

# Hayes Valley Neighborhood PARKS Group Planting Seeds...Growing Community



hvnpg.org  
koshlandgarden.blogspot.com

January 2009

Dear Friends and Community of Hayes Valley Neighborhood PARKS Group (HVNPG),

It is hard to imagine today, but fifteen years ago the Lower Haight and Hayes Valley were terrible places to be. They had one of the highest crime rates in the City, failing schools, no neighborhood groups, and only a couple parks used primarily by drug dealers and prostitutes. Although residents did not know or trust each other, some would carry whistles in case a crime was taking place. Neighborhood youth believed Peace meant Resting in it.

It was then that a community meeting took place at John Muir School. Over one hundred people came together to say they were fed up and demanded change. Out of that meeting HVNPG emerged to help transform the neighborhood into the dynamic community it is today.

We are writing to thank you for believing in us and supporting us over all these fifteen years. Now that the

crisis of a decade ago has subsided, and our parks have been renovated and improved, our mission continues to focus on stewardship and community building through youth programs. In fact we are continuing to plant seeds of peace through environmental education, cooking classes and green job training for youth, especially young people most at-risk of becoming victims of violence and/or of childhood obesity in the Western Addition.

In the past we have relied heavily on grants from foundations, and major donors to sustain our programs and staff. We realize in these challenging economic times we must develop a more grassroots way to support our programs. We are appealing to you as friends of the HVNPG, residents who live near our beautiful parks, merchants who benefit from a beautiful neighborhood environment, educators whose students can get outside and learn by doing, and parents who can feel assured that their children are learning to be healthy, prepared and confident adults. We need you to help us

keep our programs running and staff employed through the New Year. Without your support, we will not be able to continue to provide these critical services to our community, our businesses and our children.

Please consider a donation to HVNPG, and consider becoming a member, which entitles benefits of a newsletter (chock full of recipes, tales of the garden, and inspiring updates on the social change you are funding), free events and opportunities to participate.

Please continue reading about our programs to learn what your contribution will support. With your help and individual donation, the HVNPG will be successful in its grassroots efforts to affect extraordinary change in the community we serve. Thank you for being a part of our community's efforts!

Best wishes for the New Year!

Barbara Wenger, Director, HVNPG  
A Project of the TIDES Center



Your donation of \$50 will:

- enroll a youth in our after school cooking class for five weeks
- provide garden education to a student at John Muir School

Your donation of \$100 will:

- enroll one youth in our LetUsGrow summer camp for a week
- provide two professional workshops for our BEET Rangers

Your donation of \$500 will:

- support the salary of HVNPG staff to plan a BEET Ranger outing

Your donation of \$1000:

- will support one stipend for a Western Addition teen to attend and complete the BEET Rangers Green Job Training internship



## HIGHLIGHTS OF HVNPG in 2008:

The new **BEET Ranger program (Band of Environmentally Educated and Employed Teens)** was a great success, providing 14 teens in the Western Addition with an 8-month paid internship in green job skills including environmental education, organic gardening, and park maintenance, that helped them secure jobs and make choices that were healthy for themselves, their community, and their environment.

**John Muir Elementary School garden classes** taught over 250 students how to grow healthy food and care for their environment in 2008. Garden classes meet school science standards, helping students improve their learning through hands-on experience and activities in the outdoor classroom at Koshland Garden. Students also had the opportunity to continue their learning in our **LetUsGrow Summer Camp**, with two teen educators in July.

- HVNPG highlighted with 5-star reviews on **Great Non-Profits** Website:  
<http://www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/profile2/hayes-valley-neighborhood-parks-group>
- HVNPG featured at the **Volunteer Center's Board Match at Moscone Center** on January 13, 2009  
**If you'd like to be on our Fundraising/Friendraising Board, please send us your resumé!**
- **2008 Crissy Field Center Community Heroes Award** YouTube Video
- **Peace Wall in San Francisco** YouTube Video
- **BEET Rangers on NENTv Interview on Channel 29**--[www.veoh.com/videos](http://www.veoh.com/videos)

**Koshland Park garden improvements** (thanks in part to a Community Challenge Grant from the Mayor's Office) included a new tool shed, garden tools, hose reel system, and compost bins. Reconstruction included redesigning a terrace planting area, and building two retaining walls for more stability to the garden. Thank you to the many volunteers who shoveled and wheel-barrowed endless mulch and compost —improving the overall health of the garden!

**Cooking Club classes** in collaboration with the **Western Addition Beacon, Modern Tea Restaurant, and Seed-to-Mouth classes at Hayes Valley South Redevelopment** taught over 50 students how to safely prepare and cook delicious, nutritious vegetarian food from organic produce. Youth ages 4-16 years participated in making salads grown in Koshland Garden, tortillas and pasta from scratch, veggie burgers, pizza, stir fry, and more! Recipes included in our newsletters.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!

### Grassroots Fundraising and Friend Raising!

We need your support to survive. Please consider becoming a member and helping us connect with you. Send us your information and/or a donation in whatever amount works for you. This is called grassroots fundraising and friend-raising. Thank you! You can also give on-line at: <<https://www.justgive.org/basket?acton=donate&ein=94-3213100&designation=%20Hayes+Valley+Neighborhood+PARKS+Group>>.

### Become a Friend of HVNPG:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

Or send us a note at our neighborhood address:  
B.Wenger, HVNPG, 300 Page St, SF, CA 94102

The Hayes Valley Neighborhood PARKS Group is fiscally sponsored by the TIDES Center (Tax ID#: 94-3213100)  
Checks can be made out to: **HVNPG/TIDES** and mailed to:

**Alex Vasquez, Work Team 3**  
**TIDES Center**  
**P.O.Box 29907**  
**San Francisco, CA 94129-0907**



Thank you from HVNPG!

