

these classes are senior citizens. The participants come to class to maintain and improve their health. It can be said that life is what you make of it. A true sense of support can be seen when observing the people who attend Arthritis classes. Much can be learned from this special group.



NHRA Driver Supports Claremont Center

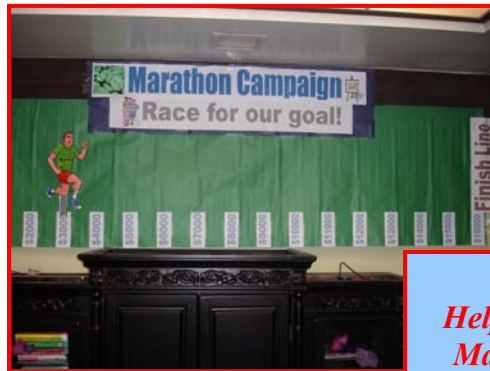
National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Driver Robert Naber is spreading the AbilityFirst message across the country! Our logo appears twice on his bright red hot rod as he races at various events across the country including the NHRA Finals in Pomona November 12 through 15.

We thank Robert for his support and for becoming our friend!

Claremont Center Hosts Annual Fundraiser



The Claremont Center's Event Planning Committee, in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Claremont, will host an exciting evening of dinner theater at Ben D. Bollinger's Candlelight Pavilion on Sunday, March 15th. This year's performance is the classic toe-tapping "42nd Street." The fun-filled evening will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a champagne reception, followed by dinner at 5 p.m. and curtain call at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are available for \$65. For more information contact M. Graciela Castro at 909.624.4727.



*Every penny counts!
Help us achieve our \$16,000
Marathon Campaign goal!*

Casa de Salsa

FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR



**March 24, 2009
5pm-9pm**

**Magic Show
at 6pm!**

**20% of all
proceeds benefit
AbilityFirst
Claremont Center**

**CASA DE SALSA
415 W. Foothill Blvd.,
#321
Claremont, 91711
(909) 445-1200**

See you there!

For more information about any of our programs please contact us at:
**AbilityFirst Claremont Center
480 South Indian Hill Boulevard
Claremont, California 91711
909.624.4727**
**M. Graciela Castro, Director
gcastro@abilityfirst.org
www.abilityfirst.org**



AbilityFirst provides programs and services to help children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities reach their full potential throughout their lives.



WINTER 2009

CLAREMONT CENTER EDITION

Claremont Center Kicks Off 2009 Marathon Campaign



AbilityFirst's Marathon Campaign is underway! You can help by participating in one or more of the campaign's events and getting pledges. The Marathon Campaign is composed of three events: Santa Anita Derby Day 5K on Saturday morning, April 4; Los Angeles Marathon and Bike Tour on Monday, May 25 in Los Angeles. If you don't want to join a race you can still help by sponsoring a walker/runner by mailing your check to us or via our website at www.abilityfirst.org/claremontcenter; soliciting donations from co-workers, family and friends; asking businesses you support to sponsor you/your child; tak-

ing one of our coin collection bottles and getting it filled at home or at work. Please consider donating your recycling money and/or making baked goods or other treats for us to sell at the center or organizing your own bake sale. If you think of other ways you can help us meet our goal \$16,000 by May 31, please let us know. **Thank you!**

**Every penny counts!
Help us achieve our \$16,000
Marathon Campaign goal!**

Changes in After School Program

There have been some staffing changes in our After School Program in the last few months. We have said "good-bye" to some of our wonderful activity leaders. Vicky left to attend school in San Diego. Billy, Pat, and Monica S. (Monica C. is still here) left for full time jobs. Luckily, all four of these staff continue to keep in touch and have come back to help us during full-day program or our weekend program. Our new staff members are Eric (different person from Erick our activity coordinator), Suley, Noemi, and Judy. We have had to re-structure the staffing in our program rooms to allow our veteran staff to work with our new ones. In group A (ages 18-22), Desiree and Fernando are our activity leaders. In group B (ages 15-17), Michael, Kayla, and Suley are our activity leaders. In group C (ages 10-14), Carol and Eric are our activity leaders. In group D (ages 5-9), Monica and Judy are our activity leaders. The additional staff that we have working 1:1 with some of our kids are Francisco, Doris, Sean, Desiree, Noemi, and Joey. We have other changes in store including exciting new programs. We will update you in the next newsletter.



Aquatics Program Update

There are many special people who attend our Aquatics Program. The participants in our 9:30 a.m. Arthritis Exercise class have a lot of fun. They socialize with their friends, and new friendships are made. The sound of the class singing "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean," tells you they are having a good time. When someone's having a birthday they always sing or even go out to lunch after class. During the holiday season a woman named Carolyn D. handed out a present to all of her classmates. She arrived with a mysterious sack. In no time she began tossing out rubber ducks all decked out for the holidays. Swimmers simultaneously played with the ducks leading to lots of laughter. Most of the people attending

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