



Meeting the CHALLENGE

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Challengers Boys & Girls Club of South Central Los Angeles

SUMMER 2008



Challengers Celebrates 40 years of Service



If, as the saying goes, life begins at 40, then Challengers is just getting started!

This year marks our 40th anniversary serving the children and families of South Los Angeles. Founded in the back of Lou Dantzler's pickup truck with 12 aimless, fatherless boys who needed something positive to do to stay out of trouble, the Club has since grown to a sprawling four-acre facility which has since served more than 30,000 boys and girls, providing them a safe place to play, learn and acquire the skills and confidence they need to make positive life choices.

However, we wouldn't be where we are today without the literally thousands of supporters who have been there every step of the way. From our very first supporter, businessman Toby Walker, who helped Lou organize the Club and chaired its first board, to all the other individuals, foundations, corporations, public officials, celebrities, parents, alumni and others, we are so grateful to all who have given so much to ensure the children of this community have a positive alternative to the streets. To all

of you, we salute you and thank you for your tremendous support. Without you there would be no tennis center, radio station, leadership program, summer job program, charter school, computer lab, sports program or free dental clinic.

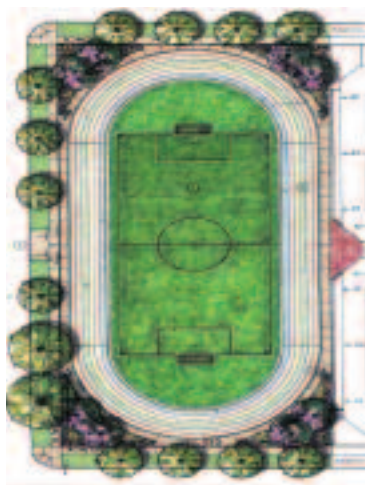
Challengers supporter Magic Johnson, once said, "If it wasn't for Challengers, where would these kids be?" Luckily, thanks to you,

the children of South LA won't have to find out. To commemorate our 40th year and to honor the commitment of our founder, Challengers, with a generous donation from the Roger S. Firestone Foundation, has created the **Lou Dantzler Memorial Fund**, which, when it reaches its goal, will ensure the sustainability and financial stability of Challengers for 40 more years and beyond. Funds raised at our upcoming gala celebration (see back page) to commemorate our 40th Anniversary on October 21, 2008 will go towards this fund, so our future generations will always have a place to go, and a place to grow.

Challengers is constructing an Olympic-style Track & Field facility, complete with soccer pitch and shade trees, slated to begin construction in Summer, 2008, to give this community's children a safe place to run, play and learn valuable teamwork and fitness skills. This new facility, which will also be accessible to the greater community, will allow us to expand and enhance our sports programs and recreational activities we offer. Currently, our members have hard, blacktop surfaces on which to play, which sets limits on the types of sports and recreation we can offer, as well as the number of children we can offer them to. Thus, with the addition of our Track & Field, we will be able to augment our Sports & Rec programs by offering traditional track and field programs, plus soccer, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, as well as walking clubs and community league play, all which will aid us in our efforts to provide our members – as well as the community at large – the tools necessary to both combat obesity and adopt healthy, fit lifestyle habits they can carry with them through their lives. For naming opportunities please contact Kathleen Felesina at 323-971-6161 x249

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Donor Spotlight

2



In 1991, after encountering Challengers members on an outing at a local ice skating rink, Lisa Firestone, treasurer of the Firestone Foundation, was so impressed with the Club and its members that she decided to get involved with the Club and has since become one of its most ardent supporters and active board members. In fact, since that day, **the Firestone Foundation, under Lisa's direction, has contributed \$1,000,000 to the Club!** This includes the Foundation's seeding the Lou Dantzler Memorial Fund in 2006 – an endowment fund that, once it reaches its goal, will ensure that Challengers and its vital programs will have a steady, sustainable source of funding for the future.

"I don't know where we would be without Lisa," observes Challengers President Corey Dantzler. "Not only has her family's foundation supported us financially, but her knowledge, experience and positive attitude helps me tremendously as well. She is also one of our most active board members, having recruited on two other board members, one of whom has made our Taft Boarding School scholarship program a reality. Her contributions to Challengers are invaluable."

In addition to the support Challengers receives from the Firestone Foundation as a result of her dedication, Lisa also donates funds personally to the organization as well as her time, often getting to know individual members and staff, helping them achieve their goals and dreams.

Thank you, Lisa!

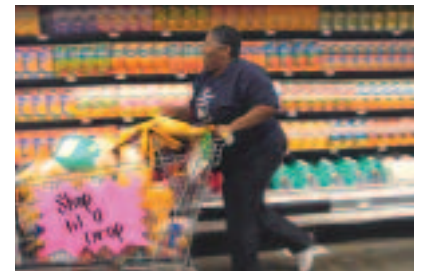
Special Thanks



On April 1, 2008 **The Walt Disney Company** gave a \$235,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Los Angeles

and Orange Counties. As a part of this contribution Challengers Boys & Girls Club, along with each of the other 43 Clubs in the countries, received a \$5,000 donation from Disney toward program support and 50 tickets to Disneyland Resort. "It was such an honor to be one of the clubs to receive this donation," said Corey Dantzler, Challengers President/CEO. Disney will continue to support the Clubs through the Company's VolunTEAR efforts as Disney VolunTEARS remain on hand helping to facilitate year round club projects and events.

Three lucky parents went on a shopping spree at Food 4 Less on April 19th! Participants bought tickets for a chance to win one of 3 prizes: 1st place winner had 120 seconds to fill up their shopping cart, 2nd place 90 seconds, and 3rd 60 seconds. This event is our way of showing our appreciation to the parents, members and families that support Challengers Boys & Girls Club throughout the year as well as raise money for our Club. **Sincere thanks to Dave Hirz, President of Food 4 Less**, for donating the groceries and to the staff at Food 4 Less on Slauson Ave., thank you for welcoming us and making it such a wonderful event.



Special thanks to Zeta Rho Foundation, Charles Franklin of Honda, Fred Abdelnour and Elizabeth Eckel of Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Norm Nixon, Sam Williams, Calvin Sweeney, Melvin Jackson, Deacon Jones, and Rod Martin for participating in The 2nd Annual Champions of Golf Invitational. Thanks to all the golfers and sponsors, this event was a hole in one raising over \$50,000 for Challengers Boys & Girls Club and Zeta Rho Foundation.

Events & Development News

Smart & Final Presents Challengers 40th Annual Pancake Breakfast Saturday, July 19th 2008 7:00am-Noon



Challengers Boys & Girls Club will open its doors to neighbors, community organizations, Club members, and their families to come enjoy delicious food, make new friends, and learn about the Club. We will also present a Dental Fair, complete with free screenings, in order to raise awareness of oral hygiene and to celebrate our in-

house no cost Crest Smile Shoppe dental clinic.

Last year, we served nearly 1,500 neighbors, friends and Club alumni at this wildly popular event. Tickets for the event, which are available at the door, are only \$3.00, includes a hearty serving of pancakes, eggs, sausage, potatoes, juice and coffee. There will be carnival games, dunk tank, raffles, prizes, and more! Carnival tickets can be purchased the day of the event at our ticket booth. For more info on this event or sponsorship opportunities, call Joann Socrates at 323-971-6161 x252 or visit our website at www.cbgcla.org

Sponsorship Opportunities

Grand Slam \$1,000
Light -n- Fluffy \$275

Double Stacked \$500
Vendor Booth \$175

Sports Day Saturday, August 9th 2008



Forty years ago, on a sunny summer day in Griffith Park, one hundred South LA kids got together for a day of competition, fun and games. That day was Challengers first Sports Day. Since then this end-of-summer competition has become a highly anticipated

annual event at our Club and is the perfect finale to Challengers' summer program. The goal is for members to learn teamwork, good sportsmanship, become physically fit and have fun!

Challengers divides the entire Club into 3 color teams and have team activities for 2 weeks prior to Sports Day. They receive points ranging from 500 to 1,000 for each event. At the end of competition on Sports Day, the team which has the most points is declared the winning team for the year. Their photo and team name is placed on the Sports Day trophy and they are recorded in the Challengers Boys & Girls Club History.

Challengers Grand Opening of New Site: Ujima Village Boys & Girls Club



From Left Deputy Marlon Williams, Betsy Lindsay, RaShaan Davis, Unit Director of Ujima Village, Esther Keosababian, Corey Dantzler, CEO of Challengers.

On Thursday, April 24th Challengers Boys & Girls Club of South Los Angeles proudly celebrated the opening of their new site: **Ujima Village Boys & Girls Club**. "We're so proud to have the opportunity to extend the reach of our after school programs to the families of Ujima Village," says Challengers Executive Director Corey Dantzler. "We are pleased by all the interest our new site has received and look forward to providing our newest members our

Member Spotlight



Jo' Visha McGee has been a member at Challengers for 4 years and is currently enrolled in Lou Dantzer Preparatory Charter High School where she is on the honor roll. "When she first came to the Club Jo' Visha was really shy and because of our leadership programs and her willingness to learn and grow, I think she is a fine example of what we do here at Challengers," says Mark Dantzer, Program Director. Jo' Visha is also involved in our Video Program as a camera operator, Loop Dreams, and has shown her leadership skills in our Leaders In Training Program (L.I.T). There was also an article on her titled "School Pride" in the March-April issue of L.A. Youth newspaper which you can find online at layouth.com. Great job Jo' Visha and we will continue to watch you grow into a successful adult!

signature leadership, recreation, and education programs." Special thanks to Betsy Lindsay and Esther Keosababian of the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles Housing Management Division for their support in making this happen. RaShaan Davis, Unit Director of Ujima Village Boys & Girls Club, and a ten-year veteran of Boys & Girls Clubs is so excited to start working with youth ages 6-17 and give them a much needed opportunity to join a club that builds self-esteem, citizenship and leadership skills. As we plan for the continued future of Ujima Village we are committed to providing youth with a safe place to go and grow.



**CHALLENGERS
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

5029 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90037

In Memoriam

Founder, Lou Dantzler

**President/CEO,
Corey Dantzler**

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Challengers Quarterly Newsletter

Save the Date

Tuesday, October 21st 2008

Hosted by Don Cheadle

Featuring a
Musical Performance
by Jackson Browne
and other Surprise Guests!

Together with the Inner City Education Foundation and Success through the Arts Foundation we present to you an Inspirational Gala celebrating Challengers' 40th year, and the importance of motivating our youth to Dream big, Believe in themselves & Achieve their goals.

For more info visit www.cbgcla.org



DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE
AN INSPIRATION GALA