

MEDIA ADVISORY



For Immediate Release

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Seeking Junior Giants Coaches Junior Giants League coming to Live Oak

Community Bridges Live Oak Family Resource Center is seeking volunteer coaches for the new San Francisco Giants Junior Giants Baseball. The local nonprofit has been selected to host the Junior Giants league for mid-county youth this summer 2011.

Junior Giants is a free, non-competitive sports and education program for boys and girls ages 5-18 years old. In addition to teaching the fundamentals of baseball, Junior Giants focuses on character development traits - Confidence, Integrity, Leadership and Teamwork - and offers programs in Education, Health and Violence Prevention as an alternative to drugs, gangs and crime. The Giants Community Fund, with support from Bank of America, will provide uniforms, equipment, and training, as well as free tickets to select Giants games so youth can experience a Major League Baseball game.

“Our motivation for this league is to strengthen Live Oak and Soquel by getting kids and community members connected,” stated Elizabeth Schilling, Program Director of Community Bridges Live Oak Family Resource Center. Ms. Schilling has been dubbed by the Giants as a Commissioner for the local program.

To support the program, the Live Oak Family Resource Center is seeking volunteer coaches and assistant coaches, ages 15 years and above, to help with the 6-week program. Junior Giants coaches will receive professional baseball training by the San Francisco Giants and a tour of the Giants Stadium. Games will be held at Green Acres Elementary School on Saturday mornings, July 9 through September 3.

“If this summer’s league follows state-wide trends, 80% of our participants will never have played an organized game of baseball before coming to Junior Giants,” Schilling estimates. The program is expected to serve 250 local children and youth, primarily residents of Live Oak and Soquel.

The Center is hosting a glove drive to support the program locally and throughout the state. Gloves dropped by their offices will be taken up to AT&T park by volunteers on June 11 when the Giants host their annual glove drive.

Junior Giants is offered through a partnership of Live Oak Family Resources Center, the Sheriff Activities League, Live Oak School District, and Community Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA), seeking to increase public safety through families and community connections. A similar program has run in Watsonville for several years.

Registration for Junior Giants participants will be held at the Live Oak Family Resource Center on Saturday, May 14 from 11:00am to 1:00pm, and on Friday, May 20 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

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A coaches clinic at AT&T park will be held June 18. In addition to seeking coaches for the 6-week program, the league is also looking for volunteers to help with the opening and closing day barbeques to be held on July 9 and September 3.

Live Oak Family Resource Center is located at 1740 17th Avenue. Please call Mauricio Macias at 476-7284, ext. 111 for more information. All volunteers must be cleared to work with youth.

(A photo of Ms. Schilling and Giants pitcher, Sergio Romo is available upon request.)

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