

## A FEW HOURS OF MAGIC

The call was completely unexpected. Jim Adler, chief operating officer of the Kristi Yamaguchi Always Dream Foundation, wondered if twelve TYM children would like to have the opportunity to ice skate in San Jose with Kristi. It took only a few phone calls to fill every spot.



TYM girls huddle up to flash their smiles with Kristi Yamaguchi

The guardians and foster parents were as excited as their kids. "I remember watching her in the Olympics! And Dancing with the Stars!"

So on December 6<sup>th</sup>, a whole new world opened to some would-be Olympians. Long-time TYM champion David Fitch, a serious ice skater in his own right, arrived to help lace up skates, convince kids to step onto the ice and serve as a strong encourager. Several of our children were naturals. Others struggled to leave the wall to take that first tentative glide.

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some would-be Olympians.***

Kristi skated effortlessly among all the skaters, giving encouragement, grabbing an extended hand and sparking a dream amidst a group of skating neophytes. One of our littlest held tenaciously to any hand she could grab. With a few suggestions from Kristi, she abandoned the hands and struck out on her own. Her smile spoke volumes. Confidence soared and yet another impossible barrier crumbled.

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impossible barrier crumbled.***

There were things to eat and drink and a goodie bag for each skater, and the event was over a bit too quickly for my liking.



The TYM boys have some great grins of their own!

We are always searching for esteem building activities for our TYM youngsters. This had to be one that went way over the top.

# CHRISTMAS 2010...HO HO HO, HOSANAH!

Mary Eschen called to let me know that her entire family (and a few friends) would like to help out at our Bay Area party. She brought along arts and crafts supplies and with the help of a few others (Marjean Ritari and Melanie Low) worked non-stop for several hours. In addition, they rearranged our furniture to introduce a fun (and safe) ball game the kids loved. High school senior, Jon Wright, took the boys outside when we got a break in the weather to play football and run off excess energy. Every child received a gift from The Family Giving Tree. Leslie

Daniels and her husband Michael brought along goodies for all the children (and loaned their son Daniel for the day) and following the party paid for some of our children to attend a Christmas musical with the San Francisco Symphony at Davies Hall.

The Sacramento party was hosted at Fremont Presbyterian Church and the Mindt family – long-time champions of the cause – took on all the details to make the party a smashing success. They brought presents and Mrs. Claus and a bit more. Over 100 children attended one of the two Christmas parties.



Our first ever Nutcracker Suite presented by a cast of TYM Kids & Teens, led by champion and dance instructor, Judy Wright Watkins.

You all were AMZING!

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Walk For Their Future Walkathon**  
Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - 9a-1p  
Lake Merced in San Francisco

- ◆ meet & connect with TYM kids & families
- ◆ exercise your commitment to the cause of caring for vulnerable children
- ◆ introduce new people to our kids & the cause

Think “outdoor fiesta” aimed at celebrating families and benefitting the year round programs of TYM.

walk  
for  
their  
future

Register to  
Walk &/or  
Volunteer at  
[tymkids.org](http://tymkids.org)

## 10 MOST WANTED

1. Waterproof snow gloves – all sizes
2. Three drivers for snow camps (only need to get kids to and from Auburn)
3. A set of new tires for the Suburban
4. Volunteers for an office clean-up on Saturday, February 5th
5. Volunteers and walkers for May 14th
6. A South Bay Area bookkeeper (Quickbooks)
7. Dress up clothes (particularly for boys)
8. Champions to Lead several very important TYM Camp projects beginning in February
9. Introduction to your church or small group
10. Please pray for our kids & their families



# 2011 TYM PREDICTIONS

Someone with a bit too much time on their hands did the math as to the actual cost today of fulfilling my true love's *Twelve Days of Christmas* wish list. The five gold rings alone would have cost him a small fortune – not to mention hiring all the folks to milk, dance, play their pipes and drum – and coupled with two turtle doves and that partridge in a pear tree, the price tag came to a whopping \$18,348! I'm guessing she would have preferred the cash.

## ***Is there any mention of "in this economy" found in the Bible?***

Lately, the phrase, "...in this economy..." seems to precede just about everything related to money. We get the not so subtle message to put on the brakes and hang-on to our money. My "true love's" financial advisor would undoubtedly make sure to invest some, bank some and hold out for better days. Listening to good advice and refusing to blow the money on unnecessary wants is a smart thing to do. Listening to what God has to say about our money is probably even smarter.

Scripture tells us that God is a God of abundance. "For my God

will supply all your needs according to His riches (*not my riches*) in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) "Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find." (Luke 11:9). In fact, is there any mention of "in this economy" anywhere to be found in scripture?

Like Paul, TYM has learned to live through lean times and times of plenty (Philippians 4:12). And no matter what our circumstances, our TYM children continue to thrive. They thrive because of people – like you! Three "circumstances" among many come to mind:

- ◆ A number of years ago, Community Presbyterian Church in Danville gave us the seed money to hire a TYM graduating high school student for the summer. They believed it would make a difference. It helped pay tuition for his first year of college, and today, he looks forward to becoming the first in his family to graduate from college in two more years.

- ◆ The pastor of Sierra Grace Fellowship in Auburn (a past volunteer and board member) called to see how his congregation could help with winter camps. Our four camps for younger children will travel to that church on the way to the snow (along with a large complement of their church volunteers), return for a sleepover and

attend church services on Sunday before heading home.

- ◆ One year ago, eleven year old Moses was barely squeaking by in school and there was a threat of repeating a grade to catch up. Hours of tutoring and encouraging paid off. Today he is an honor roll student. He knows his ticket to the life he wants begins with his own commitment to education.

## ***Come along side our kids and prepare for the ride of your life!***

2011 promises to be a challenging year for our children. While I can not even count the number of safety nets in my life that will keep me from homelessness, our kids are not so lucky. Many live on the edge – a paycheck or welfare check away from losing everything. TYM has been challenged to restart a program for our single moms, begin one for excessively overweight teen girls and expand our summer camping programs.

We know it will be a very good year if we keep focusing on the God of abundance – never scarcity. We hope you will come alongside our kids and prepare for the ride of your life!

— Marilyn Siden, Exec Director

CONTACT-DONATE-VOLUNTEER-VISIT

**WWW.TYMKIDS.ORG**

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**TODAY'S YOUTH MATTER**  
**TYM**

## UPCOMING DATES

### February:

11-13 - Teen Boys Sierra Snow Shoe  
26-27 - East Bay Girls Snow Camp

### March:

12-13 - East Bay Boys Snow Camp  
19-20 - So Bay/Sac Girls Snow Camp  
26-27 - So Bay/Sac Boys Snow Camp

### April:

15-17 - Teen Girls Sierra Snow Shoe

### May:

14 - Walk For Their Future walkathon  
TBA - Open up camp for Summer 2011  
TBA - Smr Volunteer Classroom Training

**MORE FUN TO COME!!!!**



They grow up SO FAST don't they?