

Michael D. Nevin

Member • Board of Supervisors • San Mateo County

DATE: December 9, 2003

TO: Board of Supervisors

C: John Maltbie, County Manager

FROM: Mike Nevin, Supervisor *MDN*

SUBJECT: San Mateo County Task Force on Improving Access to Educational Opportunities: Service-Learning: San Jose Silicon Valley *CityYear* Presentation Tuesday, December 16, 2003, 10:15 am

Nearly 18-months ago the Board created the San Mateo County Task Force ("Task Force") on Improving Access to Educational Opportunities to better connect career path opportunities for life-long learning and for the growing number of unemployed in San Mateo County. The Task Force has explored numerous areas for improvement, ways to strengthen and development educational and employment partnerships and identified new grant opportunities. Service-learning was the final area of interest discussed by the Task Force as a way to improve civic engagement and more specifically encourage youth to better connect with the community. Members of the Task Force expressed an interest in learning more about the successful *CityYear* model.

In September I had the opportunity to visit the San Jose Silicon Valley *CityYear* and learned first-hand of their successful public-private partnership. Most impressive are the *CityYear* Americorp volunteers, funded through the Corporation for National & Community Service. They play a significant role in San Jose schools classrooms where they provide effective one-on-one instruction to students requiring extra help, supervisor after-school enrichment programs that would otherwise not be afforded, and they strengthen and build a sense of community, initiating local projects such as community gardens or starting-up and supervising neighborhood soccer leagues.

..... Service Director, San Jose
..... will make a brief presentation to the Board on that successful program. Enclosed is a brief overview of the *CityYear* service-learning model. Upon the conclusion of the *CityYear* presentation, the San Mateo County Task Force on Improving Access to Educational Opportunities will meet briefly in the Board of Supervisor's Conference Room in order to provide an opportunity to ask questions of Ms. Nielsen and discuss the merits of the *CityYear* service-learning model. This will also serve as the final meeting of the Task Force.

Please anticipate the final report of the Task Force report to the Board of Supervisors in January 2004.


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Bringing CITY YEAR to Your Community

City Year began in 1988 as a summer pilot program in Boston. In 1989, Boston expanded to a full year program for 75 diverse young people. In 1993, City Year opened a summer program in Columbia, SC, and a second full-year program in Providence, RI. In September of 1994, City Year grew significantly by adding four new full-year programs in Chicago, IL; Columbia, SC; Columbus, OH; and San Jose, CA. From 1995-1998 City Year opened programs in San Antonio, TX; Cleveland, OH; Philadelphia, PA; and Seattle/King County, WA respectively. City Year Detroit opened in the Fall of 1999.

City Year's new site development process was designed to insure the maximum investment of the local community and the most effective utilization of City Year's limited resources. Listed below are City Year's "Seven Guideposts" for new site development. These guideposts are a checklist for a community that wants to build a local City Year program. >City Year works closely with local community leaders to reach each guidepost. Before a new City Year site can be officially launched, City Year's management must recommend, and the City Year Board of Trustees must approve, the launch. Management and Board members utilize the following Seven Guideposts for making their recommendations and decisions as to whether to launch a new site.

For more information on how to bring City Year to your community, please contact Modupe Akinola at 617.927.2334 or email makinola@cityyear.org. Thank you for your interest in City Year!

City Year's "Seven Guideposts" for New Site Development



Delegation visits City Year's National and Boston Headquarters.

The new site development process always begins with a "delegation" of people from a community visiting City Year in Boston, site of the organization's national headquarters and first and largest site. A delegation is usually composed of seven to twelve people representing the business, governmental, nonprofit, youth development, religious and community sectors. The visit usually last two full days and includes a jam-packed schedule of meeting and site visits with corps, staff, board members, and service, corporate and governmental partners. Local foundations and/or businesses are asked to underwrite the travel and accommodations expenses of those who could not otherwise afford to attend; City Year does not underwrite delegation visits.



Champion Committed

The new site development process, as it has evolved over the years, rests squarely on successful emergence of a powerful local "champion" for the development of the new site. The local champion is the person who has made a rock solid commitment to shepherd the development of the new City Year site. Along with possessing a deep commitment to his or her local community, the champion must deeply understand City Year, *and have the organization's best interests at heart at all times*. Champions can be from any sector (Mayor Hammer, for example, brought City Year successfully to San Jose). It has been our experience, however, that a private sector champion, such as a CEO, can most easily serve as a powerful convener and catalyst across all sectors. The champion is the critical lynch pin of the new site development process. With a strong champion, a site can be launched powerfully, no matter what other difficulties there may be; without a strong champion, no amount of resources or interested parties can make a launch successful. Even if start up grants were secured, City Year would not move into the Start up phase of development without a committed champion.



"Exploratory" and "Start up" Grants Committed

City Year invests significant senior and mid-level staff resources, talents and expertise into the new site development process – a process that usually takes two years, and two distinct phases, to complete. Each of these two distinct phases must be underwritten in the form of grants to the City Year organization for the organization to proceed. First, the organization undertakes an "Exploratory Stage," during which a staff member will be assigned to be an organizational point person for the exploration period and senior members of the organization will travel to the new site for initial meetings. Depending on the length of this period (generally six months to a year) and the costs associated with it (for example, travel costs), an exploratory grant of \$25,000 to \$50,000 must be committed to City Year for the exploratory process to proceed. If this exploratory phase is successful, City Year will commit to entering into the next phase, the "Start Up" phase, when a second grant of \$150,000 to \$200,000 is secured. The "Start up" phase, which generally lasts from one year to eighteen months, puts the organization on a path towards total commitment to the launch of the new City Year program.



Letters of Support from all sectors.

A successful City Year program works by connecting all the major sectors around a shared value proposition that investing in a diverse youth service corps that civically engages and inspires children and the entire community is an investment worth committing to over the long run. Given the significant resources and energies needed to launch and maintain a City Year program, support from across all the major sectors is critical to a new program's success. Accordingly, City Year must at least 50 letters of endorsement for the development of a City Year program from a broad-based coalition of community leaders across the private, public, nonprofit and community sectors. A written

endorsement from the Mayor of proposed site is required.



Multi-Year Funding Secured – including Private sector, AmeriCorps municipal support.

City Year programs are not inexpensive; each program engages at least 55 people in the corps and staff *in fulltime community service activities*. In each of its sites, City Year is a unique private-public venture, with significant resources from the private, federal, and municipal sectors needed to support a program. At the federal level, City Year programs are all supported, in part, by the AmeriCorps national service initiative operated by the Corporation for National Service. Before City Year can approve the launch of a new program, at least \$600,000 in private sector support should be *secured for each of the first three years of the program*. In addition, the state commission administering the federal AmeriCorps program must endorse the launch and commit to putting City Year forth for significant AmeriCorps funding, \$500,000 to \$750,000, depending upon the size of the proposed program. It is also highly recommended that municipal and county support be committed to the program, even at a small level. Programs that have no founding local government support have difficulty obtaining that support down the road, while those that secure local government support before their launch are often able to increase that support down the line.



Preparation for "Start Up Team" to begin work.

Each new site is launched by a "Start up" team of talented corps and staff from City Year programs across the country. Selection for the Start up team is highly competitive, and considered an honor within the organization. (Local Executive Directors, however, also are often asked to give up some of the most talented members of their site.) The critical decision in the new site development process is City Year management's decision to send the "Start Up Team" to live and work in the new site community, working fulltime to launch the future City Year program. Before a decision can be made to deploy the team, donated or inexpensive office, living space and transportation must be made available for the team's use.



Local "Stone Soup" Contribution to the National Network Identified

City Year operates from the principle that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Each new site is part of a national organization and a growing national movement. In this regard, City Year seeks to be both intensely local and intensely national. We believe that by helping out the entire City Year organization, each site is also helping out its own site. >For example, City Year Cleveland secured the first three-year commitments, and City Year's most recent site, City Year Seattle, was instrumental in securing \$500,000 of critically needed software for the utilization of all City Year sites. We believe that it is critical to structure this local and national partnership directly into the new site development process. Accordingly, the organization asks the champion and other leaders in each new site community to put forward a "contribution" – in the spirit of the children's tale of Stone Soup – that it will add to the organization as a whole or the future of the new site



VOL. XII, ISSUE II, WINTER 2003

IDEALISM IMPACT

CITY YEAR SAN JOSE / SILICON VALLEY'S NEWSLETTER

City Year helps to build strong neighborhoods



Two students at K.R. Smith Elementary paint an American flag for a recent service project.

By ELIZABETH NIELSEN, SERVICE DIRECTOR

In a unique partnership with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI), 25 City Year corps members are working with residents to bridge school and neighborhood activity in five San Jose neighborhoods.

SNI is a commitment made by the San Jose Mayor and City Council to unite with San Jose communities to strengthen city neighborhoods. The program focuses on cleaner, safer neighborhoods and connecting residents to resources and to each other. The program operates on three basic principles for building strong neighborhoods: listening to people and neighborhoods first, building on existing strengths and assets,

(STRONG, CONTINUED ON P. 2)

More than awards

By CHRIS WILDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales began his State of the City Address by awarding a commendation to City Year! The plaque, presented by Mayor Gonzales and Councilmember Cindy Chavez, recognizes our corps members' "exemplary dedication and commitment to San Jose and their invaluable contributions to improve the quality of life in our San Jose neighborhoods."

Our corps stood as 1,500 of San Jose's leaders cheered. The pride we felt that night was extraordinary. On Friday at our weekly community meeting, our corps reflected on their work, as we do each Friday at 4pm. Carlton told us about a boy he'd finally gotten to smile. Anna talked about a little girl who is finally beginning to understand math. Milo shared his personal story of how City Year has led him down a new path, providing him with a

(WILDER, CONTINUED ON P. 2)

Gang Busters creates "cause to run"

By CHANDLER SMITH, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

In an attempt to add a rigorous physical component to civic idealism, City Year San Jose has launched City Year Gang Busters (CYGB), a semi-annual marathon training and fundraising program.

CYGB follows the model of the successful "Team in Training" program, the highest yielding fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In exchange for the free five-month training program, marathon registration, and accommodations, participants commit to raise money and increase awareness of City Year's programs and service projects pertaining to juvenile violent crime and gang-related violence in our schools and neighborhoods.

In addition to training and fundraising, CYGB will also feature social functions and service projects. A series of CYGB-sponsored social events will help build camaraderie amongst teammates and boost participant morale, while a Graffiti Abatement Day and a Neighborhood Clean-Up Day will help to maintain the connection between CYGB and the ethic of service at its core.

CYGB provides participants with an exhilarating and unforgettable experience. They will enjoy the challenges of training as a team for a marathon and working together to achieve their fundraising goals.

To honor an individual who was the tragic casualty of gang-related violence or to derive the immense pride and satisfaction of completing a marathon, CYGB will carry you across the finish line. For more information, see the City Year website at www.cityyear.org/san-jose/ or call Chandler Smith at 408.907.6549.

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STRONG, CONTINUED FROM P. 1

and responding to community priorities.

Through this partnership, we've collaborated on a number of exciting community-building initiatives. Corps members working in the Washington and University neighborhood areas joined 20 volunteers and nearly 100 residents in neighborhood clean-up events, helping residents carry heavy items and load trash into dumpsters. Autumn Gutierrez, President of the Washington Area Community Coalition said, "Art and I attended the kick-off event today and we are charged-up for the new City Year season. I look forward to an exciting year - greatness is within our reach!"

Corps members are working to support neighborhoods in the community surrounding K. R. Smith Elementary School as well. In collaboration with the King Ocala Neighborhood Area (KONA), corps members are orchestrating a day of neighborhood beautification with over 15 mural

WILDER, CONTINUED FROM P. 1

heightened awareness of his role in the world.

All the awards never mean quite as much as the 1st grader who hugs you after reading his very first sentence, or the eyes of a 3rd grader who asks, "Can we read together tomorrow too?" For me, public recognition is a wonderful symbol that our hard-working corps members have their priorities right: they'd rather talk about the high school students they teach than the newspaper articles that quote them.

We're thrilled that City Year helps great cities like San Jose meet its goals for chil-

projects occurring at three area elementary schools: K. R. Smith, Slonaker, and Hubbard. This service project highlights one way corps members are able to use their talents to bring community members together to improve their neighborhoods.

In addition to partnering on service projects, SNI invests in our corps by providing trainings on neighborhood asset-building and organizing opportunities for corps members to shadow fire fighters, police officers, and local politicians in a day of work. SNI taps into corps members as a resource and invests in them as the leaders of this community.

As City Year continues to build stronger bonds with the communities it serves, service will change to better meet the needs of residents. SNI is an exciting way to participate in a process that engages community members in growth and improvement planning for their own neighborhoods.

dren and neighborhoods, and that our city leaders appreciate our work. But Barbara Bush said something to me on November 20th that I'll always remember. I had just *thanked her for supporting the work done* by AmeriCorps members here and across the nation. The President's mother looked at me earnestly and said, "Young man, we have *such* a long way to go."

She's absolutely right, of course, and that's why we need your continued support. To get more involved, or to be a part of our next community meeting, email me at cwilder@cityyear.org or call us at 408.907.6500. We'd love to see you.

Trenton Park becomes a Project Board Member. Barry Schupp, Community Relations and Communications Director, of the City of Trenton, will be the City's representative on the Board member until April 23. Trenton Park has a strong commitment to education and education. The Vincent Van Gogh Art Museum Group, Education Committee, is in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1995. She is a former member of the museum and has experience being on a board of directors and a sponsor of the museum. She is a former member of the Vincent Van Gogh Art Museum Group, Education Committee, is in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1995. She is a former member of the museum and has experience being on a board of directors and a sponsor of the museum.



City Year leads community in celebration of Dr. King



Young Heroes, accompanied by corps members, take the Young Heroes Pledge during Opening Day on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, kicking off 15 Saturdays of service learning.

per month. Prominent community leaders including Sandra James, Sasha Esposito, Michael Elliott, Alana Maury, Chris Wilder, Gary Stebbins, Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, Manuel Herrera and Mariah Dabel joined the Young Heroes. The ceremony included keynote speaker and Mayor of Sunnyvale Julia Miller, former Sunnyvale Mayor Fred Fowler, and Assembly member Manny Diaz.

After the ceremony, corps members, Young Heroes, City Heroes and several of the guest speakers boarded buses destined for San Francisco's Yerba Buena Gardens. On the buses, the Young Heroes participated in activities to learn about the prominent figures of the Civil Rights Movement. Once they arrived at the Gardens, they joined the largest march in the nation honoring Dr. King. The students chanted and marched to the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, where they watched performances from choirs and dance teams, and listened to community leaders speak about Dr. King's dreams.

After the performance, Young Heroes and City Heroes met with their teams to discuss their thoughts and feelings about the day. The experience inspired the Young Heroes to begin their five-month commitment to improving their community.

CHRISTIE SIDERIUS, PROJECT LEADER

The 2003 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Celebration rallied the Silicon Valley community around the memory of one of history's greatest civil rights leaders. By engaging middle and high school students, community leaders and City Year alumni, City Year led a weekend of activities that demonstrated the tremendous power of young people to effect meaningful civic change.

The celebration began Friday night with a talent showcase in which corps members and other members of the community performed artistic pieces that reflected Dr. King's dream of social justice and racial equality. The City Year Step Team showed off their dance moves, musical acts played tunes from folk to hip hop, and a student from a local elementary school read an excerpt of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

The celebration continued early Saturday morning with a Youth Empowerment Conference for Social Justice with 200 participants from local high schools, City Year's City Heroes program and other AmeriCorps programs. The day started out

with a panel of five community activists who shared their experiences in working for social change. The panel featured Cindy Chavez, District 3 Councilmember; Christie Hardwick Vianon, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN); Robert Castillo, a local social worker; Jose Trujillo, Youth Intervention Leader for the Restorative Justice Program; and Gail Ortega, Director of International Multicultural Student Affairs at Menlo College.

The afternoon consisted of five workshops to help participants become more aware of social justice issues in their community, focusing on domestic violence, the labor movement, protest music, peer social relationships, and community involvement.

After a day of rest and reflection on Sunday, corps members, City Heroes, and community leaders joined together at Columbia Neighborhood Center in Sunnyvale on Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to celebrate the launch of the Young Heroes Program. The Young Heroes Program brings together more than 125 middle school students from the South Bay to do community service three Saturdays

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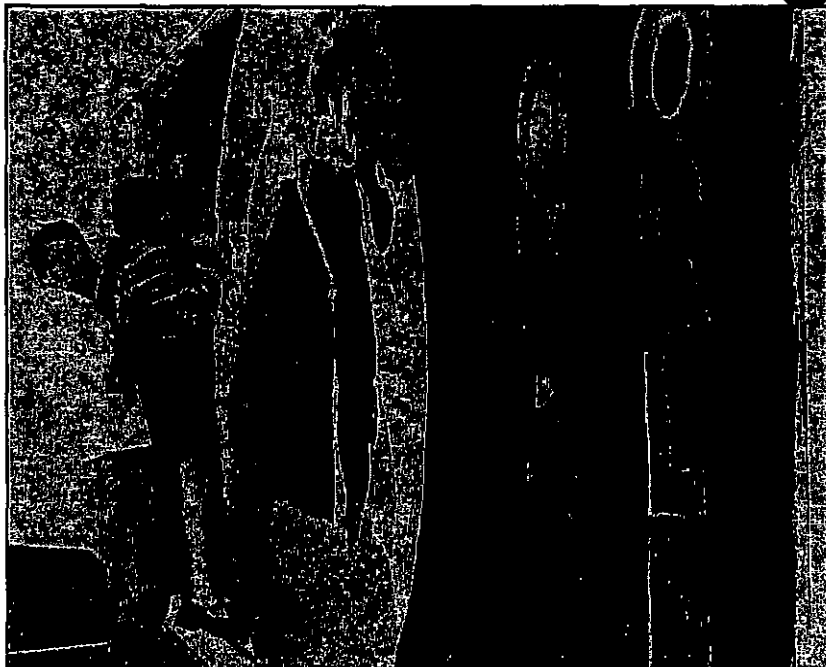
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MARCH 31: CESAR CHAVEZ DAY SERVICE PROJECT
APRIL 12: NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY
APRIL 13: HP UP AND RUNNING RACE
APRIL 21-25: SPRING CAMPS
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JUNE 3-7: CYZYG, WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUNE 20: CITY YEAR GRADUATION

DO YOU KNOW ANY MOTIVATED 17-24 YEAR OLDS WHO MIGHT BE PERFECT FOR CITY YEAR?

We are accepting applications for our 2003-2004 City Year Corps, which begins August 2003.

Upcoming information sessions are
Wednesday, April 16 and Thursday, May 15 at 6:00 pm
at the City Year headquarters: 116 Paseo de San Antonio
(corner of San Carlos and 4th Street).

For more information contact
Christina Castillo, Recruitment Director
408.907.6538



Development Manager Chandler Smith lends a helping hand.

For more information about City Year service programs, please visit http://www.cityyear.org/san_jose/



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SAN JOSE /
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VOL. XII - ISSUE I - FALL 2002

IDEALISM IMPACT

CITY YEAR SAN JOSE / SILICON VALLEY'S NEWSLETTER

Community Service Rises to Top of National Agenda

BY MATT PERAULT, SERVICE MANAGER

Corps members see chaos and find order. They hit instability and find purpose. Faced with uncertainty about their career paths, questions about their educational future, confusion about the gap between their desire to "do good" in the world and people who call their generation lazy and apathetic, corps members take action.

In the first full City Year since the September 11 attacks, ... service has moved to the forefront of the political agenda, with President Bush calling for each American to dedicate two years of his/her life to service.

Nationwide, Americans turn toward service as a tool for finding stability in the wake of the most devastating terrorist attack in history. Finally the country is rallying behind the secret that City Year has known for 14 years: community service works.

(SERVICE, CONTINUED ON P. 2)



Service in Action: City Year's Colin, Anjali, Idit, Ramon, Bernadette, German, Sam, Anna, Dimpy, and Chris (from left - right) paint a mural on Opening Day

City Year: an "Action Tank" for Service in Silicon Valley

BY CHRIS WILDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The term "action tank" is derived from the concept of a "think tank," taken to the next level. That's why we at City Year consider ourselves an "action tank for national service." We study and promote, as well as demonstrate and leverage, the concepts of civic engagement and volunteerism.

We've never done it better in Silicon Valley than today; our diverse group of 89 young leaders has already shown their commitment to the action tank concept - not only serving our communities, but thinking deeply about why we serve. They also understand the importance of leverage, and are proud of having appeared on the evening news and in the papers many times already. They even wrote their own professional radio spot...and this was all before Opening Day Ceremony on October 1st!

In fact, the action tank was in full swing this summer even before the corps arrived. We had the great honor of hosting the Hewlett-Packard Company on August 5, 2002. The "top brass" of HP, including Chairman and CEO Carly Fiorina and President Michael D. Capellas, spent the afternoon hearing from returning corps members and new staff about how we will fulfill our mission to build democracy through service. Debra Dunn, HP's Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, was visibly moved.

"I get so nostalgic hearing from you all," she said to our senior corps members after their presentations. "Having done volunteer work as a younger per

(ACTION TANK, CONTINUED ON P. 2)

Coming Full Circle

BY ROSE MARTIN, 2002-03 CORPS MEMBER

In the late 1800's, farmer Franklin DellaMaggiore traveled from Tuscany, Italy to America. He set his foot down on the rich soil of San Jose, California to begin a new life. He was my great, great grandfather, or Nonno in Italian. He was the first of five generations of farmers, teachers, City Council Members, leaders, and heroes that have come to shape my life and the communities of San Jose.

Both Nonno Frank and his son, Nonno Quintello helped their communities by providing fresh groceries from the many farms they started there in San Jose. Quintello's nephew, and my great uncle, Sam DellaMaggiore served as a Santa Clara County supervisor and San Jose City Council Member in the late 1960's. He was a teacher for many years before that.

In 1921, my great-grandmother, Rosalia Sebernia first came to San Jose from Sicily. She was the first of four generations of inde

(FULL CIRCLE, CONTINUED ON P. 2)

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SERVICE, CONTINUED FROM P. 1

In a post-September 11 world, the community has reached out for City Year just as City Year has reached toward the community. Applications for the 2002-03 corps increased more than 12% and applications from San Jose rose 15%. And despite a fragile economy, City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley remains strong in its pursuit of its fundraising objectives.

With such a strong performance in the days, months and weeks following Septem-

ber 11 - as well as nationwide commemorative activities on the one year anniversary - City Year and AmeriCorps continue to establish themselves as sources of stability during turbulent times. City Year provides an opportunity for action when Americans feel the most powerless. And as more and more concerned citizens - international citizens, not just Americans - follow the lead of corps members by realizing the value of national service, City Year will move ever closer toward its dreams of becoming a global action tank.

ACTION TANK, CONTINUED FROM P. 1

son, I feel your energy and passion bursting through and understand what you mean when you say that you get more out of serving than the children you serve...but never forget that you truly are changing their young lives."

Michael Capellas asked the corps members an important question: "What do children today really need?" Each corps member answered eloquently, with Mary Dalton telling the story of a six-year-old boy whom she mentored last year. He had seen his father murder his mother and took every opportunity to get attention from Mary, attention that Mary readily gave. "That's what children need - to feel cared for, to feel connected, to feel loved," Mary said.

Our guests also laughed out loud as our heroic corps told of their challenges building teams with a diverse group of idealistic people. "This is exactly what Michael and I are going through now!" said Carly Fiorina, alluding to the recent merger of Hewlett-Packard and Compaq.

This kind of engagement is good not just for City Year. It's good for Silicon Valley, as we help our corporate and civic leaders promote the ethic of service throughout all levels of society. And yet, our corporate partners, service champions and corps are not enough - we need your help too, and invite you to call us at (408) 907-6500 to learn how you can be involved in City Year's energy this year. You'll be glad you did!

FULL CIRCLE, CONTINUED FROM P. 1

pendent, creative, strong, and powerful women who are role models to me and the women in my community.

Nonie Rosalia's daughter, Roseanne Morealli, was the first single mom in my entire family history; she was also the most successful. Nonie Rosie defied tradition by divorcing out of an abusive marriage and standing up for her rights as a woman. She went on to become co-owner of a prominent lamp store in Willow Glen. Now, as a survivor of breast cancer and domestic violence, Nonie Rosie is writing her memoirs.

My mother, Charlene DellaMaggoire has served the San Jose community by working in child care for over 25 years. She has also helped women at the YWCA, families at First Five Santa Clara County, and serves on the Santa Clara County Child Abuse Council.

I first heard about City Year from my mother. I guess it just seemed natural that given my family's history in San Jose, I should be a part of this movement. I didn't begin to recognize the importance of that history until I got to City Year and began telling out-of-state corps members about the story of San Jose.

When City Year is over, and after I complete my college education, I plan on going back to Italy to further trace my roots and continue to enrich the lives of the people around me, just like my family and the people at City Year have enriched mine.

In getting to know City Year, I've been learning things about myself that I always took for granted. For example, I realized that my entire family history is one giant ripple. If it weren't for my ancestors, I may not have found City Year. And if it weren't for City Year, I may not have found ancestors.

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, DALY CITY, BRISBANE AND COLMA

PENINSULA PEOPLE & OPINIONS

Patriotism begins at home

PRESIDENT John F. Kennedy inspired generations of Americans into public service. Thirty years later, our nation continues to accrue international respect from the Peace Corps.

At home, our nation reaps the benefit from AmeriCorps, the

Guest Opinion
BY MIKE NEVIN

domestic volunteer program built on the foundation established by President Kennedy. AmeriCorps offers thousands of patriotic young people the opportunity to serve in communities as mentors and tutors for at-risk youth, stewards of our natural resources and provide enrichment programs to institutionalized elders. Yet the funding for this highly successful program is currently in jeopardy.

Public service builds and strengthens individual and community character. It reaches personal and civic responsibility. With the billions of taxpayer dollars being spent abroad to rebuild war torn countries, the President and Congress need to find the additional \$130 million necessary to fund AmeriCorps scholarships and sustain the program. Without these funds AmeriCorps volunteers will shrink from the current 67,000 to just 13,000 members. Moreover, communities across our nation relying on AmeriCorps volunteers to join them on the front lines fighting poverty, ignorance and illness will have even tougher battles.

When the next generation of Americans asks, "What can I do for my country?" Let's make sure AmeriCorps is an answer.

Mike Nevin is a San Mateo county supervisor.

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL: Timely Help for AmeriCorps

July 17, 2003

Betraying his oft-repeated promise to expand opportunities for meaningful national service, President Bush has not lifted a finger to secure the extra money needed to avoid devastating cuts to AmeriCorps, the federal government's flagship domestic volunteer program. Fortunately, however, Republicans and Democrats in the Senate have now joined together to try to fill the leadership gap.

By an overwhelming margin, the Senate voted last week to provide an extra \$100 million this year to AmeriCorps — a necessary step to spare the agency from having to trim the number of volunteer positions by 20,000.

The broad bipartisan support for the measure signaled recognition of the degree to which local communities have come to rely on the help of eager AmeriCorps members, who each serve up to a year and receive a \$4,725 educational stipend for performing valuable tasks like cleaning up parks or teaching at-risk children. The vote also recognized that punishing cash-strapped localities and the thousands of idealistic young people who have signed up to serve is not the answer to whatever management and accounting problems may have contributed to the current crisis.

Final approval of the crucial funds for AmeriCorps now rests with the House, where Republican leaders seem determined to block the rescue effort. This gives Mr. Bush one final chance on national service issues to reclaim the leadership position that he relinquished by quietly standing aside as Congress slashed his original request — and then by ignoring pleas from communities across the country to include additional financing for AmeriCorps in his latest supplemental budget proposal. By leaning on recalcitrant G.O.P. House leaders to support the Senate measure, the president could reassert his commitment to a noble program.

From: Chris Wilder
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2003 7:31 AM
To: AmeriCorps Task Force
Cc: San Jose Village
Subject: "More work needed to save City Year" - Mercury News Editorial

The Mercury News

The Newspaper of Silicon Valley

More work needed to save City Year

Mercury News Editorial June 26, 2003

City Year will be ramped down but not shut down in San Jose this fall.

The volunteer service program learned Wednesday that it will receive about a third of the \$1.2 million it requested from the government -- enough for 33 people to tutor kids and organize programs in San Jose's neighborhoods.

That's better -- which is what City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley was going to get as of a week ago. But it's far fewer than the 88 positions it sought and deserves. For City Year to get them all, President Bush must speak up for these programs, which he says he favors, and Congress must act quickly.

City Year is in a jam because of a funding and creditability crisis facing AmeriCorps, its government sponsor.

... soon-to-depart head, Leslie Lenkowsky, all bear some blame for bad communication and mixed signals. Over the past two years, AmeriCorps grew, using one set of accounting rules, as Congress, using other assumptions, cut its budget. Bush, meanwhile, called for AmeriCorps' expansion without budgeting more for it.

Last week, Congress took the first step to sorting it out. It settled the accounting dispute, which is why City Year San Jose won't go dark. But it has yet to appropriate an additional \$200 million that AmeriCorps needs to sustain 50,000 volunteers, the current level. Congress is looking to Bush for the go-ahead.

Without more money, City Year will stop working in half of the 11 schools and community centers it's involved with. That would be a double whammy, coming on top of big cuts in state education funding.

"Our partnership is essential for the success of San Jose's youth," wrote Carlos Acosta, principal of Washington School, in a testimonial.

Now is the time for others who back and benefit from City Year to speak out. Especially the president.

Christopher Wilder, Executive Director
City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley



Opening Day a Success as Idealists Answer Call to Service



Hewlett-Packard's Young Heroes Team (from left - right, Katie, Chris, Megan, Paul, Duncan and Ben) take the AmeriCorps Pledge on City Year's first National Opening Day

BY SUZANNA DINGA, PROJECT LEADER

On October 1, at a spirited Opening Day ceremony held at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose, 89 young idealists publicly pledged to serve America as members of the 2002-2003 national City Year Corps.

Corporate sponsors, community leaders, service partners, family and friends joined together to launch the corps

members into 10 months of powerful, transformative service.

Inspiration and support came from the morning's keynote speakers including Assemblywoman Elaine Alquist, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group CEO Carl Guardino, and San Jose Police Chief William Lansdowne, who administered the AmeriCorps Pledge. Immediately

following the ceremony, corps members and community volunteers fanned out to four service sites and provided a total of 300 hours of service.

The City Year community painted one mural, landscaped two elementary school campuses and one community center, assembled food bags, sorted donated clothing, assisted in cleaning a local shelter, and mentored elementary school students in an afterschool program.

October 1, 2002, City Year's first National Opening Day, marks the beginning of a rewarding year. San Jose's 89 young leaders are part of a 1,000 member national corps serving 14 communities across the country, from Seattle to Washington, DC. These idealists have committed to an intense, demanding year of full-time community service, leadership development, and civic engagement.

During the next 10 months, these young leaders will be challenged to discover their leadership potential and make a difference serving local communities and thousands of children in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the entire nation.

Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?

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SERVICE DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH NIELSEN

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MENNE TALIVA'A**

City Year Exchanges Work Boots for Sneakers



City Year partnered with SH to launch the inaugural Silicon Sneakers 5K/10K Race on October 1. Nine City Year runners joined nearly 200 community participants in raising money for health and service. Pictured above are City Year Runners Ben Reitz and Suzanna Dinga.



San Jose/Silicon Valley

Service Opportunities at City Year AmeriCorps Member Positions 2003-2004

We are currently seeking highly committed and talented young leaders for the following AmeriCorps member positions for the next program year that begins August 28, 2003 and ends June 20, 2004. City Year is a team-based program. Each team of 4-6 corps members works with a school, agency, or initiative for the duration of the program year. Team members work together to accomplish the goals and objectives of their service. Applications are due June 15, 2003.

► School Engagement (45-50 positions)

Serve in a school full-time helping students be more successful both academically and socially. Provide tutoring and homework assistance. Design and coordinate structured activities during recess, lunch, and after-school. Mentor individual students. This engages parents and community volunteers to be involved in the school. Assist teachers to incorporate service learning. Set up cross-age tutoring through which older kids tutor younger ones. Help coordinate school-wide projects such as a school play or service day. Improve the climate and culture of the school helping to make it more nurturing, engaging, safe, respectful, creative, and fun. For 2003 - 2004, we plan to place teams in 4 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and one brand new charter high school focused on service and leadership development.

► Young Heroes (12 positions)

Middle school youth service corps

Lead and coordinate our award-winning Young Heroes program, a highly structured and innovative youth service corps for middle school students. Engage over 200 middle school students from throughout Silicon Valley to serve as Young Heroes, for three Saturdays per month for five months. Arrange transformative service and leadership development activities for the Young Heroes, coordinate logistics, secure in-kind donations of food and materials, recruit and train volunteer team leaders, plan retreats and other events. Two teams of corps members will operate two distinct Young Heroes programs, one based in San Jose and another based in the northern part of Santa Clara County. This service assignment has much less structure than most service opportunities and will require tremendous initiative and self-motivation.

► City Heroes (6 positions)

High school service and leadership development program

Lead and coordinate City Heroes, a highly structured service and leadership development program for high school students. Engage over 70 high school students from throughout Silicon Valley to participate in City Heroes for seven months. Arrange transformative service and leadership development activities for the City Heroes, coordinate logistics, secure in-kind donations of food and materials, recruit and train volunteer team leaders, plan retreats and other events.

► Technology Team (5 positions)-

Help to bridge the digital divide by teaching and inspiring children about computer technology. One teamlet serves at the Third Street Community Center in downtown San Jose. They coordinate after-school programs for children and assist with Third Street's Community Computer Lab, which offers technology courses to community residents. The teamlet will serve children and youth and have access to innovative software and computers, which they can use on projects related to their interests. Children learn to program robots, produce music videos, publish web pages, and much more.

► **Civic Engagement Theater (5 positions)–**

This initiative seeks to strengthen our ability to recruit and engage high school and college students through a theater-based curriculum designed to promote the idea and values of civic engagement to audiences of high school and college students. Help create, rehearse, and perform skits and scenes that educate, inform, and inspire. The team receives training and advice from the Red Ladder Theater Company. Once the curriculum is developed, the team arranges and delivers 2-5 performances each week. Each engagement consists of a variety of performances and facilitated discussions. The objective of the curriculum is to instill a greater understanding and commitment to community service, diversity, active civic participation, and community building. The scenes and discussions also touch on various topics relevant to 14-24 year olds. It is phenomenal, and corps members on this team have lots of opportunity for creativity and innovation. It requires a great deal of initiative, flexibility and self-motivation.

In addition to your primary service placement, you will have many extra opportunities to serve and lead. The following are just a few:

Service Opportunities

Young Heroes Team Leader
City Heroes Team Leader
Starfish Corps
Camp City Year. (Spring Break version)

Event Committees

Martin Luther King Day Committee
Cesar Chavez Day Committee
Advanced Training Academy
Graduation

Organizational Committees

Daily Briefing Committee
Culture Committee
Honor Code Committee
Housing Committee
Recruitment Committee
Service Evaluation Committee
Team Sponsor Relations Committee
Signature Service Committee