

## ***EDITORIAL***

### **Raising Champions for Tomorrow**

MONDAY, August 8, 2005

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Last month I had the unique opportunity to collaborate with the SEQUOR Foundation, an organization that seeks to promote programs of at-risk children, in identifying organizations in precinct one that target at-risk children for funding.

It takes strong partnerships from public, private, and non-profit sectors to provide the necessary infrastructure to develop strong-willed, ambitious, and disciplined kids for tomorrow.

This year the SEQUOR Foundation was able to help three outstanding organizations totaling \$50,000 dollars for our community. The San Antonio Sports Foundation received \$12,500; Martinez Street Women's Center received \$25,000; and Por Vida Academy received \$12,500.

The San Antonio Sports Foundation's Dreams for Youth program is a year-round sports program that introduces Olympic sports and fitness activities to disadvantaged children.

After-school programs such as San Antonio Sports Foundation—Dreams for Youth help provide positive reinforcement to help build self esteem and self-confidence; reduce truancy, and engage in eliminating junior and high school dropouts through training and mentoring for badminton, diving, fencing, tennis and volleyball.

The Por Vida Academy is a public campus dedicated to helping alternative students succeed. They will use the \$12,000 in grant funds to run "Project Stork," which will provide scholarships for daycare services to student mothers attending Por Vida Academy Charter High School. Project Stork aims to reduce truancy for school age parents, reduce the drop out rate and encourage good academic standing.

The Girl World Project of the Martinez Street Women's Center seeks to nurture the growth and development of girls that focuses on communication, creativity, self-esteem, healthy sexuality, leadership, and building positive relationships. Some activities Girl World participates in include: College planning, financial workshops, poetry writing, and computer graphics workshops.

After-school programs are the places where dreams are dreamed of; where imagination is unleashed, and the power to succeed is made possible. Community leaders and activists, parents and teachers alike are working tirelessly to turn the tide in our community; returning hope to the hopeless, and offering kids a chance to become leaders.

I want to recognize the San Antonio Sports Foundation, Por Vida Academy, and Martinez Street Women's Center for the hard work they do not only in developing character in our children—but for developing champions for our community.

They are opening the eyes of our children and revealing to them a simple, yet magical secret---that a desire, a dream, and a vision are the basic ingredients for success and the building blocks of champions.

A community of champions symbolizes a community of prosperity.