

110° Abode

decor >> environment >> solutions >> improvements



The following pages review 110°'s First Annual Innovation Award winners. We're also sharing the vision of Brentwood Merchants for making downtown a destination for residents, plus getting the update from Oakley Councilman, Jim Frazier, on the current Oakley Matters.

110° Innovation Award Winners

In this issue 110° Magazine is acknowledging three organizations that have raised high the bar for creative and innovative thinking by presenting to them our first Annual 110° Magazine Innovation Awards. Each of the three is leading the way in providing a unique response to the challenge of effectively serving others.



LAURA PAGE — KIDS HELPING KIDS

Laura Page and her Kids Helping Kids nonprofit foundation was a natural selection to be one of the first winners of 110° Magazine's Innovation Awards. The entire focus of her vision is upon the kids who are involved in the foundation — implementing a program of development and humanitarian service different from any other on the planet. Under adult guidance, the children do all the work. They come up with the ideas, they find the resources, and help manage fundraising events.

Kids Helping Kids Foundation conducts two monthly meetings — one focusing upon planning, the other upon leadership. Laura and her team are not simply using children as resources for addressing the needs of the world, they are seeking to inculcate within each child principles such as generosity, thoughtfulness, and kindness, while promoting management, initiative, and cooperation skills that will equip the children to take their role as change agents in the world.

One of the foundations' fundraising methods is providing each child with a "Piglet," which is a miniature plastic piggy bank with the foundation's name on the side.

Each leadership meeting concludes with training of some kind. Laura held a recent meeting at her house. After turning in their piglets and making their reports, the children watched the movie "Pay it Forward" in which a child discovers the enormous power in a single act of proactive generosity.

"It was awesome," Laura said. The children were so inspired by the film and by its empowering message that the family members and friends became infected with their enthusiasm. Laura began getting calls from parents asking how they could get a copy of the movie.

In February, the topic at the leadership meeting was

Etiquette/Manners. A local chef, Niel Ruggiero, brought all the fixings for a Chicken Parmesan Dinner. He spoke about etiquette and encouraged his young listeners to help in the kitchen.

Each child received a bag filled with the items required to set a table including a plate, two forks, a knife, spoon, cup, glass, and a name-card. They were asked to find a place at the table and then to position the items where they thought they should go. The person who came closest to perfection won a prize.

The spirit of interest and cooperation in the room was intense. A newcomer, Kelsy, raised her hand. In her little eight-year-old voice she said, "Mr. Ruggiero, I'm so thankful that you came here tonight to teach us this. I think what you're doing is wonderful! I think that you should never stop cooking." Niel got tears in his eyes.

The Kids Helping Kids leadership group has grown to about 38 families, and has obviously outgrown any living room. Laura described an amazing thing that happened last month. The new REI opened on April 3 in the Streets of Brentwood. The property Manager made Kids Helping Kids a co-beneficiary for the Streets of Brentwood's First quarterly fundraising event, called The Sale. Laura and her staff were invited to their Managers' Meeting in February where they presented the foundation's goals and vision while emphasizing their desire to partner with people in the community.

After the presentation, Laura said that the REI Store Manager, Stephen Nobel, who seemed fascinated by her story, approached her and asked if there was some way they could partner with her. Stephen told her that one part of the new REI facility was a media ready, fully equipped classroom, which he made available for the Kids Helping Kids monthly planning meetings and leadership meetings.

The experience with Stephen and REI is a good example of how the Kids Helping Kids foundation seeks for innovative ways of partnering with people from the community. Local businesses like the opportunity of giving back to the community through the foundation, but there's also some payback for them because business owners are also acknowledged for their generosity.

To learn more about Kids Helping Kids contact Tyler or Laurapage@kidzhelpingkids.org, call 925-759-4806, or check the website at www.kidzhelpingkids.org.



**ELIZABETH "GERRY"
MAULDIN –
CABANAS IN THE GARDEN**

Cabanas in the Garden won a *110° Magazine's* Innovation Award because Gerry Mauldin is providing an absolutely wonderful and unique service for women. There's not another place like it in the world.

Cabanas in the Garden provides times of refreshing for women's spirits as well as for their bodies by giving a woman opportunities to be alone with her reflections and meditations.

Gerry views her Cabanas in the Garden as providing an important service to women who will become more effective moms, wives, and workers because her productivity will be improved by finding a time and place where she can simply be quiet and simply withdraw for a while from the cares and concerns of life.

The Cabanas in the Garden women's retreat offers an alternative to the normal ways women find for downtime that includes such activities as shopping, bubble baths, working in the yard, or reading a book. These are often not effective because of problems with things like weather and intrusive family members.

Stepping into the Cabanas in the Garden is like being caught up into a place apart from the busy world. The "Garden" referred to in its title fills the main interior space. People are always surprised when they first see the garden because, even though it is enclosed, the effect is like entering a gracious outdoor courtyard. The serenity of the place is heightened by the sounds of softly falling water from a large fountain in the middle of the area.

Clients are free to lounge in the garden or in one of the gracious cabanas. The state of serenity can be enhanced by a spa treatment or a bubble bath, if the woman so wishes, enhanced perhaps by a cup of hot tea or a tasty snack.

"The Cabanas in the Garden is like a dream come true for many of our clients," Gerry said. "I know it is because I hear that refrain over-and-over."

For more information go to www.cabanasinthegarden.com, call 925-513-6070, email cabanasinthegarden@gmail.com, or visit 6061 Lone Tree Way, Suite E., Brentwood.



**DON STIRLING –
STIRLING ARCHITECTS**

Stirling Architects was one of the winners of the first *110° Magazine's* Innovation Awards because of their unique approach to the challenge of combining quality and service in creating unique and sometimes amazing structures.

Don Stirling is the founder and chief architect of a local firm that is dedicated to using innovation in meeting client needs. Stirling Architects applies imagination and creativity in tailoring every project to meet the specific needs of a particular project. The processes they use and not just the buildings they construct are customized to clients' wishes and style of operation.

Stirling brings more than 15 years of experience to his architecture tasks, with a portfolio that includes private residences, remodels, production homes, communities, churches, restaurants, tenant improvements, retail establishments, and commercial scale developments.

One shining example of Stirling's innovation is a horse barn on the property of Manny and Diana Vierra's Marsh Creek farm. Stirling has assembled a first class design team and utilized the talents of Jennifer Ferguson, who was the master designer on the amazing structure.

He created the City Block Shopping Center that adjoins Brentwood's In-Shape City. The design of the area creates the impression of a city walk by utilizing a deeper walkway in front of the retail shops and a sectioned design to provide for shoppers the feel of city blocks.

Stirling Architects augments their innovative approach with realistic budgeting, efficient planning, thoughtful contextual design, precise detailing, and furnishings. Plus, they pay close attention to issues having to do with equipment, access, sun, shade, circulation, and zoning constraints. Stirling Architects partners with clients in obtaining competitive bids, monitors jobs for design conformance, and advises on payments to contractors.

110° Magazine is glad to give Stirling Architects a boost. It is nice to find an architectural firm that applies imagination and out-of-box creative thinking to all parts of their business and not simply to the actual design-and-drafting tasks.

For more information, go to www.stirlingarchitects.com, call 925-634-0095, or send an email to don@stirlingarchitects.com.