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San Bernardino Youth Baseball finishes outstanding season



PHOTOS COURTESY/BRANDON PONCE

The San Bernardino Youth Baseball All-Stars have not lost a game thus far in all-star play, with an outstanding 6-0 record. The boys will begin to play in Super Regionals on Thursday in Lakeside, against La Jolla. They are just one of several teams on the league who finished their season with championship wins.

By Cynthia Mendoza

San Bernardino Youth Baseball [a merger between Guadalupe League and Inland Empire Pony Baseball] finished up their season with many

great accomplishments to be proud of.

San Bernardino Youth Baseball is the only Pony League in San Bernardino amongst dozens of Little Leagues. As the all-star play season comes to an end the league

still has two softball teams playing in the World Series in San Jacinto this week and a 14 and Under Pony Division boys team that has not lost a game yet in all-star play, with an outstanding 6-0 record. The boys

Youth, cont. on next page

Time For Change success stories of hope and second chances



PHOTOS/CYNTHIA MENDOZA

Rosemary Franco is just one of many women who have turned their lives around through the Time For Change Foundation program. After severe drug abuse and losing her five children in a custody battle, Franco ended up at TFC where she immersed herself in the various programs. Within months, she was reunited with her children.

By Cynthia Mendoza

Success can take on many different faces depending on the situation and at the Time

For Change Foundation (TFC), success is evidenced by the smiling faces and genuine hope for a better life women experience when they decide to turn their lives around

and seek help to do it. Since its inception in 2003, TFC has helped hundreds of women and their chil-

Change, cont. on next page

Workforce Investment Board recruiting 503 youth for training and employment assistance program

The County of San Bernardino Workforce Investment Board announced that it is accepting applications for its youth training and employment assistance program. The program has 503 openings for youth ages 17 to 21.

Participating youth will receive mentorship, resume assistance, soft skills and vocational training, and work experience opportunities. The County of San Bernardino will provide all training and services at no cost to participants. The program begins July 1, 2013 and ends June 30, 2014. A second year of follow up services will help youth achieve goals set in the first year of the program.

“As a youth provider, we are investing in the future workforce,” said Russell Degnan, Executive Director for Operation New Hope. “Partnering with the Workforce Investment Board to serve these young people is rewarding today and a great benefit to our economy.”

Thirteen local organizations will serve as youth providers, working directly with youth to build work readiness skills. These organizations include the Apple Valley Unified School District, Career Institute, Chino Valley Unified School District, Colton Redlands Yucaipa Regional Occupational Program, Family Service Association, First Institute, Gang Reduction Intervention Team, Goodwill Industries Southern California, Hesperia Unified School District, Mojave River Academy, Needles Center for Change, Operation New Hope, and the Provisional Accelerated Learn

“The youth employment program builds the skills necessary to find jobs in San Bernardino County’s in-demand job sectors,” says Sandy Harmsen, Executive Director for the County of San Bernardino Workforce Investment Board. “This reduces the skills gap, ensures our young residents will have jobs, and strengthens the economy.”

To qualify for the program, applicants should be ages 17 to 21 and have significant barriers to employment.

For information or to apply, contact 1 (800) 451-JOBS or visit www.csb-win.org.

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PHOTOS COURTESY/BRANDON PONCE

San Bernardino Youth Baseball 12 and Under Girls Softball, West Zone Softball Champs.

will begin to play in Super Regionals on Thursday in Lakeside, against La Jolla. They are also five games away from going to the World Series, depending on how they do in the upcoming games.

According to league manager Brandon Ponce, San Bernardino Youth Baseball has also won the most flags of any youth program in the city.

“For the first time in our league’s or any league’s history, we have an all four-year-old team winning a flag,” Ponce said proudly of the youngest players. “Our seven and eight-year old Pinto Division boys also won a flag and both of our 14 and under teams have combined to win 3 flags.”

The 12 and under and 14 and

under girls have also won a flag, which equals a total of seven flags and counting for the league.

“These accomplishments by our boys and girls have put San Bernardino Youth Baseball and Softball on the map,” Ponce said.

San Bernardino Youth Baseball has 35 teams with about 500 kids ranging in ages from four to 18. Ponce attributes the league’s recent successes to the dedication and hard work of the coaching staff, who enter their teams into off season tournaments to get them prepared for the upcoming season, among other factors.

And while the league has had no major issues or challenges at this time, they would like to work on having access to more fields. Cur-

rently they use six fields throughout the city, which between 35 teams and 500 kids, can be a challenge for parents. But Ponce said he’d like to work something out with the city to have regular use of more fields. Their home field is the Sal Saavedra field on 8th and Mt. Vernon. The league shares infield and outfield maintenance duties with the city.

“We hope the city can support us in an upgrade or that we can work with other organizations,” Ponce said.

For more information on San Bernardino Youth Baseball email Brandon Ponce at bponce44@msn.com or call him at (909) 534-6141.



PHOTOS COURTESY/BRANDON PONCE

San Bernardino Youth Baseball Pony District Champions Southeast Region.



PHOTOS COURTESY/BRANDON PONCE

San Bernardino Youth Baseball Shetland 4 District Champions Southeast Region.

Pee Wee T-Ball registration underway

The City of San Bernardino Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department is offering Pee Wee Flag Football for youth ages 4 – 7 years. The program includes instruction in flag football fundamentals, basic skills, practice, and games. The Department will be taking registrations from July 15, 2013, through August 24, 2013. Fees are \$35.00 for city residents and \$38.50 for non-residents. Fee includes a T-shirt, an award, and six weeks of play. Parents may register their child and coaches may register their teams at the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Main Office located at 201 North ‘E’ Street, Suite 301, or at your local community center. For additional information on this program and other Youth Sports programs, please call (909) 384-5420.



PHOTOS/CYNTHIA MENDOZA

Shelvon Barnhart is currently the Data Entry Specialist at TFC, a position offered to her by TFC founder/executive director Kim Carter. She first came to TFC she was tearful and in pain after a life of so much loss, struggle and hopelessness and couldn’t find work because of her incarceration record. She wasn’t even sure of TFC would be able to help her.

Change cont. from front

dren turn their lives around after living on the street, abuse or incarceration.

This article showcases in just a few brief words, the stories of three of these women.

Rosemary Franco was devastated by the loss of her five children in a custody battle. She was also battling what appeared to be a never-ending drug addiction. She had tried many different options, such as sober living facilities but nothing seemed to work. The loss of her children gave her the motivation and courage to change her life so she wouldn’t permanently lose her children “to the system”. At TFC, she immersed herself in the various programs, workshops, and classes including parenting, job readiness, and family reunification. After a few weeks Franco her life begin to change and eventually, she was overjoyed with the news that she would be reunited with three of her children and six months later she regained full custody of the remaining two.

Today, she and her children have transitioned top TFC’s Homes of Hope project where the family lives in their own apartment with hope of a better life for mom and children.

Crystal Villegas was addicted to meth on and off for nine years and not even a pregnancy could curb her addiction. She was living a life of utter hopelessness and despair, in and out of treatment programs. Villegas began her program at TFC by living in the Sweet Dreams home, a place that provided structure, stability and nurturing. She took parenting classes, learned money management skills and also learned how to prevent future drug relapses. After four months she and her toddler Eric

transitioned to Homes of Hope project and is gainfully employed as a secretary assistant. Her dream is to major in sociology.

Shelvon Barnhart is currently the Data Entry Specialist at TFC, but her life wasn’t always this structured or stable. Barnhart, the mother of four children ranging in ages from 19 to three, had spent part of her life in prison and in and out of drug rehab programs.

She first came to TFC she was tearful and in pain after a life of so much loss, struggle and hopelessness. She wasn’t even sure of TFC would be able to help her. But within a few weeks she began to change inside and within a year her life was a completely different one than it had been a year before.

In spite of her transformation, she still had a hard time finding work due to her incarceration record, but that doesn’t stop her from ‘pounding the pavement’ in search of work, even if it meant taking the bus on rainy days. By now she was also a TFC volunteer and one day, she got the biggest and most pleasant surprise of her life: TFC founder/executive director Kim Carter offered her a job!

“If you’re very serious about wanting to change your life and getting yourself together, then Time for Change is where you need to be,” Barnhart advises other women who may be facing trying circumstances.

“These women have the desire to change the course of their lives,” said John Kunkel, TFC Director of Communications. “Our job is to ensure that we are providing them with the tools, education, and resources necessary to help them attain self-sufficiency.”

For more information on TFC visit their website at timeforchange.org or call (909) 886-2994