

DeLue Boys and Girls Club Fundraising Dinner Oct 16, 2010

Speech by Mike Stallings at the Mid-Peninsula Boys & Girls Club's 55TH Anniversary Celebration held on October 16, 2010 at the DeLue Boys & Girls Club, Bayshore Community Center and Library in Daly City.

Dan and Mike, Thank you for the introduction

NOW, to move forward we need to go back over a decade when Dan Dadoun and his crew were providing a program at the Midway Clubhouse and we were all dreaming of a new Community Center and Library.

What started as an insurmountable idea, with no funding, became collaboration- with many local community groups, and culminated in the dedication and opening of the Bayshore CC and Library in 2006.

In the book Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson, there is a Balti tradition that I paraphrase: This quote relates so well, to how we all collaborate in Daly City.

“The first time you share tea, you are a stranger,
The second time you take tea you are an honored guest,
The third time you share a cup of tea you become family”

Well, in the beginning, the City of Daly City and the Mid Peninsula Boys and Girls club were strangers; as we planned with all the local stakeholders, did fundraising and constructed the building we became honored guests; and now we are all family- enjoying the fruits of our ideas, our collaboration and our success.

The children and families that come thru the doors of this place participate in the programs and grasp the ideals that our staffs coach here; They will become leaders in this community!
The children will pass on what they have learned because if you really want to change a community for the better, work to empower the children!

These young leaders will have a few common characteristics that were learned in this environment:

- They will have the courage to stay strong. From their first days in our programs, they learn how to have determination, to overcome obstacles that affect them.
- They will have self-confidence. Confidence to surround themselves with positive friends and family yet listen to diverse perspectives and opinions.
- They will have the ability to learn from their errors, not be crushed by the errors they will make.
- These young leaders will have a moral compass. They are learning right from wrong, good from bad. They will have the courage and integrity to follow their own convictions.
- Finally, these young leaders will have the gift of inspiring others. Over the years, as I have listened to the Young leader of the year at this fundraising dinner I have recognized the key ability for these young leaders to “move me’ and inspire me with their story and their plan for the future.

Before I go on, I would like to make some introductions and thank you's. Near me are 2 tables of family and friends led by family patriarch Patricia Humphreys. You would be fascinated to hear a story about each of our table guests, they are wonderful people and I feel very loved and supported by them. To honor them all, let me introduce my wife JONI.

Thank you to the City Managers, City Council members and P&R Commissioners who have made my job possible.

Thank you to the local staff –those coaches I told you about:

Angela, Ray, Joe, Denzal, Kerry, Pat, Opal, Sue, Ed, Karen, Jeff!
Sue Larramendy, Steve Waterman, Ann Sims, Norm Forbert....

Thank you to a relative newcomer to Bayshore- Warren Chan. Warren helped organize the City of Daly City side of the KaBOOM playground build on July 31. The community use of the park is way up with the help of Warren and over 300 volunteers.

TY to the local neighbors that make all this work:

Phyllis, Walter, Joe K, Cecil, George, Marian and Rachel -among others.

For me, Parks and Recreation IS a wonderful career. I have been part of some great TEAMS, which have built parks, built community centers and just built community!

Earlier today we dedicated the new Giammona Swimming Pool @ WHS. You should visit this new addition to our community resources and take a swim.

For me personally, parks and recreation is walking with Joni around the neighborhood, pushing Landon on the new swings behind this building. It is the peace I get walking out to the end of Thornton Beach Vista and just looking west. It is the joy I get watching Jessilee and Dakota zooming down the “big blue slide” @ Edgewood Park. These things and many others enrich my life! Think of the things that enrich your life- repeat them- we will always have this need!

To the parents, grandparents, adults, coaches and teachers in the room I remind you:

These children are the people who are going to carry out what we have started.

These children will be sitting where we are sitting, attending to those things THEY think are important.

They will assume control over our estates, cities and nations.

These children are going to take over our churches, schools, businesses and corporations.

How are you personally involved in positively moving and role modeling the children that fill this building each day, on into the next generation and beyond?

To the children that are here:

This is paraphrased from a paragraph by Alan Alda:

Be Brave enough to live your life creatively.

Your ‘creative’ is the place no one else has ever been.

You have to leave this neighborhood where you are comfortable and go into the wilderness of your intuition and intelligence.

Be open to new and different ideas!

Be tolerant of new and different ideas!

Embrace diversity and cultural differences

You can get to your creative place by hard work, risk and by not knowing what you are doing!!

What you will discover will be wonderful.

What you will discover will be yourself.

Children- please do be willing to take risks and because you take risks, you will not fear failure and when you do not fear failure—

You will not be ordinary!!

We can all be children, even within our adult bodies. We should never forget the sense of wonderment and innocence we had as children- Joni would say I still have!!

As said by Willy Wonka: "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest of us". What is your dream? What should you be doing to influence your community in the 21st century? In Daly City, each of you tonight are making a significant influence and contribution to developing children and families, contributing to clean and safe parks, supporting programs for all generations and supporting programs like those here at DeLue B&GC!

You are nourishing these children; lets work together to keep these people and programs moving forward for the children and families yet to come!

Consider donating regularly to youth programs, including the DeLue Boys and Girls club. Tonight Joni and I will contribute and a few years ago, we combined our birthday parties, sent out invitations and asked guests to bring a cash contribution to the DeLue B&GC instead of gifts.

Cash, equipment, supplies and your time are needed.

Act Locally and make a difference in a child's life.

Again, thank you for this great honor and recognition tonight. None of it would have been possible without City of Daly City Councils, wonderful co-workers, committed community volunteers and most especially the love and support of my family and my wife Joni.

In closing, as a thank you to the adults, teachers and coaches in the room, I will end with the words of Willy Wonka: "We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams"

God Bless You

Good night

Mike Stallings

10/16/10