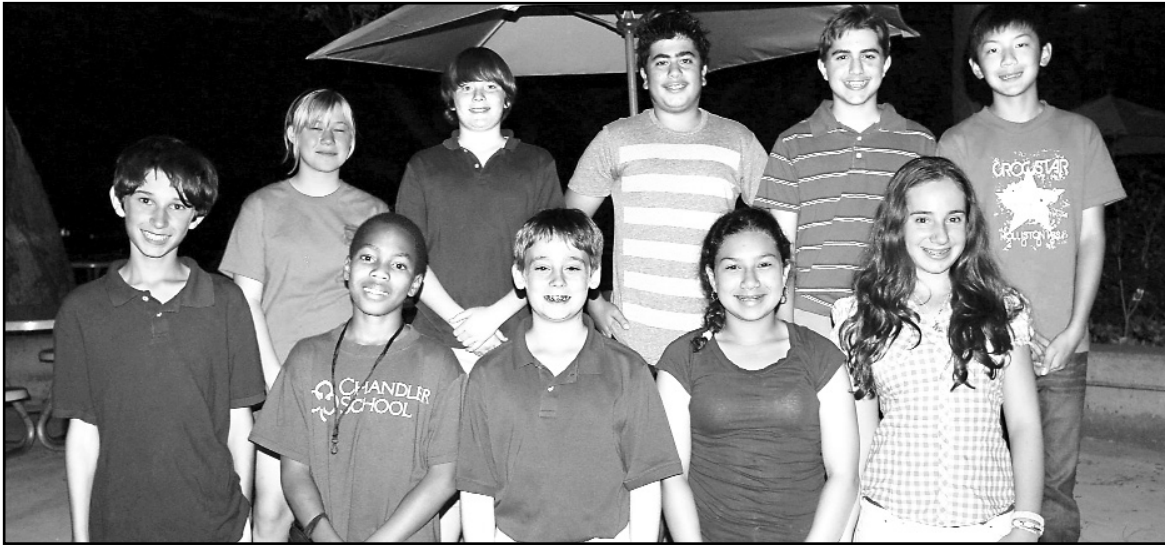


PISF Launches Second Year of Student Philanthropy



Chandler students (front row, from left) Tyler Moffat, Storm Scully, Zach Kaufman, Alyssa Rivas and Freya Strasburg. Back row: Annalise Curtis, Robert Jorgensen, Ian Bagdasarian, Brady DeMattei and Justin Bae.



Mayfield Senior students (front row, from left) Andrea Sweeney, Ashley Schammel and Riana Chen. Back row: Catherine Rose Grimes and Andrea Garcia.



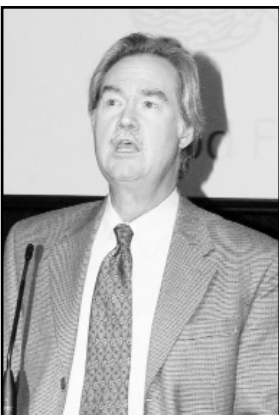
Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy students (front row, from left) Camille O'Connor, Carly Mann and Tara Kawai-Daniels. Back row: Kim Sandoval, Caroline Kavich and Caroline Simmons.



New Horizon students (front row, from left) Karmah Eldesouky, Ali Ozgur and Nasser Akkari. Back row: Nadya Al-Sharif, Noor El-Farra and Omar Ozgur.



Jonathan Jaffrey launched the Pasadena Independent Schools Foundation last year.



Flintridge Prep Headmaster Peter Bachmann is a faculty advisor.



Westridge students (front row, from left) Kate Kennedy, Sarah Garcia, Ellie Roth and Nayely Martinez. Back row: Shelby Lewis, Cate Hurley, Ellen Kim and Sarah Jackson.

By ERIC NOLAND
The Outlook

There are four-dozen fresh new faces. There is a big pile of cash. And there are some of the pioneers from the inaugural season who returned as a cadre of mentors.

The Pasadena Independent Schools Foundation launched its second year of operation last week, resolving to assist Pasadena-area charities through the deliberations and decisions of some youthful philanthropists.

Conceived by Jonathan Jaffrey, president of Springbanc Social Capital Advisors, PISF assembles a group of local private school students in grades seven through 10, then boldly entrusts them with bestowing four grants of \$10,000 and four others of \$2,000 to area charitable organizations. In its maiden flight last year, it proved to be a resounding success.

But these tasks are no less daunting for the new crop of participants.

"Ten thousand dollars is definitely more than anything I've ever experienced," Flintridge Prep sophomore Serendi Lau said after PISF's recent kickoff meeting. "I think \$40 is a lot. It's a huge responsibility, because this is really going to change how certain foundations are going to move forward in the future.

"So I really feel that if I and everybody in PISF can really work together to learn about each organization, and how much they need this \$10,000, then we can really give it appropriately, instead of just saying, 'Oh, I like this organization; I'm going to give them 10 grand.'"

The young teens will have some help. Twenty participants from the first year have signed up to work as mentors this time around.

"These are your teachers," Flintridge Prep Headmaster Peter Bachmann, a faculty advisor to the program, told the newcomers. "They can give you the perspective of a year's experience."

And that's just what Catherine Rose Grimes, a junior at Mayfield Senior School, plans to do for the students who are stepping into the role she held last year. "As a mentor, I'm going to help them a lot on the site visits, and with the questions they have," she said.

The eight charities vying for the \$48,000 in grant money were selected by the mentors. They are A Noise Within, Hillside Education

Center, Learning Works! Charter School, Mother's Club Family Learning Center, Salvation Army Pasadena Tabernacle, Starlight Children's Foundation, Villa Esperanza Services, and Young & Healthy. (Hillside is the only holdover from last year.)

The student participants hail from seven area private schools: Chandler, Flintridge Prep, Flintridge Sacred Heart, Mayfield Senior, New Horizon, Polytechnic and Westridge. (Sacred Heart is new to the fold this year.)

They can expect a decidedly hands-off approach from the adults involved with the program. "Assessment criteria? We don't have any," Jaffrey told the new members of the foundation. "You students will have to come up with it."

He added: "Over this year, we're going to figure out why good intentions (of the various charities) aren't enough. It's why we want to make sure that if we're going to give somebody our resources — our time, talent and treasure — that they are used wisely and used for the benefit of the community. So we're going to spend some time talking to them."

That process will take six months, during which the students will make site visits to the various charities, pore over grant requests, audits, budgets and annual reports, and confer with one another. Each student will visit only four of the eight recipient organizations, so interaction with fellow foundation members will be critical, notably at a day-long session in March when the grant-winners are determined.

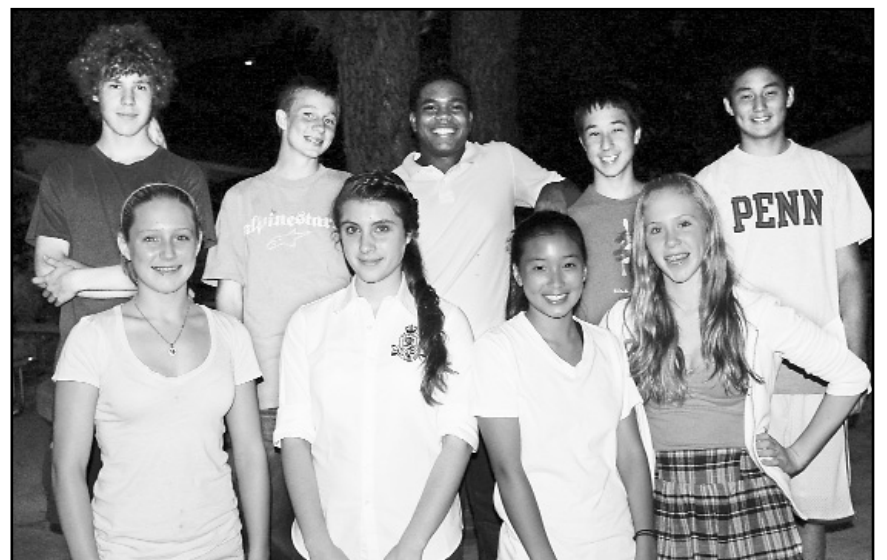
Bachmann, recalling that day of deliberations from last year, said, "It was absolutely remarkable to see that a group of high school students could develop such a passionate level of sophistication in this work."

He added: "Near as I could tell, this program was offering leadership opportunities to these students. It was offering community service opportunities. It was offering skills for the professional world. They have to understand and be responsible for and handle money. They have to become experienced in group work, in negotiation, in persuasion, in compromise and, if possible, consensus."

The grant money is provided by a number of companies, including lead sponsor Nestle and co-sponsors Wells Fargo Private Bank and Le Bijou Luxury Jewelers.



Flintridge Prep students (front row, from left) Shelby Wax, Eilene Anderson, Kelsey Lau, Serendi Lau and Samantha Jacobs. Middle row: Brette O'Brien, Lawrence Yu, Kimberly Ostiller, Sarah Rademacher and Jack Purvis. Back row: Jackson McHenry, Maria Yu, Casey Meurer and Alina Okamoto.



Polytechnic students (front row, from left) Caroline Harvey, Mary D'Onofrio, Kelli Liu and Emily Woolway. Back row: Hayden Betts, Jake Zelek, Hunter Whitaker-Morrow, Michael Tanner and Matthew Liu.