



team·up
FOR YOUTH

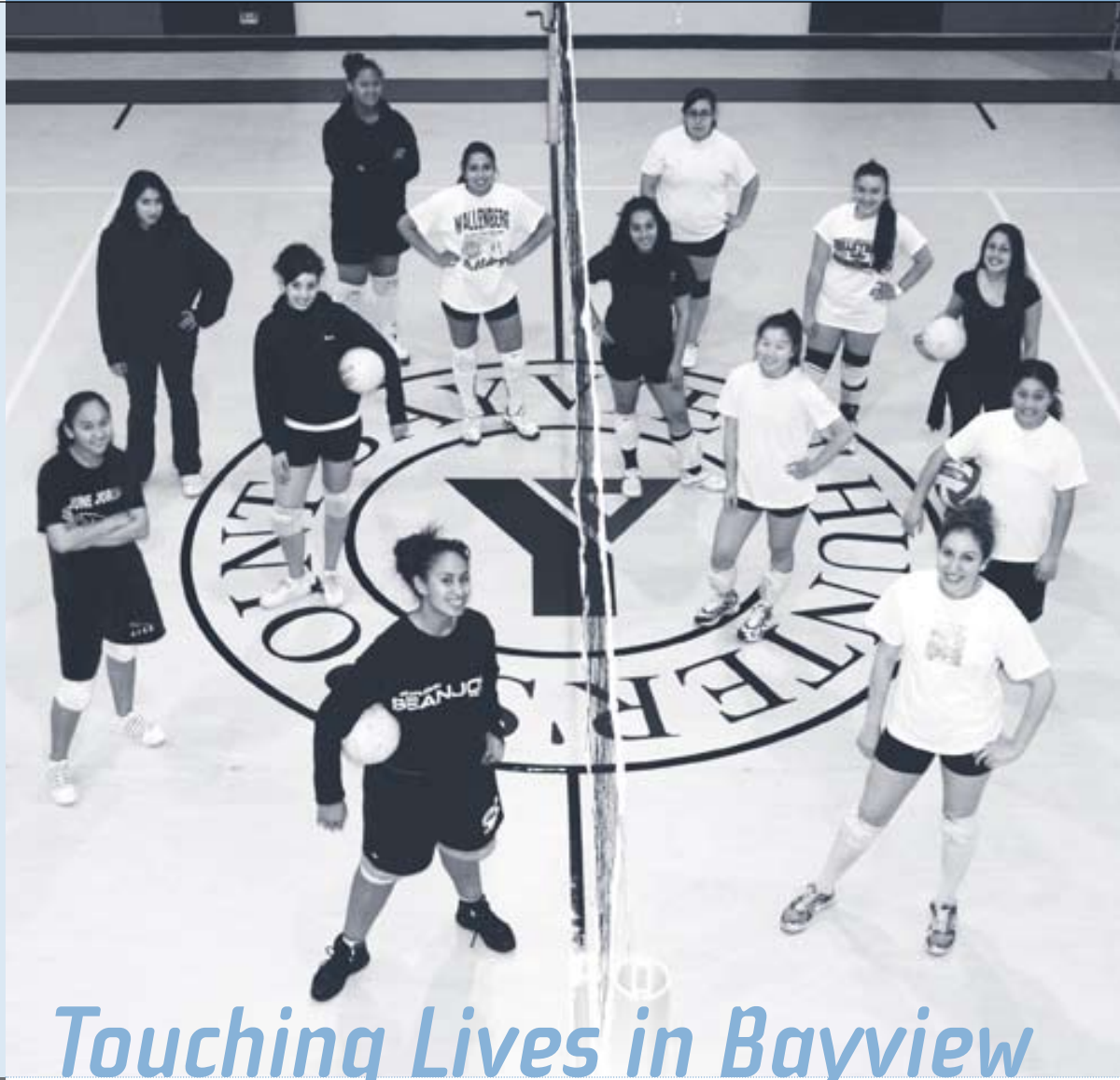
THE TEAM-UP FOR YOUTH NEWSLETTER

ready, set, go!

SPRING 2008

mission

Team-Up for Youth believes in the power of sports to help children learn and grow — socially, emotionally and physically. We pioneer innovative strategies to strengthen and expand after-school sports and physical activity programs that support the healthy development of young people living in low-income Bay Area communities.



Touching Lives in Bayview

Sometimes missing a player can be a good thing. Just ask Faauga Moliga-Puletasi. Faauga was coaching an affluent volleyball club team in Saratoga with his wife Michelle. Short a player, they paid for Lagi, Faauga's 16-year-old cousin from the Bayview neighborhood in San Francisco, to join the team.

"At first we did not know how Lagi would adjust, but she became the team's MVP and loved it," Faauga said. "My wife and I both knew that there were more girls like Lagi, particularly Samoan girls in San Francisco, who could benefit from playing volleyball."

Together they started the TOUCH Volleyball Club in Bayview. TOUCH, which stands for Take Out Until Completely Healed, is dedicated to taking youth out of economically challenged communities by teaching them values and life skills that help them succeed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

inside

- ▶ *Joan Ryan Talks with Warren Hellman*
- ▶ *Spreading the Word in 2007*
- ▶ *Bay Area Double Dutch League*

From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

With a talented, dedicated staff and Board of Trustees and so many wonderful partners and supporters, I feel very fortunate to be working at Team-Up.

I am excited to lead an organization that has spent the past six years blazing a new path in the sports-based youth development field, helping thousands of kids benefit from quality sports opportunities. In that time, Team-Up has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and expertise and I am thrilled to help build upon all the great work that has been done.

This year and beyond, Team-Up will continue to expand quality sports opportunities for youth in low-income communities; we'll work to get more trained coaches coaching in these communities; and we'll make a strong push for getting more girls in the game.

We'll also rally parents and communities to call for better sports facilities, programs, and coaches. Working with partners statewide and nationally, we'll work to move the sports-based youth development field forward by informing and educating the public as well as expanding the existing knowledge base.

While our plans are ambitious, we know that together we can accomplish great things. With the support and encouragement of friends like you, we *can* level the playing field for thousands of kids in low-income communities across the Bay Area.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to working with you.

Janet Carter, *Executive Director*

I also look forward to partnering with others who believe that sports are an ideal vehicle to transform kids' health, lives and communities.

Q & A with Janet

What inspired you to come to Team-Up?


In my previous work with the Family Violence Prevention Fund, we learned about the powerful role that mentors, coaches, and sports play in shaping young people's values. One of the best protections a child exposed to violence can have is the presence of a caring, consistent adult in their lives. Team-Up brings these types of positive role models into the lives of children. I believe that in addition to supporting kids' physical, emotional, and social health, our work also goes a long way to prevent the problems that plague our communities, such as violence and drugs.

Dreams for Team-Up?

I have many. First, I hope that we continue to create more quality sports opportunities for low-income youth and that we remove the extra barriers low-

income youth, especially girls, face—lack of coaches and facility access, gender inequity. I also look forward to partnering with others who believe that sports are an ideal vehicle to transform kids' health, lives and communities.

Did childhood coaches and sports influence you?

Being female and chubby as a child, I was often chosen last for sports teams. In those days I certainly did not have the benefit of coaches trained in positive youth development principles. Team-Up's work to provide *positive mentors* for youth is so important. Providing children with opportunities for sport and exercise is great, but without the presence of caring adults, these experiences may actually adversely affect the positive outcomes we all seek for children. 

JOAN RYAN TALKS WITH *Warren Hellman*



© Hughes Photography

warren hellman and his teammate joe captured at the tevis cup, a one-day, 100-mile endurance race in the sierra mountains of california.

Warren Hellman is a founding funder and ongoing supporter of Team-Up for Youth, a dedicated athlete, active philanthropist, and Chairman and co-founder of Hellman & Friedman, LLC, a San Francisco-based private equity firm.


“Competing in sports is really a key occurrence in the life of young people,” he said. “Even if you are participating in an individual sport, you’re part of a whole. You’re part of a community. You develop relationships that transcend your differences. You develop pride in yourself but also in this shared endeavor.”

“Sports was everything to me.”

It has been disheartening, Hellman said, to see sports disappear from public schools. Young people without the resources to pay for sports outside of school, or who live in neighborhoods with dilapidated fields and gymnasiums, are left out of the kind of experience that Hellman believes can change their lives.

“What has happened in schools in extremely tough financial situations—San Francisco is a good example, and Oakland is an even better example—is that sports in schools is dying. And it’s such a crucial thing to have in the schools.”

He supports Team-Up because it shares his belief in the transformative power of sports. He wants every child, regardless of economic or social status, to benefit from the same important lessons he learned on the playing fields of his childhood.

“It’s a tragedy that the schools don’t have sports the way they once did,” Hellman said. “That’s why Team-Up is so important. Team-Up is a way to replace it.” 

Joan Ryan is a Team-Up for Youth trustee, an author, and a lecturer at the Graduate School of Journalism at U.C. Berkeley. She is also a media consultant for the San Francisco Giants. Her first book, Little Girls in Pretty Boxes: The Making and Breaking of Elite Gymnasts and Figure Skaters, was named one of the top 100 Sports Books of the 20th Century by Sports Illustrated in 2000.

Even now, half a century later, Warren Hellman winces at the loss to Berkeley High.

“I was just another undersized kid at Lowell, but we had the best swim team,” he recalled recently in his San Francisco office at Hellman & Friedman LLC, the private equity firm he co-founded. “We won the city championship every year I was at Lowell, but we could never beat Berkeley.”

Those defeats are part of the reason Hellman supports Team-Up for Youth. For him, the failures in sports shaped him—and drove him—more than any of his victories. He said he learned lessons he carried with him into his academic studies and later into the business world.

“The thing you’re not able to achieve teaches you always to strive for more,” he said. “It teaches you to keep improving. The times you get beaten are the times you learn how to make yourself better.”

Hellman, by his own admission, has taken these lessons to the extreme in his adult athletic endeavors. He has pushed himself through the Western States Endurance Run—a 100-mile race through the Sierras. He regularly competes in long-distance events that combine running and horseback riding. He runs every morning at 4:30 through his San Francisco neighborhood.

Still, he misses the unique experience he enjoyed in youth sports, on the swim team at Lowell and the varsity water polo team at Cal. As a boy and young man, Hellman said, youth sports offered a sense of belonging and identity. Teammates from high school and college are friends to this day.

Spreading the Word in 2007

An important part of Team-Up's work is translating research from the youth development field into accessible training tools and information for after-school sports programs. In addition to bringing these tools to our partner organizations, Team-Up shares its findings with the broader youth development field. In 2007, Team-Up had two articles published, one focused on girls' participation in sports and the other on the role of organizations like ours in promoting high quality after-school programs.

Suzanne Sillett, Team-Up's Training Specialist and Girls Sports Coordinator and Susan Kleinman Wallis, Team-Up's Senior Program Officer, authored the article "Raising the Bar for After-School Girls' Physical Activity and Sports: A Guide for Practitioners." The article was published in the November 2007 *AfterSchool Review*, published by the National Afterschool Association, with circulation to 36 state affiliate organizations. It detailed important aspects of recruiting and retaining girls: engaging families, hiring female staff, and providing opportunities for girls to develop their skills in a particular sport.

Team-Up also co-authored an article on the role of intermediary organizations in sports-based youth development, which was published in the Fall 2007 issue of *New Directions for Youth Development*, part of the Jossey-Bass Psychology Series published quarterly. In the



article's preface, the editors draw attention to Team-Up as an "excellent example" of an intermediary organization focused on creating system changes in the area of sports-based youth development. 🍏

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Team-Up has helped TOUCH through a grant for athletes' equipment and travel costs and by training coaches how to implement best practices that generate positive emotional, social, and physical growth for young athletes.

"An early goal was to provide our youth with services equal to that of the fee-based clubs," Faauga said. "With Team-Up's support, we were able to do that."

The program now includes three teams for girls 11 to 18 years old, about a third of whom are Samoan. Lagi now plays volleyball in her neighborhood. When she first started the program, she had a GPA below 2.00. Now, with her 3.88 GPA, her leadership ability is on display both at school and on the court. She plans to be the first in her family to attend college.

For Faauga, missing a player a few years ago has been a life-changing event: "I changed careers from a law school path to taking this on full-time to see it reach its full potential," he said. "I know what we are doing is right. So far it has been a great experience for all of us here at TOUCH." 🍏


NEW PARTNER: Bay Area Double Dutch League

In 2008, Team-Up is partnering with the Bay Area Double Dutch League to expand their programs in Oakland and San Francisco. Double Dutch is much more than jumping rope. Jumpers incorporate elements of gymnastics, hyphy and hip hop dance, and aerobics, all while jumping between two ropes.

While participants in the program have been featured in Disney's movie *Jump-In*, Macy's Passport Show, and the National Double Dutch League's Holiday Classics in New York's Apollo Theater, the nationally recognized organization has remained small because this demanding, intricate sport



requires coaches with the special experience and athleticism necessary to train others.

Not surprisingly, organization leaders found that the young participants are also the most qualified coaches. Team-Up is helping Double Dutch with a grant that will enable staff to train new youth coaches and raise the number of young people who participate in the program. The youth coaches will learn valuable leadership skills while continuing to practice their craft. To develop the whole athlete, youth coaches and participants will also focus on discipline, commitment, good nutrition, and academics. 

Study Confirms Team-Up's Impact

“Program directors and staff could not say enough positive things about the staff at Team-Up and their assistance. Program directors can cite numerous examples of program changes made as a result of Team-Up input.”

—Philliber Research Associates, 2007


Between 2005 and 2007, Philliber Research Associates conducted an independent evaluation of Team-Up with guidance from a distinguished National Advisory Group consisting of leading authorities in the fields of youth development and education.

The Advisory Group included Dr. Jim Connell, Co-Founder and President of Institute for Research and Reform in Education; Dr. Milbrey McLaughlin, Professor of Education at Stanford University School of Education; Dr. Robert Halpern, Professor at the Erikson Institute; and Dr. Sylvia Yee, Vice President of Programs at the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund and Team-Up Trustee.

The evaluation shows that Team-Up's work results in more kids having **access to high quality after-school**

sports programs and experiencing **social, emotional, and physical growth** through these opportunities.

Specifically, the evaluation concluded that:

- ▶ **Kids** in programs that Team-Up supports were able to *improve their self-efficacy, build confidence, learn teamwork, build skills, increase their physical activity, and make new friends.*
- ▶ **Community-based organizations** that work with Team-Up see their program quality increase as the partnership deepens over time.
- ▶ In **low-income communities** where few resources existed beforehand, Team-Up has successfully built broad-based and **sustainable** sports and physical activity programs. 

board of trustees

Walter J. Haas, Chair
Harris Barton
Steven R. Bell
Parker Blackman
Mark Gainey
Ira Hirschfield
John P. Levin
Nate Levine
Susan Lowenberg
Jennifer Maxwell
Greg McAdoo
Angela Nomellini
Thomas A. Patterson
Arnold Perkins
Joan Ryan
Dave Stewart
Sylvia Mei-ling Yee

ready, set, go! is published by
Team-Up for Youth

Design: Ison Design
Printer: Inkworks Press
♻️ printed on 100% PCW recycled paper

Subscription requests:
info@teamupforyouth.org



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Oakland, CA
Permit 2508

Celebrating Youth Sports

Thanks to everyone who attended the Team-Up celebration last fall at Jennifer Maxwell's home. Over fifty guests enjoyed beautiful weather, a fantastic garden setting, and enthusiastic speakers. Special thanks to Trustees Joan Ryan and Jennifer Maxwell for co-hosting this memorable evening that celebrated the power of sports to change kids' lives! 🏆



(FROM LEFT) BARRY TOMPKINS, JEANNE BARR, JOAN RYAN, DAVE STEWART AND CHRISTOPHER MAXWELL