

## Notes from Mary Patterson, Executive Director

Project Cornerstone's 3rd Annual Asset Champions Breakfast, held March 1st, was a resounding success! Over 700 people attended the awards event and left inspired by the achievements of this year's Asset Champions, as well as the heartfelt and timely message of keynote speaker, San José Police Chief, Rob Davis.

My gratitude for the success of this event extends to you - the hundreds of individuals who comprise this important movement in Santa Clara County. Many of you were able to attend the Breakfast; a few of you were celebrated at the Breakfast; and still many more of you are simply "doing it" - building assets in youth and encouraging others to do the same. Thank you.

The Asset Champions honored at this year's Breakfast included Nikki Pritchard, Mario Contreras & Adam Malacara for Positive Peer Influence; Willow Glen Elementary School and Bret Harte Middle School for Caring School Climate; Jennifer Moyan-Logan for Positive Adult Role Model; Children's Musical Theater for Community Values Youth; and Louise Gill for Positive Cultural Identity. I invite you to visit our website to view short videos describing why each person was selected as a 2006 Asset Champion.

Finally, it is important to mention our Breakfast sponsors, who enable us to put on an event that is rich in program, plentiful in amenities, and worthy of the awardees we honor: FIRST 5, Greater Bay Bancorp, Intel, YMCA of the Mid Peninsula, YMCA of Santa Clara Valley, and the Youth Alliance of Santa Clara County.

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**Cornerstone Clubs are Making a Difference!**

## Springtime Asset Building Tips



## PROJECT CORNERSTONE

April Showers bring May flowers - and many opportunities to build assets with the youth in your lives outdoors. Here are some ways to connect with a young person this Spring from our partners at **Hooked on Nature**:

- Take frequent walks together. Look for signs of new growth.
- Plant a garden together.
- Explore the tide pools at "Natural Bridges State Park" in Santa Cruz.
- Take easy camping trips or day hikes to the beach,



Student teams that attended one of Project Cornerstone's "Expect Respect" workshops this year are doing some amazing work at their schools:

**O.B. Whaley Elementary, Evergreen School District**

Cornerstone Advisor: Frances Finlayson

Students took the five techniques they learned from the "Gum In My Hair" video and put them to use in skits during a school assembly. Students were also recommended, selected, and trained to be on the school Peace Patrol to help promote and remind fellow students to be positive role models. Peace Patrol works during recess and lunch hours to help deter bullying behaviors and promote a peaceful play time.

**Booksin Elementary, San Jose Unified School District**

Cornerstone Advisor: Nancy Medina  
Fun Friday Coordinator: Barbara Bremner

Students started a Junior Buddy Program where 4th and 5th grade students have been paired up with 1st-3rd grade buddies to build a positive connection. Buddies greet each other in the morning and at lunch time and exchange encouraging words and the 4th and 5th graders demonstrate their leadership skills as positive role models. Students and parents have also collaborated to host "Fun Friday" activities. Parent volunteers along with student leaders run games, arts and crafts, and field activities for students during the lunch hour to end their week on a positive note and build a fun school community.

**Country Lane Elementary, Moreland School District**

Cornerstone Advisor: Heidi Schuman

Students have created a Cornerstone Wall that displays student projects from individual classes on a 2-week rotating basis. Student projects are based around the theme of promoting a positive school environment. This is a great way to bring Asset # 5 "Caring School Climate" to life!

mountains, the forest.

- Bring children to a Farmer's Market and let them experience different foods and colors. Talk about where these foods were grown.
- Volunteer together to clear and clean creek beds.
- Eat outdoors and enjoy the sunshine.



**Quick Links...**

[Buy a "Recipes for Life" cookbook](#)

[Tips for connecting with youth outdoors](#)

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**Los Dichos Madres in the News**

Los Dichos Moms is one of Project Cornerstone's fastest growing school programs and, thanks to Luis Zaragoza of the San Jose Mercury News, it is gaining national attention!

Luis wrote a fabulous story about Los Dichos, which made the front page of the Mercury News on March 6. As a result, the story was picked up by other publications and we are receiving calls from educators as far away as Florida who want to start similar programs in their schools. We're thrilled by this widespread interest and look forward to seeing Los Dichos continue to blossom here and throughout the country!

[Click here to read the full SJMN article](#)

### Sign up Now for the Volunteer Brunch



Project Cornerstone will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Brunch in May in order to honor all of our parent volunteers. As part of our continuing theme of "Recipes for Life" we will be celebrating with recipes from our new Project Cornerstone Cookbook.

In addition, Colleen Wilcox, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, will be our featured speaker. We hope all parent volunteers will plan to join us!

**When: Tuesday, May 16th from 9:30am to 11:30am**

**Where: The United Way Building**

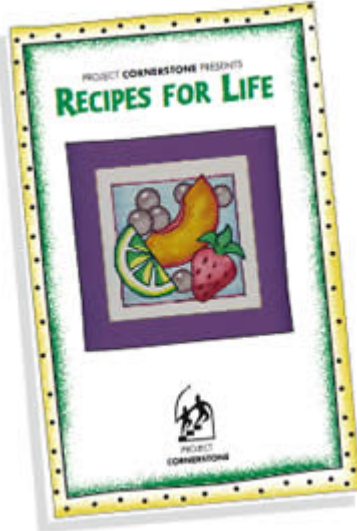
**1922 The Alameda**

**San Jose CA 95126**

Please RSVP to Lori Maitiski at (408) 351- 6457 or [lmaitiski@scvymca.org](mailto:lmaitiski@scvymca.org).

### "Recipes for Life"

Project Cornerstone unveiled its first cookbook at the Third Annual Asset Champions Breakfast. With nearly 250 pages of delicious recipes, family pictures, whimsical illustrations and heartwarming stories, "Recipes for Life" is a true labor of love created by the entire community. In fact, the cookbook publisher was so impressed with our book that she flew all the way from New York to be with us at the breakfast.



At just \$19.95 + plus shipping/handling per copy, "Recipes for Life" is a wonderful, affordable gift for teachers, for Mother's Day, for birthdays, and of course, for yourself! All proceeds go right back to Project Cornerstone so that we can continue to share the assets message and help our children and youth thrive. Supplies are limited so order your copies today and start cooking up some fun with a young person in your life!

**To purchase your cookbook today...**

web: <http://www.projectcornerstone.org>

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