

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

**TRUE ALPHA
LEADER
SPEAKER SERIES**

MIKE SAIZ
SPEAKS 1

JIM MCINGVALE
SPEAKS 1

WE DO WORK

THORNWOOD
ELEMENTARY
CARNIVAL 2

MS150 PRACTICE
RIDE CAMP 3

FOUNDER'S
MESSAGE 4

ALL HANDS ON DECK: MIKE SAIZ SPEAKS

March 18th, 2013

By Ricardo Mercio

Class of 2016 Public Relations Officer, Memorial Chapter

As part of ACL's "True Alpha Leader" guest speaker series, Mike and Magda Saiz, the founders of the Chris Saiz Point The Way Foundation, shared with our members how to create something good from a horrible event.

The Chris Saiz Point the Way Foundation and the Alpha Charity League have been working together since 2012 when ACL's Katy Chapter chose to donate a part of their Lemonade Day profits toward Point the Way, and since then a relationship has been growing between the two groups.

I had the pleasure to introduce Mr. Saiz to the audience. In his speech, he told the story of his career, and the story of his son, Chris, his promising high school career, the untimely event of his death, and the ground shaking effect it had on the people at his school and in his community.

Continued on Page 4



*Photo credit: Reid Caspary
Class of 2016, Photographer
Memorial Chapter*

JIM MCINGVALE SPEAKS

August 2013

By Jordan Shaunty

Class of 2016 Public Relations Intern, Spring Chapter

Alpha Charity League is an organization created for young men along with their mothers, to volunteer their time and give back to the community. There are many opportunities, throughout their time spent in ACL, for the boys to get involved. Guest speakers are invited to share experiences that will benefit the ACL Members in their current and future life endeavors. Recently, Jim McIngvale, otherwise known as "Mattress Mack", business owner of the furniture store Gallery Furniture, talked to the entire ACL organization about Business Ethics and the importance of helping others, quoting directly from the Harvard Business Review's article, "How Will You Measure Your Life?" He stressed the importance of getting involved in your community. And yes, Mr. McIngvale received ACL's first standing ovation!

THE ALPHA WIRE

THORNWOOD ELEMENTARY CARNIVAL

Spring 2013

By Kendrick Foster

Class of 2018 Public Relations Intern

Memorial Chapter

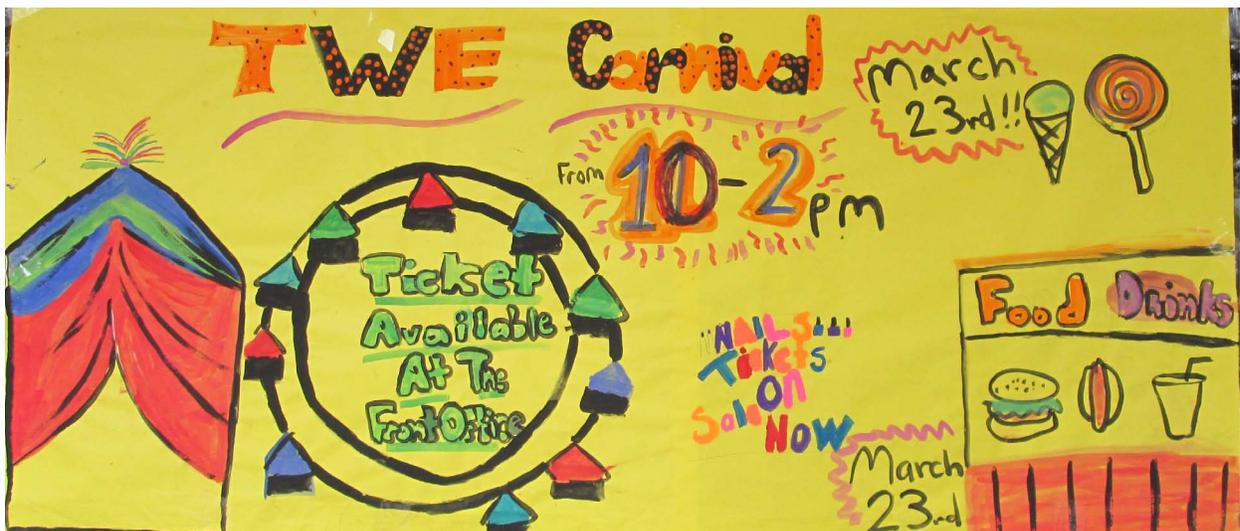
Alpha Charity League members volunteered at the first ever Thornwood Elementary Carnival, helping to raise over \$8,000 for the school. According to the Houston Chronicle, the school has one of the highest rates of low-income students in the Spring Branch Independent School District, at 83.4%.



ACL members assisted with the mini golf booth, as well as helping to sell tickets and popcorn. ACL Memorial Class of 2018 member Kendrick Foster said, "I'm glad we were there to help the school and the kids."

ACL members volunteered at Thornwood via one of ACL's approved charities, Family Point Resources. Our members enjoy being able to contribute directly back to our communities. In fact, since 2010 ACL members have contributed 300+ hours of their "sweat equity" to schools in the Spring Branch Independent School District and 350+ hours to Family Point Resources.

According to Vicki Mathieu, Vice Principal at Thornwood, the funds raised would be used "for materials for our students, technology purchases for our classrooms, and for teacher resources and support." Mrs. Mathieu said, "We definitely plan to have another carnival – we are not sure if it will be an annual event, or if we will have one every other year. We were very pleased with the turnout and fun everyone had."



THE ALPHA WIRE

MS 150 PRACTICE RIDE CAMP FOR ALL

April 6th, 2013

By Ricardo Mercio

Class of 2016 Public Relations Officer
Memorial Chapter

The MS 150 is a bike ride that takes place every year, and that consists of a 166-mile ride from Houston to Austin. Its objective is to raise funds for research and treatment of multiple sclerosis, a disease that affects motor functions by disabling the transfer of signals from the brain to the muscles. Though the objective of the ride is to raise money, the ride itself is a really challenging feat. It is an amazing event, with thousands of riders, and hundreds of sights to see. The practice rides, though, are shorter, and involve less riders, but are a crucial part of preparation for the ride, happening in a variety of challenging, scenic, and interesting places.

But none of that could ever happen without the avid workforce of the MS 150: the volunteers. Every event relating to the ride is peppered with volunteers. And on Saturday, April 6th, ACL grabbed the opportunity to volunteer in a practice ride, which took place at Camp For All, in Burton - TX, an incredible place designed to allow people with disabilities to enjoy the activities of camping, and a beautiful location.

The practice rides, though, are shorter, and involve less riders, but are a crucial part of preparation for the ride...

We arrived on Friday evening, and met up with some other ACL members from all over Houston. After a quick introduction, we started drawing posters to motivate the riders, and then made more preparations for the event that would be coming the next day, including filling up and loading water coolers and other smaller tasks.

The next day, we woke up early in the morning to go to the rest stops and prepare them with food and refreshments, as well as decorations. Our rest stop had a Mardi Gras theme, and we dressed accordingly, with beads and other festive accessories. When the bikers started arriving, the day officially started: hundreds of people riding by, stopping for a snack and a drink, and getting back on the road, lots of pep talk, and overall a very happy environment. After the ride had officially ended at our rest stop, we headed back to the camp for lunch, where we met some riders and got some rest after that energetic and exciting day. Unfortunately, after several years, this was the last time that this practice ride took place at Camp for All, but there are many more opportunities to volunteer for Camp for All and for the MS 150, and I look forward to doing both.

“Camp For All campers with special needs have really benefitted by the volunteer efforts of ACL. They may be a new organization, but their impact has been tremendous.”

Pat Prior Sorrells
President & CEO

THE ALPHA WIRE

Continued from Mike Saiz Speaks

Mr. Saiz also told us about how this change motivated him and his wife to found the Chris Saiz Point The Way Foundation, which gives high-school students college scholarships and scholarship opportunities.

Afterward, Mr. Saiz shared his message with us. He told us that we must put our full effort into life and everything in it. He talked about how important it is to take all the opportunities available and make the most out of life.

It was a great opportunity for the boys and moms from ACL, and a true privilege, to meet and listen to Mr. Saiz's message.

You can learn more about Point the Way at <http://chrissaizpointthewayfoundation.org>.

SPINNING A NEGATIVE INTO A POSITIVE

"Enabling", in today's terms, has a negative connotation of undermining one's true potential...enabling someone to not take responsibility for themselves, enabling an addiction, etc.

ACL's culture, and goal, is to spin that "negative" into a "positive" by enabling our young men to learn how to be successful, to contribute to the organization and community, and to develop their self-esteem based upon real life experiences at a very young age.

ACL enables our young members to take leadership roles if they wish, and we support them with training and exposure to Senior Level Executives that generously share their business strategies. While the Moms are always

there to provide support and guidance, our young members drive our organization.

ACL enables our young members to direct how and where they contribute their time and energy. And since we actively bifurcate money from service work, the members gain a true understanding of the value of their individual efforts. Self-esteem based upon real life contributions.



Photo credit: Terry Blackburn Photography

I hope that you enjoy ACL's first newsletter, written by a few of our Public Relations Officers. Yes, ACL has enabled these young men (ages 14-16 years) to have the opportunity to be published for the first time!

Enabling can be a good thing!

Elizabeth Rutherford
Founder