



Hands United for Children

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<http://www.handsunited4children.org>

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Our mission is to support children in distressed situations through education, shelter, health and individual welfare, in Africa, in the United States and in the near future, in Latin America.

December 2012

From Kindergarten to College

Hands United for Children supports O'Farrell Community school, a local charter school located in Southeast San Diego.

Hands United for Children (HUFC)

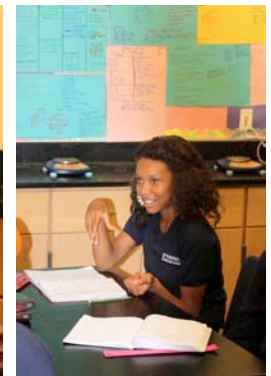
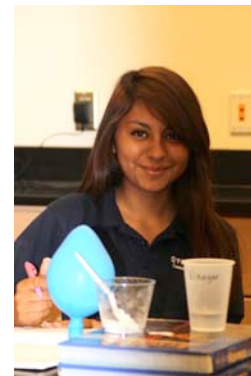
currently focuses on helping schools in underprivileged neighborhoods here in San Diego and also in Burkina Faso. Acting locally, HUFC committed to help the O'Farrell Community School after meeting Jonathan C. Dean, its executive director. With his charisma and his business-like drive, he impressed the Board of HUFC with his long-term goal consisting of **building a high school, therefore laying the path for O'Farrell students – from Kindergarten to College.**

Why is HUFC helping O'Farrell?

There are three key reasons why HUFC is committed to help O'Farrell:

1 – Adversity

Poverty is the major challenge facing the school. Over 80% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches. O'Farrell has a attendance rate of approximately 12% foster/homeless – this is the second highest foster rate in all of San Diego County. Nearly 15% of the students live in either a foster care setting or with adults other than their biological parents and



this percentage has been increasing over time.

O'Farrell has a higher than average special needs population at 12.5%. An additional challenge is the diversity of the population: **30% African American, 24% Filipino, 36% Hispanic, 4% Indochinese and 2% White.** A number of these students lack sufficient English skills to immediately succeed in their studies; over 23% are identified as English Language Learners.

Jog-a-thon at San Diego French-American School

On November 9th, all the students of the San Diego French-American school (SDFAS) took part in the annual jog-a-thon, to raise money for their school and for three charities - Angels Foster Family Network, Father Joe's and Hands United for Children. On the day, parents and friends came along to cheer students and teachers. Two weeks later, principal Christian Jarlov and the chair of the *Groupe Humanitaire*, Frédérique Gouraud, shared the results with the student representatives. Students raised \$11,320. They were invited to decide how to split 50% of the proceeds between the three non-profits. The other 50% of the proceeds (\$5,660) will be used to purchase playground equipment for SDFAS. As a result of the discussion, HUFC and Angels were each rewarded 40% of \$5,660 and 20% will go to Father Joe's.

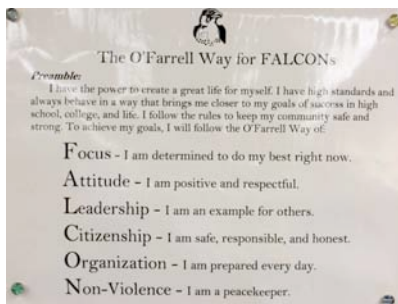
Thank you for your support! *Merci pour votre générosité!*



2 – Commitment to Excellence

With all these obstacles, O'Farrell still outperforms the schools in the area. The school puts great focus on holding students accountable for behavior and for teaching students how to be successful in the classroom, all by building strong relationships with students through a "homebase" class.

All students follow the **FALCON Way**, which stands for **Focus, Attitude, Leadership, Citizenship, Organization and Non-Violence**. "Lessons are provided twice a week on topics ranging from appropriate behavior, citizenship development, community service and reflecting on progress in classes." says Jonathan C. Dean.



3 - The Need for a High School

Students leave O'Farrell with average to good grades but fail at the high school level. Lincoln High School, for example, is near capacity; a major motivating factor for developing the high school at O'Farrell is that Lincoln is one of the poorest performing schools in all of San Diego. Only 16 percent of seniors graduate with the A-G requirements (2011). This means that only 16 out of 100 students can attend a four-year university.

It requires time to instill in students the confidence to know that attending college is an achievable goal. The same rationale drove the decision by O'Farrell to add a ninth grade program in 2010-2011. Some students are not ready to move on to a high school environment after the eighth grade due to academic needs, social development or strength of study skills as an autonomous learner. **The goal is, by September 2013 to add a high school with expansion to grade 12 by fall 2015.**

Help Us Help Them

Building a high school requires major funds. O'Farrell is focusing on securing 75% of the funds, and, working with the school administration, HUFC has committed to engage the San Diego community to assist and provide the remaining 25% to complete the project by 2015.

Contact us to learn more about how you can get involved, either through much appreciated monetary support or more directly through joint programs between Hands United and O'Farrell.

By Derek Footer - General Counsel and Mim Britton – Marketing & Communication Director

SAVE THE DATE !

Join us at our HUFC Annual Gala for a great evening held on **Thursday, March 14, 2013** at the Fairbanks Country Club in Rancho Santa Fe.

Donate:

www.handsunited4children.org/donations.html