



United Way of Santa Barbara County United Way

**Partnership matters.**

**Director and Founder**

United Way of Santa Barbara County

**Lead Agencies**

Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara  
Girls Inc. of Carpinteria  
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center

**Partners**

- American Indian Health & Services
- Art From Scrap
- Assistance League
- Better Builder
- California Conservation Corps
- California State Parks
- Canalino Elementary School
- Cancer Center of Santa Barbara
- Carpinteria Unified School District
- City of Santa Barbara, Parks & Rec
- City of Santa Maria Parks & Rec. Dept.
- Community Action Commission
- Community Counseling and Ed. Center
- Cornelia Moore Dental Foundation
- Dana Adobe
- Dancing Drum
- Family Liaisons, GUSD
- Family Service Agency
- Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
- Foodbank, North County
- Franklin Elementary School
- Friendship Center of Santa Barbara
- Goleta Union School Districts
- Goleta Valley Junior High School
- Guadalupe Hardware Company
- Guadalupe School District
- La Cumbre Junior High School
- Lake Casitas Rowing Club
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo
- Los Compadres
- Miner's Ace Hardware Grover Beach
- Montecito Bank & Trust
- Native Sons Nursery
- Nipomo Native Gardens
- Northern SB County's United Way
- Notes for Notes
- Paul Mitchell the School
- Red Cross of Santa Barbara
- Santa Barbara Dance Arts
- Santa Barbara Eyeglass Factory
- Santa Barbara Maritime Museum
- Santa Barbara Museum of Art
- SB Museum of Natural History
- Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics
- Santa Barbara Public Library
- Santa Barbara School Districts
- SBSD Food Service
- Santa Barbara Sportfishing Club
- Santa Maria Discovery Museum
- Santa Maria Natural History Museum
- Scholarship Foundation of SB
- Sempre Energy
- Student Transportation of America
- Two Feathers Fencing
- Wells Fargo Bank

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# FUN IN THE SUCCESS STORIES



United Way of Santa Barbara County

**Story 1**

Jane\* is an 11 year old 6<sup>th</sup> grader who has been attending Fun in the Sun for four years. She lives with her single mom and two brothers in a rented room in a four bedroom house. Her father has been in jail for a number of years due to constant child and spousal abuse. As a result, Jane has been growing up without a father figure and acting out. Before entering Fun in the Sun, Jane was behind academically in school and her behavior was extremely unfavorable. She was picking fights with other students in school, using bad language, and talking back to her teachers. After attending Fun in the Sun, Jane has increased her reading proficiency, she is excelling in all aspects of school and academics, and her bad behavior has dramatically diminished. Jane's future is looking brighter than before her attendance at Fun in the Sun.



**Story 2**

Ryan\* is a 7 year old 2<sup>nd</sup> grader who has been participating in Fun in the Sun for two years. Ryan has an older brother and a younger sister who live with their single mother at his grandmother's house. Ryan's father was only in his life for the first few years until he went to prison for domestic abuse. Without the father figure present in his life, Ryan tends to imitate and latch onto his older brother. Unfortunately, his older brother has many behavior problems. Ryan was extremely behind in school due to the fact he did not understand and did not seek assistance. He picked fights with and bullies other students as well as talking inappropriately to his teachers. His mother works two full time jobs to support her family, so she is rarely home. After two summers at Fun in the Sun, Ryan has completely turned himself around. He is becoming more independent from his older brother, doing his work in school, reading at one grade level higher than normal, and is making friends at school instead of being a bully. Ryan now has a hopeful future. Fun in the Sun helped Ryan to realize he had to do well in school, stop his bad behavior, and respect his teachers.



**Story 3**

Jacob\* is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and is 7 years old. This past year was his first year at Fun in the Sun. Jacob lives with his mother, father, and two siblings. The entire family was born outside of the United States and immigrated in when Jacob was a baby. Before Fun in the Sun, Jacob could not speak any English. He was constantly getting into fights, bullying and offending other children, and using foul language on a consistent basis. He was falling behind in school and he could barely read. Fun in the Sun has helped improve Jacob's life drastically. Not only has his behavior turned around completely, he is speaking and reading English and his parents have been attending parenting classes to help them with their children. Without Fun in the Sun, Jacob would have continued on a troubled path, and probably



\* All names have been changed for privacy.

#### Story 4

Juan\* is a six year old 1<sup>st</sup> grader and participant of Fun in the Sun who has improved dramatically after only his first year. Juan is currently living with his mother, father, and 4 year old sister in a two bedroom apartment they share with another family. His parents originated from Mexico, and his father was a heavy alcoholic, which has kept the family apart for the last three years. Living in a Spanish speaking home, Juan did not know any English which made life extremely hard. He did not know how to behave and was considered rude by his counselors, teachers, and peers. Juan was far behind in school, his reading skills were almost non-existent and he did not take school seriously. After one summer at Fun in the Sun, Juan is becoming bilingual and is rarely seen without a book in his hand. He has progressed dramatically in his academics and is now excited and happy to attend school. His manners have also improved drastically after some hard work from Juan and the leaders at Fun in the Sun. Juan shows great potential for the future, considering this was his first year at Fun in the Sun it is estimated that Juan will continue to see his grades, reading abilities, and personal relationships soar.



#### Story 5

Reyna\* is a 6 year old 1<sup>st</sup> grader with an older sister and younger brother who live with their single mother. Their father has never been apart of their lives and most likely never will be. They rent a room in a four bedroom house where they live with three other families. In addition to there being no support from the father, the mother was also limited in the amount of support she was able to provide for her children. This has a direct effect on Reyna and her siblings who were constantly acting up, fighting, and seeking attention from others. While Reyna is not necessarily lacking in her academics, there is room for improvement. Reyna attended her first summer at Fun in the Sun this past year and is already showing great improvement in her academics as well as in her character and behavior. Her mother has improved the way she treats the children after attending numerous parenting classes. Fun in the Sun played a key role in the change of behavior seen in Reyna and her family.

#### Story 6

Alex\* is a 10 year old 5<sup>th</sup> grader who has not had the easiest time in life. With five siblings ranging from 22 to 7, Alex is often lost in the shuffle. His family went through a rough time when the oldest child resorted to drug use. While the family owns their own home, every cent made goes towards paying for rent, which leaves the family with little to no money every month. Alex has had a hard time with his grades in school. He was lacking motivation and making excuses for why his homework was rarely, if ever, completed. Alex has been attending Fun in the Sun for three years and is showing vast improvement in all areas. His grades have improved dramatically, he is turning in his homework every day, and his reading proficiency levels have risen significantly. Alex's parents started taking parenting classes, and their performance as parents has improved as well. Fun in the Sun has had an extraordinary impact on Alex and his family. Without Fun in the Sun it is unlikely that Alex would have made it to his graduation, and very well could have followed in his older sibling's footsteps into drug abuse.



#### Story 7

Erin\* is a 7 year old 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and second year participant of Fun in the Sun. She is an only child living with both her mother and father. They rent one room in a three bedroom house and live with two other families. Erin is a little below average in school, and struggles emotionally as well. She is overweight and extremely hard on herself. Erin was having a hard time relating to other children and beginning to isolate herself from others. After attending Fun in the Sun, Erin began doing better in school. Not only was her reading proficiency significantly higher than the previous year, but she was began to realize she is a person of value no matter what her size. Throughout her time at Fun in the Sun, she began learning through others that she matters and that she is valuable, something she never thought before. Through the understanding and support of others at Fun in the Sun Erin is succeeding not only academically but emotionally. She has a bright future ahead of her that might not have been possible without Fun in the Sun.

