

Downtown Community Development YMCA

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October 31, 2005

Doris Montoya-Nickelson, Executive Director
The Kenny Nickelson Memorial Foundation
P. O. Box 3098
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Dear Doris:

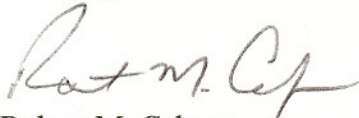
On behalf of our Board of Managers, Staff and the families of the children who participated, please accept my sincerest thanks for the wonderful day you provided for so many children in the Downtown Community Development YMCA after school programs by organizing the "KNMF/ Mervyn's Back to School Shopping Spree and Day of Entertainment," October 15th.

Our children, most of whom live in dire poverty, were so excited about the opportunity afforded them through your generosity. "You could just see the happiness in their eyes," staff members reported. Many parents expressed their thanks. Most of the children wear hand-me-down clothes and their parents were so grateful to see their children have bright new clothes to wear. "Kids come to school and like to model and show of their new clothes," said Carola Secada, the coordinator of our after school sites at Willard Elementary; "some are saving their new clothes for special occasions." "One little first grader from Stevenson cried, and when asked why she was crying she said it was because she was so happy."

It is a wonderful thing to give such a gift to a child, especially one that really appreciates its worth. We understand they will be writing their own letters to you.

We thank you profoundly for a day that will never be forgotten by the children and their families.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Cabeza
Executive Director

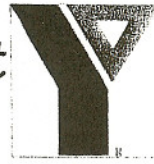
Enclosure



*We build strong kids, strong families,
strong communities.*

A Priceless Memory for Eight

By David Leonard



On a daily basis here at Stevenson YMCA Community School we work together to provide our community with priceless experiences. We collaborate with the Long Beach Unified School District, private agencies, and most importantly our community to improve the lives of the children, parents, and families living in it.

From time to time we get an opportunity to provide a memorable experience. This memorable experience that we were able to provide was so kindly given to us by The Kenny Nickleson Memorial Foundation for Homeless Children and Veterans in collaboration

with Mervyns California. Our school was selected to choose 8 students that participate in our CORAL after school program. On



October 15, 2005 these students would be able to take part in an all inclusive day of fun and excitement. Each student selected received a \$100 shopping spree at Mervyns, a round of miniature golf, which was followed by a movie and lunch.

When selecting students to participate in an event such as this one it is never easy, but after much thought and consideration we were able to make our selections. The 8 students that we picked were Pedro Orozco, Leah Celestine, Jildred Celestine, Ryan Anderson, Emery Anderson, Ian Anderson, Dodamin Canales, Alex Vargas, and Ian Anderson. These children selected were so excited and emotionally charged when they heard the good news. One student, Alex Vargas, his mother was so happy when she received the good news that she burst into tears of joy.

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YMCA AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS



Stevenson School Continued.....

Jildred Celestine and Sister Leah Celestine could not stop talking about what they were going to purchase during the shopping spree, they were so overwhelmed with excitement.

The following Monday the students that were selected to go returned to school with huge smiles, new school supplies, and an experience that will last forever. The memories that were made that October day will never be forgotten by those students and their families. The Stevenson YMCA Community School is in the business of providing students and their families' experiences that will help create brighter

utures. This experience is one that will have an impact far beyond what words can describe, on behalf of the Stevenson YMCA Community School I would like to thank The Kenny Nickleson Memorial Foundation for Homeless Children and Veterans and Mervyns California. Their generosity, selflessness, dedication, and compassion have enabled us to provide a priceless memory for 8 deserving children and their families.

For more information about the Stevenson YMCA Community School please call David Leonard, After School Program Site Director at (562) 495-1939 or e-mail at Dleonard@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

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