

THE WILLOW CANYON FOUNDATION UPDATE

Winter/Spring

2009

Nine Scholarships Available to Utah Students

- Entry Deadline is Approaching for Essays -

The Freedom Scholarship is an essay contest that invites Utah high school seniors to explore the values upon which America was founded. The deadline is approaching for essay submissions, so please, **help us spread the word to any students you know**. It can be difficult to secure funds for education these days, so we hope that many students will take advantage of this opportunity, and pursue further education.

Entries must be sent in by April 15, 2009 so our scholarship board may read them and select the winners. The winners will receive a cash award to be used to further their education. Awards range in size from \$250 to \$1000. Students wishing to enter should select a speech from our Great American Speeches CD set to write about. Suggested questions to address can be found on our website, as can further information about the program, www.willowcanyon.org. Of course you can always contact us with any questions as well.

The goal of this scholarship program is to get people talking about ideas and principals. We hope for a dinner table discussion between parents and children, family and friends about why these ideas matter and how they have shaped our country and how they are expressed today.

In February, our office manager Annie Parks attended a meeting of social studies specialists at the state school board. She was able to make a small presentation about the Freedom Scholarship and to share the Great American Speeches CD. Most of the school districts in the state were represented and all were very receptive to the program.

She handed out copies of the CD for them to take back to their schools. We look forward to reading the entries and are awaiting their arrival.



We Have Moved!

We moved to a new office in February.
Please update us in your contacts list.

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Sandy, UT 84070

New School is Bringing New Opportunities

Recently Willow Canyon participated in a service trip to Mexico with Foundation Escalera, one of our charitable partners to build a middle school. Alane Kester was on that trip and she has shared her experience with us.

Reported By Alane Kester:

Our group traveled to Chiapas, Mexico the day after Christmas. Early the next morning our group of 40 climbed into the back of 3 high-walled trucks and drove 2 hours on dirt roads to the mountain village of Pajalton Bajo. Approaching the village we felt a bit like celebrities, with all the kids lining both sides of the road to welcome us and shake our hands. We were greeted by the entire village with music and lunch prepared by the men. The women looked on from the sidelines, barefoot and dressed in colorful shawls.

After setting up “camp”, it was still early enough for us to start work. We worked on 3 different projects: assembling the middle school, making a soccer field and building eco-stoves. With the help of a local crew, the building teams were able to complete the 6 classroom and 2 bathroom school. Previously, only elementary school was available. Students were then forced to travel out of town or their education ended there.



Alane and Domingo enjoying the clean air and new stove.



Women of the village look on at the festivities.



The building crew hard at work on the middle school.



Celebrating their new school with a traditional dance.

Many of the children who didn't continue with school started families at age 13 or 14. I hope that this new middle school will change that and that more children will continue their educations and create a better future.

I was on one of the stove building teams. The locals lived in adobe houses with dirt floors and cooked on an open fire with no ventilation. My teammate Sean and I worked in the home of a 90 year old man named Domingo. He was skeptical at first, but good naturedly went along with it. When finished, the stove stood about 3 feet tall with a metal plate on top, and best of all, it had a chimney to move the smoke outside.

For the soccer field our teams cleared out many huge boulders and hauled in dirt. Our work resulted in a playable area that excited everyone in the village. Prior to this, Pajalton Bajo had no flat ground to play. Everyone turned out on our final day for a game between the villagers and the volunteers. The villagers won!

This trip was an incredible experience. I would love to return some day and see the progress hopefully made by our work.

Meet Maria: One of the lives you have helped change

Maria is the first woman from Pajalton Bajo to ever attend college. In this village, women are not offered the basic opportunities that we so often take for granted. The story of her struggle to attain an education is remarkable: walking for hours to school, working as a maid for less than 50 cents a day to support herself, and rigorously studying to attain her excellent grades.

We met Maria this past winter while helping to build a middle school in her village and were so impressed with her dedication and her appreciation for education that we were compelled to help. We now feel privileged to be providing her with college tuition as well as money for books.



Maria:
a true ambassador of education

Maria is determined to finish her education, and to make a better life for herself. She encourages other students in her village to pursue education, and her younger brother is now following in her footsteps. She is an inspiration to all she meets, men and women alike.

We are very proud of Maria, and to be part of her journey.

Assisting Mothers at the House of Hope



This winter Willow Canyon co-sponsored the treatment of three more women at the House of Hope. While each woman has a unique story, they all share the strong desire to overcome their problems, and be healthy and strong mothers once again. One woman in particular has expressed a desire to give back what she has received, and is already volunteering with a local civic group. She is living one of our core beliefs: that we should give back to the society that has helped us succeed. We are very glad to be involved and feel confident that these women will use this opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of their children.

News Bulletin: Willow Canyon Foundation has recently added a new charitable partner, Turning Point; a substance abuse treatment center. We were approached by an existing donor who suggested that we work with Turning Point and was interested in funding a scholarship there. Based on their recommendation, we have awarded the first scholarship and await reports on the success of this program.

Search the Web and Help Us Raise Funds!!!

Yahoo! Change your ways and help the Willow Canyon Foundation!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities selected by its users. Switch to GoodSearch.com and you will get quality search results and benefit our scholarship programs.

Also, use GoodShop.com, a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop. Every time you place an order, you'll also support your favorite cause.

Make GoodSearch.com your preferred search engine! How? Just go to www.goodsearch.com, add it to your toolbar or favorites. Be sure to enter Willow Canyon Foundation as the charity you support.

And, be sure to spread the word!

The
Willow
Canyon
Foundation
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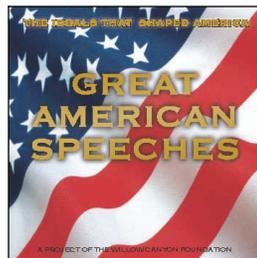
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A Better World
Through Education

Do you belong to a civic group that needs a good fundraiser?

Does your child's team or school club need uniforms or equipment?

Does your PTA or scout troop needs funds for an upcoming activity?



We have an easy, educational and patriotic solution:
Sell The Great American Speeches CD set!

Your organization can raise on average \$10 per CD sold. Imagine if you sold 100 CDs– your fundraising goals would be met in no time. At the same time, you would help us spread the ideas and insights of our Founding Fathers, and support our scholarship programs.

Contact us!

We would be happy to work with you to tailor a program that fits your needs!