

Boys Team Charity unites moms' and sons' efforts

By Julia Swem

An idea that was hatched as their sons played baseball has grown from an Arcadia club in to a statewide organization.

Boys Team Charity was launched in 2002 by a group of mothers interested in participating in charity work with their sons.

Anne Czerwinski and Lucia Marusiak, both of whom have three sons, said they saw young girls and their mothers enrolling in the National Charity League and wanted their boys to have a similar experience. When they couldn't find such an organization, they created their own.

"We modeled our league after the National Charity League but adapted it to boys," Czerwinski said. "We don't have as many meetings and luncheons."

She said it's great to see the organization expanding and the good it is doing, not only in the community, but for the boys.

"The league has made a difference in my family," Czerwinski said. "We went to St. Mary's to fill and distribute boxes of food and my son asked me if we were making a difference. I told him, 'Look at all those cars lined up. This might be their only food for the next couple of days.' Then I saw his face light up and I knew he got it."

Boys Team Charity is broken down into geographic leagues with boys participating from seventh grade through high school graduation.

Participation includes philanthropy, as well as league requirements to strengthen leadership skills.

Each league has to do a senior project,



Dan and Laura Turner

as well. Last year the local one built a barbecue at the Southwest Autism Research Resource Center. Dan Turner, Arcadia High School 2009 graduate, said the program made a difference in his life in the end.

"When I first started I was indifferent towards it," Turner said. "But as time went by I started to notice my achievements. It was good to see all the happy faces after the final project was finished and see that I did something worthwhile."

His mother Laura Turner is the president of the board that oversees all four leagues statewide. (Another son Ryan is a team member). Turner said that during the 2009-2010 school year, members of the group volunteered more than 10,400 hours with 34 different charitable organizations.

For more information visit on-line: www.boysteamcharity.org.



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