



Padres continue to give back to the community that supports them

John Moores made a commitment to the people of San Diego when he took over the San Diego Padres in 1995. He pledged that the Padres would be active participants in the community and, 10 years later, the Padres still stand by their commitment.

To ensure that money would be continually gifted to the community, the Padres created The Padres Foundation for Children Endowment Fund, now housed at The San Diego Foundation. The San Diego Foundation helps administer funds for the three pillars of the Padres' community effort — a trio of programs that focus on the education, recreation and health of children.

"The Padres embody what The San Diego Foundation believes in ... giving back to the communities of the region to improve the quality of life for generations of San Diegans to come," said Bob Kelly, CEO of The San Diego Foundation. "The creation of this endowment fund allows the Padres to support the programs that are important to them in perpetuity."

The Padres' focus on education is evident in the Padres Scholars program. Established in 1995 by the players and ownership, Padres Scholars provides incentives for gifted but financially challenged students to stay in school and achieve their goals. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$1.7 million in scholarships to over 300 students.

"This program is extremely rewarding because it allows our ball club to help these bright students who have all the talent in the world, but do not have the financial means to accomplish their goals," said Sue Botos, director of the Padres Foundation. "Through the Padres Scholars, we can alleviate some of the financial constraints felt by these students, allowing them to focus solely on their education."



The Cindy Matters Fund, established to help fight children's cancer, allows Padres ownership and players, like Trevor Hoffman pictured above, to make a difference in the lives of these brave young kids.

"The players on this club want to make an impact; they want to make a difference," said Tony Gwynn, former Padres player. "Most guys are more than willing to put in their share to help send these kids on to college."

Another program funded by The Padres Foundation for Children is the Little Padres Parks. In 1996, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of professional baseball in San Diego, the Padres announced they would build or refurbish 60 ballparks to provide clean, safe places for youngsters to play ball. To date, 27 parks from Temecula to Lakeside to Riverside County and down through San Diego to Tijuana have been completed through Little Padres Parks program.

"It is remarkable to watch children play baseball," Botos said. "Their faces light up as they first make contact with the ball. The Little Padres Parks program is the

Padres way of sharing our passion for baseball with the children of the San Diego region."

The third pillar of the Padres' community outreach is working to better the health of children. This is accomplished through the Cindy Matters Fund, which was established in 1997 to honor an "extraordinary Padres fan" who died of cancer at age 28. This program is a comprehensive effort to fight children's cancer by providing funding for research, enhancing the quality of life for young people battling the disease and recognizing the scientists who are searching for a cure. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$1 million to benefit UCSD and Children's Hospital Cancer Care programs.

"Cindy was an amazing woman and very dear to this ball club," Botos said. "By establishing a fund in her name, Cindy's legacy will live on forever; helping children like her battle this horrible disease and working to find a cure."

"You have these young kids that are battling for their life, battling cancer," said Trevor Hoffman, pitcher for the San Diego Padres. "They talk about the players being the champions ... these kids are the real champions."

The Padres Foundation for Children Endowment Fund fuels these programs, which are among the many contributions that are made by Padres' players, ownership and front office staff each year. By reaching out to all segments of the San Diego community, the Padres have created a special bond with the people of the San Diego/Baja California region.

Through Endow San Diego, The San Diego Foundation continues its effort to inspire San Diegans regarding the importance of endowment funds, such as the one established by the Padres. Through the Padres Foundation

for Children, the ball club is able to support the things they are passionate about such as Padres Scholars, Little Padres Parks and the Cindy Matters Fund.

According to Bob Kelly, there are many different types of endowment funds that can be set up to match the wishes of the

donor. He also emphasizes that you don't have to be a millionaire to establish an endowment that will make a difference.

"An endowment can be established with as little as \$10,000 or \$1 million," Kelly said. "The most important thing to remember is that each and every charitable

gift makes a difference to someone. Also, these endowments accumulate interest each year and therefore will continue to grow and be able to fund the organization or cause."

To learn more about endowments log on to www.endowsandiego.org.

The San Diego Center for Children brings families together with hope

Children are not the only ones being saved at the San Diego Center for Children (SDCC); it's also saving families by giving them a dose of hope. Sometimes parents find that they are doing all they can to help their children and feel that they can no longer do it alone. The SDCC understands that these behavioral issues with children are unbiased and cross socioeconomic lines just as Lindsey Fitzgerald*, an extremely dedicated mother of three, soon learned.

Like many other parents, she found herself at a dead-end knowing she needed help when her son Ayden* turned to her and said, "I don't feel safe; I'm going to hurt myself, mommy." Her son was having suicidal thoughts and was aggressive toward his siblings. Doctors had tried different medications with no success, and Ayden was becoming the victim of violent side effects.

Ayden's family didn't have an answer. Realizing the potential for uncontrollable problems, Lindsey pushed to get her son into SDCC's residential treatment program.

"We were lucky there was a place for him. There's no way I could provide the level of structure and constant therapy that goes on there," Lindsey said. "With him at SDCC, his siblings were no longer terrorized and Ayden saw it as something that was going to help him."

Children of all backgrounds may need different levels of care, depending on their situation and state of mind. For Ayden, it was residential. For others, it may be day treatment or therapeutic counseling sessions. The SDCC assesses each individual to determine which level of care works best. For Lindsey, it was a lifesaver that her son could be treated while she took care of his father, younger brother and sister at home.

Since beginning the program in the spring of 2004, Ayden's progress has been phenomenal. His mom says it didn't take long before he bonded with several of the staff because of their nurturing ways.

Ayden is now in the eighth grade and is unrecogniz-



The San Diego Center for Children (SDCC) gives parents and children hope, like Donte, pictured above with Michelle Scouten, a SDCC child development counselor.

able from a year ago. His mother believes it is because the staff kept a close eye on him.

"We couldn't see past the next day and we didn't dare look because it was too scary," Lindsey said. "I have a child back now; I have a regular challenging boy. I wouldn't have had that without the San Diego Center for Children. They didn't just help Ayden, they helped me."

While SDCC services are paid for by government funding, the quality of services needed cannot be successfully provided through basic funding. To meet the treatment and care needs of the children, SDCC uses grants and endowments to provide the necessary level of care. The SDCC currently has an endowment fund housed at The San Diego Foundation to help fund the center and ensure that its services continue to help families like Lindsey's.

* The story is real; names have been changed for privacy.