ocean Institute, Diedrick's, The Dohemy Interpretive Association, Donna B's Bakery and State Parks employees to deliver a memorable holiday party for 42 PAL kids who boarded three rescue

DeBoer, director of California State Parks PAL. From pizza to hamburgers

“...for some kids, it was the only Christmas they had.”

Michelle DeBoer

to turkey and mashed potatoes, kids enjoyed the taste of the season. Stockings filled with candy canes, apples and other special treats went home with some. Others made jewelry and sand bottle art, watched singers and dancers, ice skated, and played Simon Says or other games. Blythe PAL even held a pie-eating contest. And lots of kids received toys and teddy

bears. Six lucky children at Industry Sheriff's YAL won new bicycles and helmets at an event that attracted 580 youth ages 8-15.

In the small community of Atwater, kids enjoyed a pancake breakfast with Santa and his “reindeer” – calves wearing antlers in disguise.

Colton Police Chief Ken Rulon played Saint Nick to 61 children from economically



Ninety-five children received gifts at two parties given by the Tehama County PAL.

disadvantaged areas. Unaccustomed to lavish holiday parties, the kids giggled and cheered as they took turns batting at a piñata filled with candy. Local reporter Ellen Braunstein covered Colton's festivities for *The Press-Enterprise*.

Santa Barbara County SAL treated 15 needy kids to a tour of Hearst Castle, lunch and a \$30 gift certificate to spend at a local department store.

“I am hoping the kids we take will get involved in our programs and spread the word,” said Eddie Pond.

In addition to Santa, other special guests were prominent at many PAL holiday events. El Centro Mayor Roy Castillo and El Centro PAL Board member Jim Brock handed out awards at a dinner of more than 300 youth. Olympic Gold medalist Gail Devers and Sheriff Lee Baca appeared as guest speakers at

Compton YAL. In Modesto, Shriner clowns, McGruff and CHP “Chippy” all made appearances at Stanislaus County PAL's holiday party.

“It is comforting to see that California PAL has taken the initiative to offer some holiday hope for those less fortunate,” said Master Police Officer Jim Corr of Richmond PAL.



Officer Leo Garza (second from left) of Lompoc PAL distributed gifts and pizza to 40 local children.

patrol boats to participate in the Dana Point Harbor Parade of Lights boat parade.

“It was an evening filled with magic and holiday cheer ... for some kids, it was the only Christmas they had,” said Michelle



Hemet PAL and Hemet SAL treated children to a shopping spree where generous corporate discounts from retailers No Fear and Changing Times helped the kids' money go even further.

Sharing Ideas

- How do we start our own website?
- How much does each PAL receive from a PAL YEP grant?
- How can we help kids network more at California PAL events?

These and other questions were addressed at the recent series of California PAL regional meetings held in late January in five different locations throughout the state.

“The smaller get-togethers encourage free discussion and sharing of ideas and information,” said Gregg Wilson, executive director. “We want to hear what our members have to say and appreciate their feedback and suggestions.”

Coordinated by Membership and Government Affairs Director Ron Exley, the meetings included various other California PAL staff who were also there to listen and share.

Information Technology

Bryan Ferreira, director of Information Technology, discussed the latest on KidTrax implementation and website upgrades. He said that as a result of member feedback, he is adding a website section for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which will be available to PAL directors and staff.

“I want to get it going before the soccer tournament,” he said. “That’s my goal.”

Ferreira also reminded members that each PAL has a home page available on the California PAL website which can link to a PAL chapter’s website. He suggested PALs look for local resources, even volunteer or student assistance, for designing and hosting a PAL chapter website.

Youth Directors’ Council

Exley updated members about the Youth Directors Council (YDC) Conference scheduled for summer 2004. Thanks to a partnership with California State University at Monterey, the conference will take place at the new university’s campus at Ford Ord. The conference will include seminars such as “How to Apply

for College,” “International Issues,” and “Developing Leadership Skills.” Professors from CSU-Monterey will teach some of the classes, Exley said.



Sergeant Timothy Hahn of Fresno PAL attended the regional meeting in Modesto.

Tournaments and Events

According to Wilson, some directors have suggested more one-day tournaments and events, which California PAL is considering in its plans for the future. Wilson agreed that this would simplify organization for many PALs and would also save costs. He said that fundraising revenue was down so far this year, a sign of the continued sagging economy in California. Many nonprofit organizations have experienced a decline over the past several years. One-day events in regional locations would forego the need for an overnight hotel stay, in most cases.

Some PAL directors indicated an interest in hosting debate teams, starting regional tournaments and launching new sports programs.

Brandon Hill, director of Salinas PAL, indicated that his PAL is planning a bowling tournament in March or April for 60-80 bowlers in their area.

Joe Hoffar, executive director of Atwater PAL, announced that the city in his community had just given 100 acres to Atwater PAL for its use. “There is no water on the property,” lamented Hoffar. “But we are very excited about this opportunity and happy for the city’s support.”

Development

Three one-and-a-half-day workshops on grant writing were implemented as a result of member feedback. Spring classes held in Palm Springs, Los Angeles and San Jose are being taught by Nivisha Mehta, grant writing consultant, and Victoria Emmons, CFRE, director of development at California PAL.

continued on next page

Grant success requires more than just a good proposal

by Nivisha Mehta, NM Consulting

When reviewing grant proposals, funders look at three key aspects:

- How will the nonprofit measure or track the outcomes of the program?
- How will the program be sustained in the future and does the program allow the agency to add other revenue generating services?
- Does the funder know any of the people endorsing the program?

You can improve your funding probability if you can show a history of measuring program outcomes over a period

of time, e.g. there was a 20% decrease in juvenile arrests for 50 youth participants involved in the basketball program for ABC PAL. Tracking methodology, manually or with sophisticated software, is not as important as showing that you are incorporating outcome measurement in your program implementation.

Sustainability is another key component that funders value in a program. It indicates that the nonprofit has thought about how the program will be administered after the funding period. Many nonprofits mention that they will seek funding from other foundations and corporations, but that

is not what funders are looking for. They want to know if the program has other revenue-generating components. This can help convince the funder that the grantee is not going to become totally dependent on them to continue future program operations.

Having a good written proposal is only half of the formula for success. Who you know is equally important. Many times, foundations will fund outside of their guidelines and areas of interest because one of their board members is involved or advocated for a particular program. Look at your constituency base (board members,



national organizations, volunteers, etc.) to determine if they know anyone at the foundation from which you are seeking funds. Time and time again, one proposal is selected over another primarily due to a personal connection.

Paying attention to these issues in your grant proposal will help you gain the funders' attention and, therefore, increase your chances for success.

Nivisha Mehta is principal of NM Consulting, a grant writing consulting firm based in San Jose, California.

Regional meetings *Continued*

National PAL

Asked about news with National PAL, Wilson, who serves as 1st Vice President on the National PAL Board of Directors, indicated that a new slate of officers will be elected in June at the national conference. He said that California PAL will fund the registration and hotel expense for the first 30 PAL member directors to register for the 2004 National PAL conference in St. Louis, MO, June 8-12. He said that, in addition to California PAL, there are state PAL associations in Arizona, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Texas. California members make up about one-third of all National PAL membership.



Ron Exley (l.), California PAL director of membership & government affairs, discusses ideas with participants from Stanislaus County, Los Banos, Atwater and Salinas.

"The Regional meetings were excellent," said Exley. "We got some good suggestions."

Special thanks to our hosts for the Regional Meetings: Imperial County SAL, Vacaville PAL, Stanislaus County SAL, Ojai Valley PAL and Santa Monica PAL.

Editor's Note: Sometimes a story is worth retelling. In the October 31, 2003, edition of the Santa Cruz Sentinel, reporter Julie Jag eloquently related the success story of Gustavo Ramirez and how one judge's order changed his life. Ramirez today is one of 12 youth leaders serving on the California PAL Youth Directors' Council.

Straight-ahead strides: Watsonville High's Gustavo Ramirez knew he could rely on one person to help turn his life around — himself

By Julie Jag
Santa Cruz Sentinel staff writer

It's 8 p.m. at the Watsonville library. The sun has long since stopped streaming through the windows, and most of the patrons have headed home to relax, eat dinner and wind down their days. But back in one of the building's recesses, surrounded by aisles of books, a lone boy sits at a table. He is bent over his open textbook, staring at the words intently. Occasionally he scribbles into his notebook. His attention barely strays from his studies, even when a group of his peers spots him and wanders over to chat.

Four years ago, Watsonville High special education teacher Roland Hedgepeth would tell you there's no way that could be Gustavo Ramirez; not the same boy who was assigned to his special resources program as a freshman.

"He's come a long way since then," said Hedgepeth, who also coaches soccer at Watsonville. "He's overcome his difficulties."

When he came into Hedgepeth's care as a freshman, Ramirez was

what the system might call a lost cause. Not only was he years behind in school with subpar English skills, he'd also established the reputation of being disruptive and street-hardened.

"He was a little bit disobedient," his older sister, Bertha Perez, said. "He wasn't listening to my mom; he wasn't listening to teachers. He always fought in the schools. He was suspended many times.

"He was headed for a bad life."

Not anymore.

Ramirez, now a senior, keeps a C average or higher in all his classes, shuttles his little brothers to and from school, runs cross country for one of the best teams in the county and participates in taekwon do.

And, he's doing it all without any of the assistance — such as extra time for assignments, special classes or additional help — made available to him as a special ed student.

Hedgepeth said it is one of the most amazing turnarounds he's seen.

"I'm kind of proud of him, doing it himself," Hedgepeth said. "A lot of students I end up helping become successful, but it takes a lot of effort on my part or other teachers' parts, whereas he just took it on himself."

Finding his way

The seeds of transformation took hold in the midst of some of the worst trouble Ramirez had gotten into in all his 15 years. After his first run-in with the law, a judge told him that he had basically two choices: Be put on probation or enroll in one of the Police Athletic League programs. He chose the latter, and took up boxing.

Around the same time, he met classmate Victor Hernandez. Both delivered papers for the *Pajaronian*, and Hernandez said he decided to broach a friendship with Ramirez because they were the same age and because he thought it was the prudent thing to do.

"He was a tough guy back then," Hernandez said. "I was actually a little scared when I met him."

The two quickly became friends, however. Like



Ramirez, Hernandez came from a broken home and was the son of Mexican immigrants. But he had decided early on that he would take it upon himself to get out of the situation by becoming the first person in his family to go to college, and he encouraged his friend to do the same.

"I started noticing something then — that he's an independent guy and researched answers on his own," Ramirez said. "That's what we're supposed to be doing at this age, finding things out for ourselves. I made that a goal for me to do things on my own and not rely on somebody.

"I stayed in line because of Victor."

Martial law

The random violence of boxing didn't fit very well into Ramirez's new ideology. He wanted to try a sport that worked out his mind and spirit as much as his body.

continued on next page

Get Involved!

Find your local PAL and get involved. Being a PAL volunteer is very rewarding and the kids and their families appreciate your involvement. PAL chapters are always looking for volunteers to coach, help with athletic or other special events, lead fundraising activities, write press releases or newsletter articles, support office duties, chaperone, and other needs. Call California PAL at (510) 544-4300 or visit our website at www.calpal.org to connect with your local PAL. **If you're interested in starting a PAL in your community, contact Ron Exley, Membership Director, at (510) 544-4314.**

Northern California

Etna PAL
Fort Bragg PAL
Glenn County PAL
Jackson PAL
Lake County SAL
Lincoln PAL
Mendocino County SAL
Roseville PAL
Susanville PAL
Tehama County PAL
Weed PAL

SF Bay Area

Albany PAL
Benicia PAL
Berkeley Boosters PAL
Brentwood PAL
Concord PAL
Foster City PAL
Livermore PAL
Milpitas PAL

Monterey Bay PAL
Monterey County PAL
Napa SAL
Newark PAL
Oakland PAL
Redwood City PAL
Richmond PAL
Salinas PAL
San Carlos PAL
San Jose PAL
San Mateo PAL
Santa Cruz Co. SAL
Seaside PAL
Union City PAL
Vacaville PAL
Vallejo PAL
Watsonville PAL

Central Valley

Atwater PAL
Bakersfield PAL
Chowchilla PAL

Clovis PAL
Corcoran PAL
Dos Palos PAL
Firebaugh PAL
Fresno PAL
Gustine PAL
Kings County SAL
Los Banos PAL
Madera PAL
Modesto PAL
Porterville PAL
Sanger PAL
Stanislaus County PAL
Stockton PAL
Tulare County Sheriff's PAL
Turlock PAL
Visalia PAL

Central Coast

Lompoc PAL
Ojai Valley PAL

Oxnard PAL
Paso Robles PAL
Santa Barbara PAL
Santa Barbara County SAL
Santa Maria PAL
Ventura PAL

Southern California

Anaheim PAL
Buena Park PAL
Century YAL
Colton PAL
Compton YAL
Corona PAL
East Los Angeles YAL
Glendale PAL
Huntington Park PAL
Industry YAL
Inglewood PAL
LAPD 77th Division PAL

LAPD Devonshire PAL
LAPD Hollenbeck PAL
LAPD Hollywood PAL
LAPD Newton PAL
LAPD Pacific PAL
LAPD Rampart PAL
LAPD Southwest PAL
LAPD West Valley PAL

LA Schools PAL
Lennox SAL
Long Beach PAL
Montebello PAL
Norwalk YAL
Palmdale YAL
Pasadena PAL
San Dimas YAL
Santa Clarita YAL
Santa Monica PAL
State Parks PAL
Temple YAL
Walnut YAL

High Desert

Apple Valley PAL
Barstow PAL
Desert Hot Springs PAL
Hemet PAL
Hemet SAL
Mt. San Jacinto Community College PAL
Palm Desert PAL
Palm Springs PAL
San Jacinto PAL
Stallion Springs PAL

Imperial Valley

Blythe PAL
Brawley PAL
Calexico PAL
Calipatria PAL
El Centro PAL
Imperial PAL
Imperial County SAL
Westmorland PAL

Straight-ahead strides Continued

Walking home from school one day, the freshman spotted a group of children dressed in white ghis and found his alternative: tae kwon do. The meditation and ideology of the martial art appealed to him, and he caught on quickly. Three months after enrolling in the PAL's tae kwon do program, he received an invitation to an international competition in Seoul, Korea.

Ramirez basked in the attention his newfound sport brought him, and it drove him to work harder. Soon, the kid who could hardly drag himself to any type of class was showing up half an hour early for his tae kwon do sessions.

By Ramirez's junior year at Watsonville, everyone who knew him was noticing a change.

"He started to become successful then," Hedgepeth said. "I think as he went along, he became more confident and had more success. Now he's very confident."

Somewhere to run

His confidence had soared so much that this year, after multiple attempts, Hernandez was finally able to talk his friend into trying out for cross country.

While working out the time constraints took some work — Ramirez has to squeeze practices in between driving his little brothers home from

school, studying, and, of course, attending tae kwon do practice — he again found success. Now he is not only the No. 4 runner for the Wildcatz, one of the top boys teams in the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League, but, according to coach Tom Leikam, he is one of the team's leaders as well.

"He's a really great kid to work with," Leikam said. "I'm totally impressed with what he's accomplished so far, and he's going to accomplish a lot more. I'm impressed with the role model he's been with the team."

But running is just a side interest for Ramirez. He has bigger plans, like going to college, becoming

a lawyer and maybe even running for president some day.

He knows it will take plenty of determination, hard work and hours sequestered in the library. And he acknowledges that he'll have to deal with some setbacks along the way. But his future looks so much brighter these days that those bumps don't seem too unmanageable anymore.

"You create your own future," Ramirez said. "I know I have a long ways to go, but I'm willing to do it."

Contact Julie Jag at jjag@santacruzsentinel.com.

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Bearing Gifts

Jim Ainsworth, Tehama County PAL, didn't arrive empty-handed on a recent visit to California PAL headquarters in San Leandro. The PAL director and owner of Ainsworth Orchards brought a nice supply of oranges and tangelos from the Central Valley to share with staff. Thank you, Jim!

Calendar of Events

March 16-18	Sacramento Experience & YDC Conference
March 29-30	Grant Writing Workshop, San Jose
March 23	Spring Business Meeting, Sacramento
April 16-18	Martial Arts Tournament, San Jacinto
April 20-22	FamCamp Training, Morro Bay State Park
May	National Police Month
May 8-9	Soccer Tournament, Bakersfield
May 18-20	FamCamp Training, Lake Oroville State Recreation Area
June 8-12	National PAL Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO
June 19-21	Softball Tournament, Blythe
July 8-15	PAL Regional Meetings
July 11-13	Golf Tournament, Imperial County

Next Issue:

- Read about our 2003 California PAL award winners.
- PALs helping kids with special needs.

Volunteer and Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in making a difference in the lives of the youth in your community? A wide variety of volunteer and sponsorship opportunities exist at every PAL throughout California. For more information on how you can become a PAL volunteer or sponsor, contact your local PAL chapter. If you need assistance locating the PAL chapter nearest you, visit our web site at www.calpal.org or call California PAL Headquarters at (510) 544-4300 or (800) 622-5725.



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