



The Janet Aiko Sekiguchi Foundation

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Hi everyone,

April 2009

As our thoughts turn again to Janet this April, we wanted to share some of the things the Board has been working on, with your support. On October 12, 2008, we held our first two public events in Janet's honor: a community service day at The Family Center in East Palo Alto, and a picnic in the Stanford Oval. We're pleased that both of them went really well!

First we headed to The Family Center, a non-profit organization started by Stanford alums (and friends of Janet's) Annie Pan Cheng and Lawrence Cheng. The Center is located off of the 101 Embarcadero exit, just down the street from Stanford and around the corner from lush landscaped yards and posh houses of Menlo Park. Here, the houses are closer together, and there are several apartment complexes on the street, occupied by mostly Latino residents.

The Family Center suggested that we do a grocery-bag giveaway, as people in the community were feeling the pinch of the economic downturn. We decided to add a fun faire and ice cream social. Lots of familiar faces were there to help out. Melody and her two sons helped fill grocery bags. Johnny entertained the boys with basketball and soccer, while Desiree and Ashley painted kids' faces. Tom and Mimi set up a game and prizes, and Tilden was everywhere, lending a hand. We offered craft projects too, and kids of all ages enjoyed painting a wooden picture frame or decorating a T-shirt. Andrew and Sal applied their elbow grease to cream to kids and groceries, Sal had gathered group friend Janet, who and serving others. full of rice, beans, The volunteers at of their best- Thank you for all of your donations, which allowed us to bless this community in material ways!



deliver dozens of scoops of ice parents. Before we distributed the a chance to explain in Spanish to the that we were there in honor of our loved working in the community We then handed out 20 bags chock-corn, cooking oil, and other staples. The Family Center said it was one attended and best-run events.



Afterwards, we gathered on the grassy lawn in the Oval for a picnic. It was a perfect fall day, with blue skies and Hoover Tower in the background. Heather, Grace, Chee Chee, Ian, and Kim joined us. We shared lunch and had a chance to talk about Janet. It was a good time just to be with others who remembered Janet, at a place that held so many memories for all of us.



In addition to the October events, we've been working to select the new recipient of this year's JASF grant. As mentioned in our last letter, Matt Davis, who received grants for each of the last two years, completed his service as a teacher at World Impact school in Los Angeles. He was so appreciative of our support – he told us that JASF was his single biggest donor. Without your contributions, this was one teacher who would have had a harder time, financially, doing what he felt called to do.

This year we are excited to award the \$1,000 JASF grant to Judson Bouchard. He was born in San Diego, grew up in Riverside, and attended Santa Clara University. He now serves with World Impact as a fifth-grade teacher at Los Angeles Christian School, where he also volunteers as a coach in an after school soccer program. He writes, "I am a mentor, a disciple maker, a counselor, a mediator, and a leader who must lead by example. This is what is at the core of what I feel urban education is all about. Jesus, in the gospel of Matthew, tells us that 'whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for (His) sake will find it.' As Christians, we are called to 'loosen the cords of injustice,' and I am excited that through the work I am doing, I can pursue the ideals of social justice through education." To read more about Judson, including his background and testimony, check out janetsekiguchi.org/grants.

He adds this note: "It was very interesting reading about Janet. She is only five days older than me! I was born September 8, 1976! I also have a family member close to me who has suffered with mental illness for the past 10 years. It is just neat to see what a big God we have! My housemate, Isaac, is the son of the family that helped start the school Janet taught at (Kings Academy) in Sunnyvale. As I read through her bio, I kept asking myself, "Do I know her?" I even asked my roommate if he knew her, but he didn't. The dates that she passed away in 2002 wouldn't have put us in the same place at the same time."

We are excited to support Judson's ministry as a teacher at L.A. Christian School, and hope you are too! Please consider another donation this year so we can continue to honor Janet's commitment to social justice and urban education.

Very truly yours,

Valerie Hsieh Chu

P.S. Grace recently stepped down from the Board, leaving us short one Board member. Would you consider serving in this way? Please contact any of us individually or through the email in the letterhead if you're interested!