

WootenNews

Founder's Perspective:



Myrtle Faye Rumph

Dear Friends:

What a wonderful evening! More than 200 Wooten Center supporters joined us at Hollywood Park to honor some of the people who've made enormous contributions to our success. A Wooten Center thanks to David and Elizabeth McFadzean; Sandra Evers-Manley and Northrop Grumman; and volunteers Richard & Mary Talley and Richard & Judy Bort. Your generosity of money, time and spirit has positively affected hundreds of youths. Thanks also to our dinner guests and those who made generous contributions. We raised more than \$50,000, and I'm already looking forward to next year.

For me, the evening's most encouraging moment came in the words of Cordell Gamble, a 16-year old tutor at the Center. Cordell was shot recently in the leg as he left his home, and he now walks with a cane. He told of his commitment to continue tutoring, despite this temporary setback, and how helping others has ignited his desire to excel in school. This is the kind of character and determination the Wooten Center instills in its youth every day. Your support gives Cordell Gamble, and many like him, the opportunity to reach their full potential. I urge you to send a donation today – you may just inspire a life like Cordell's.

Catch the Vision! Dinner Honors McFadzeans, Northrop Grumman and Volunteers

More than 200 Wooten Center supporters attended the 'Catch the Vision!' Awards Dinner in the Pavilion at Hollywood Park, honoring long-time supporters David and Elizabeth McFadzean, the Northrop Grumman Corporation and two families of dedicated volunteers. The dinner, along with a silent and live auction, raised more than \$50,000 for after-school programming at the Wooten Center in South Central Los Angeles.

David McFadzean, a television and movie producer who co-created the *Home Improvement* series, and whose movie credits include 'Where the Heart Is' and 'What Women Want', and his wife, Elizabeth, received the Center's Outstanding Donor Award for many years of substantial support. The McFadzeans make an annual commitment to the Center and support the Wooten Golf Classic annually. Wooten Center Board Chairperson Ron Glass announced that the Center's main facility will be renamed 'The David & Elizabeth McFadzean Building'.

see 'Catch the Vision!' page 4

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: THE ERNEST LOVE STORY

I want to see Faye; she saved my life."

With those words, Ernest Love completed an 14-year journey from homeless child to college student and parent – all with the help of the Wooten Center.

The son of a homeless, drug-addicted mother and an absent father, 7-year-old Ernest Love stumbled into the Wooten Center during its early days in

1990. Encouraged by founder Faye Rumph, the young boy began spending every day at the Center, for the first time finding people who nurtured his intellect and his soul. However, unknown to Faye, each night when the Center closed, the little boy was forced to curl up and sleep in a cardboard box in a nearby alley.

see 'From Darkness to Light', page 4



Mother Liz, Sabrina Love, Analisa Love, Ernest Love & Faye

Al Wooten Jr. Heritage Center

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Awards \$25,000 to Education Program

The Best Buy Children's Foundation has become one of the Wooten Center's newest supporters, providing a \$25,000 grant for the Center's Education Program, specifically to fund use of its Computer Lab for instruction and other supplemental activities.

Based in Minneapolis, the Best Buy Children's Foundation is dedicated to enhance kids' learning experiences through the use of innovative interactive technology.

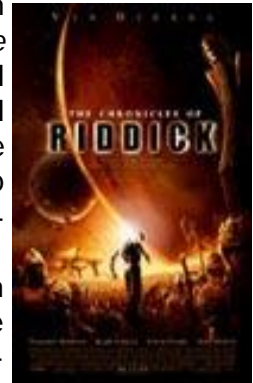
Best Buy joins the Crail-Johnson Foundation in becoming two of the Education Program's major supporters. Several other past supporters of the Wooten Center have also provided financial support in 2004, including the Streisand Foundation, Lon V. Smith Foundation, Northrop Grumman, Hawthorne Savings and the Wells Fargo Foundation.

A *Wooten Center* thanks to both new and continuing supporters.



Wooten Center to Benefit from Vin Diesel's 'The Chronicles of the Riddick'

Vin Diesel, the action star of such films as *Fast and Furious*, *XXX* and *Saving Private Ryan*, recently chose the Wooten Center to receive proceeds from the premiere of his newest movie, *The Chronicles of Riddick*. Hosted by Universal Pictures and One Race Films at Universal City on June 3, 2004, funds from the event will help set up the Wooten Film Program.



The Wooten Film Program will give Wooten youth the opportunity to learn about the art form of film and to use their increasing literacy and computer skills to develop vocational skills applicable to the entertainment and corporate film industries. Contact Linda Broadous Miles at 323-756-7203 if you're interested in helping to fund the Wooten Film Program or contributing your professional expertise through presentations or hands-on training.

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A Wooten Center

"Thank You!"

To all Our Sponsors

Older Youth 'Stay Cool' at Wooten Teen Center



Several recent surveys suggest that attendance in after-school programs drops off as youths enter their teenage years. The Wooten Center began addressing this need a year ago with the establishment of its Teen & Young Adult Center in its corner building.

The Teen Center provides programming and an environment more relevant to high-school youths, according to Teen Center Director Rick Holland. At the same time, it allows the Wooten Center to provide more focused recreational and educational programs for its younger youth.

"Let's face it, high-school kids don't consider it real cool to be hanging out with eight and nine year olds", Holland says, "To keep them excited about the Wooten Center, we set up an area they can call their own". In addition to a lounge area and mini-computer lab, Holland teaches a Life Skills class. Other classes that emphasize homework assistance, college preparedness, job preparedness, topical debates and social etiquette are taught by volunteers. This program also includes field trips and in house movie days.

"We are always looking for organizations to partner with in providing innovative programs", Holland notes. Contact Rick Holland at 323-756-7203 to learn more about collaborating with the Teen Center or sponsoring a field trip.



Teen Center Director Rick Holland teaches a weekly Life Skills Class.

On the Honor Roll!



Jennifer Njoku

The Wooten Center's Jennifer Njoku, an 8th grader at Henry Clay Middle School, received a Letter of Achievement and High Honors based on the 3.5 GPA she earned on her spring report card. Jennifer has augmented her hard work in school by using the Wooten Center's Computer Lab to type her papers and do Internet research, and the Ella Fitzgerald Library and Rhino Entertainment Study Hall to get assistance with school projects and homework. The Wooten Center joins Henry Clay principal Dr. Christopher Ziegel in congratulating Jennifer on her outstanding achievement.

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Sandra J. Evers-Manley, director of Workforce Diversity at Northrop-Grumman, was honored with the Center's Corporate Award. Evers-Manley and Northrop Grumman have supported the Wooten Center with grants for six years. Evers-Manley presented an additional \$5,000 contribution at the dinner.

Mary and Dick Talley & Judi and Richard Bort received Volunteer Service Awards. The Talleys have tutored Wooten youth for more than 10 years, and the Borts were instrumental in establishing the Center's Ella Fitzgerald Library.

The Wooten Center thanks the following premium sponsors: Merrill Lynch; Los Angeles World Airport; Union Bank; and Northrop Grumman. See page 3 for a complete list of Catch the Vision sponsors.

'From Darkness to Light' from page 1

Eventually, the Center helped get Ernest into a foster home, and the little boy was lucky enough to continue attending the Center. Even better, his mother managed to "get clean", reclaim her son and move to a new area. For several years, the Wooten Center didn't hear from him.

But last month, July 2004, a 21-year-old Ernest Love sparked a joyous and tearful reunion when he returned to the Wooten Center... with his mother, his wife and a 3-year-old daughter. Unrecognized by staff members, he explained that he was a business major at Santa Ana College and a volunteer working with troubled youths through his church. And then he said simply: "I want to see Faye. She saved my life."

You can realize tax advantages by donating STOCK to the Wooten Center. Contact Linda Miles at (323) 756-7203 at the Wooten Center to learn more.

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