**A TOUCH OF UNDERSTANDING, INC.**  
*“Building Empathy ~ Igniting Respect”*

Report of Activities 7/1/03 – 6/30/04

Mission Statement: The mission of A Touch of Understanding, Inc. is to encourage acceptance and respect for all individuals. Its educational programs are designed to enhance understanding of differences, thereby minimizing discrimination and social isolation suffered by children and adults who are perceived as different for any reason, but especially those with disabilities.

In support of this mission, A Touch of Understanding has been involved in the following activities:

We have made presentations at the following locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>School/Church</th>
<th># of Classes</th>
<th># of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>UC Davis Early Academic Outreach Program, Sac.</td>
<td>2-mixed ages</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Twin Oaks Elementary School, Rocklin</td>
<td>3-4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Treemont Elementary School, Dixon</td>
<td>2-6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sac.</td>
<td>1-children, adults</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17&amp;24</td>
<td>Eureka Elementary School, Granite Bay</td>
<td>6-5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Sierra Oaks Elementary School, Sac.</td>
<td>2-4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Crestmont Elementary School, Roseville</td>
<td>3-4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Mariemont Elementary School, Sac.</td>
<td>2.5-4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Valley High School, Health Academy, Sac.</td>
<td>2-10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Success High School, Roseville</td>
<td>1-9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Valley High School, Teachers Academy, Sac.</td>
<td>2-9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>115</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>Vencil Brown Grammar School, Roseville</td>
<td>3-5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Glenwood Elementary School, Sac.</td>
<td>2-4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>Robla Elementary School, Sac.</td>
<td>2-5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>Dry Creek Joint Elementary District, Spec. Ed. Parents</td>
<td>1-adults</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/19&amp;20</td>
<td>Olive Grove Elementary School, Antelope</td>
<td>8-3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4&amp;11</td>
<td>Heritage Oaks Elementary School, Roseville</td>
<td>7-3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Esparto Middle School, Esparto</td>
<td>2-6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Dry Creek Elementary School, Roseville</td>
<td>2-3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18&amp;19</td>
<td>Maidu Elementary School, Roseville</td>
<td>7.5-2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Access Leisure, City of Sacramento</td>
<td>1-adults</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/26</td>
<td>Yocha-de-he Preparatory School, Brooks</td>
<td>1-elementary ages</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/15,16,22&amp;23</td>
<td>Silverado Middle School, Roseville</td>
<td>14-6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>PRIDE Industries, Bring Your Child to Work Day, Rsvl.</td>
<td>1-Mixed ages</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6&amp;7</td>
<td>Greenhills Elementary School, Granite Bay</td>
<td>8-2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>Foresthill Elementary School, Foresthill</td>
<td>3-4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/21,6/3&amp;4</td>
<td>Antelope Crossing Middle School, Antelope</td>
<td>12-6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/27</td>
<td>Coyote Ridge Elementary School, Roseville</td>
<td>7-3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/28</td>
<td>Folsom Hills Elementary School, Folsom</td>
<td>2-6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/11</td>
<td>Quail Glen Elementary School, Roseville</td>
<td>7-3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; grades</td>
<td>140</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total 117 classes 3,450 students
A Sampling of Students’ Comments:

“Thank you for teaching us about disability awareness. It really helped me learn not to make fun of people with a disability. My dad thinks the program was good for me because I told him about it.”

Elementary School Student

“I liked when you guys came to our school. I liked Braille writing and riding wheelchairs. You taught a lot to us and we want you guys to come back for a visit. I made a goal by not staring at people with disabilities.”

Middle School Student

“Thank you for teaching us what it is like to have a disability. You told me how I would feel if I was the one with the disability being stared at.”

Elementary School Student

“I wanted to tell you that I learned not to laugh at my friend’s friend (or anyone else) who can’t walk. Because of a car accident she is in a wheelchair.”

Middle School Student

“Mike, I learned from you that people who don’t have hands have feelings like all other people. You taught me all people have feelings like me. Dan, I learned from you that if someone doesn’t have any legs that they have feelings too. You don’t have legs and you have a scratchy voice but you are happy to be alive. You taught me that people have feelings too and you taught me that if you have an accident, you are still yourself.”

Middle School Student

“I think the wheelchairs were fun. I asked a girl if it was fun to be in a wheelchair. She said, “No.” I thought it was fun, but I don’t have to stay there all my life. She does.”

Middle School Student

“At our age, some people do get a little carried away and forget how it would be in somebody else’s shoes. I’m sure it’s changed quite a few minds.”

Middle School Student

“I am very happy you came. You changed my life.”

Middle School Student

“Now I really know how it feels to be laughed at and teased.”

Elementary School Student

“You taught me how to respect people who are disabled and not to stare at them.”

Elementary School Student

“I had a wonderful time learning about disabilities and people who have them. When I went home that night I practiced reading Braille and walking with a white cane. (I used a stick.) When I went to the store that night I saw a woman who was deaf. I understand a lot about people with disabilities. Please teach next year’s fifth graders about disabilities.”

Elementary School Student

“I told Eddie, my blind neighbor about A Touch of Understanding. He said it sounded awesome. Eddie said you might change lives around the world.”

Elementary School Student

“I learned that you can still have dreams. I learned one more thing: to never try to make fun of somebody that has a disability.”

Elementary School Student

“Thank you for showing me how it is to be disabled and handicapped. I won’t tease people now that I have a better understanding of what it’s like.”

Elementary School Student

“Thank you for coming and teaching me not to be rude to anybody with or without a disability. I wish I could thank you more, but I’ll try to spread the word to my parents and to anybody I know. I learned a lot of things from each and everyone of the volunteers who touched me in a very special way that no one has done before.”

Elementary School Student
A Sample of Teachers’/Administrators Comments:

“The most telling evidence of this year (of impact) was that several of our students wrote about the challenges assembly as their most memorable event for their sixth grade essay.”  Folsom-Cordova District

“A Touch of Understanding is an excellent opportunity for our children. Your presenters achieve an excellent accord with our children. All look forward to having your visit our school each year.”  Foresthill District

“Awesome presentations/activities as always.”  Rocklin District

“Our students are now more aware of other special needs students being teased by others and are quicker to report it or intervene.”  Dry Creek District

“It helps students understand how people get their disabilities and that much can still be achieved despite them.”  Dry Creek District

“Allowing the students to ‘try out’ and use the tools makes them not be so strange to them. I think they feel more connected to others with disabilities.”  Dry Creek District

“A Touch of Understanding really helps the students become a ware of the challenges that disabled children face. I think this program is eye opening and useful. The presenters do a wonderful job with the children!

- Very impressive!
- Most valuable assembly of the year!

Wow! Thank you!”  Dry Creek District

“In the community in which I work, there is very little appreciation for anything besides sport. Racism, gangs and poverty inundate these students. Your program is important because many of these children don’t have empathy for lack of healthy interaction with people. You gave them a fun and respectful environment to catch a glimpse (and feel a glimpse) of how others feel. Thank you.”  Robla District

“I saw a change in my students that very day. Thanks to all of those who shared their stories/experiences and for the wonderful program!”  Dry Creek District

“We’re very fortunate to be able to have such a wonderful group of people come to our school and touch our lives.”  Dry Creek District

“A heartfelt thank you from all of us here at the City of Sacramento, Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Human Services. The presentation given by your excellent organization, “A Touch of Understanding” was greatly appreciated. I will continue to highly recommend “A Touch of Understanding” as an outstanding training session for other City sessions, as well as to folks in the disability community in Sacramento. We are so fortunate to have you in our community.”  Access Leisure

Sponsors’Comments:

“The members of our Needs and Allocations Committee felt truly blessed to have the opportunity to view a presentation by A Touch of Understanding at Maidu School. Once again, your organization scored well on community impact, financial responsibility, and overall operating structure. Agencies like yours truly have a positive impact on our area and the Foundation is thrilled to be able to assist you.”  PASCO Foundation

“I know of no other more important, no better managed, and no better received effort than A Touch of Understanding!”  Individual Donor
Teacher Responses to Questionnaires:

- 80% of reporting teachers noted an increased awareness of disabilities on the part of their students.
- 91% indicated their students demonstrated more respect for each other.
- 88% of teachers indicated their students had an opportunity to interact with students with disabilities.
  - 60% of those teachers who felt they could answer that question reported improvement in their interactions. (Many who did not report improvement stated they were pleased with the behavior prior to A Touch of Understanding.)
- 98% think A Touch of Understanding will have a long-term positive effect on their students and would like to have it presented to their class each year.

Our Growth and Expansion:
This past year A Touch of Understanding faced a number of challenges. However, we were able to maintain our number of participating students and presentations provided.

This spring, A Touch of Understanding reached a benchmark in development. Our ATOU team was able to continue providing presentations without canceling or postponing even one, despite the fact that Leslie and Ed, co-founders, were unavailable for two crucial months due to an illness/death in the family. A Touch of Understanding has made the leap in growth from the dream of a few individuals to the commitment of a team. This is essential for the longevity of the program.

Our plans for piloting our Docent-Training Program within the Dry Creek Joint Elementary School did not receive funding this year. This concept will be re-evaluated and perhaps built upon for expansion to other communities.

Our volunteers are talking to their friends and families and a number of new volunteers have joined our team. Margaret Harcourt, Norma Fries, Shawn Fowles, Pam Gehrts, Frank Burgett have all become members of the ATOU family. Our team is growing in size and commitment.

Collaboration with other agencies remains an integral part of our success. We benefit from relationships with:
- Disabled Sports, USA
- Foothill Volunteer Center
- Learning Disabilities Association of Northern California
- Nonprofit Resource Center
- Placer Collaborative Network
- Placer Independent Resources
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Ride to Walk
- Roseville Volunteer Collaborative
- Rotary Club of Granite Bay

A Touch of Understanding has received the following media coverage:
Ongoing television exposure through “Caregivers Series” – Access Sacramento and KVIE
Magazine Article:
  - Cover Story, Granite Bay View, May 2004
Newspaper article:
  - Press Tribune, December 10, 2003
Newsletters:
  - Lyon Real Estate, Focus On by Steve Shapiro, Volume 5
We are grateful for the sponsorship from the following sources, which allowed us to provide 3,450 students with A Touch of Understanding this year:

Give Something Back $1,431
Home Again Medical, Inc. $ 275
PASCO Foundation $1,239
River Cats Foundation $2,500
Roseville Automall Association $1,000
Rumsey Community Fund $5,000
Soroptimists International of Roseville $  500
USAA Foundation, A Charitable Trust $1,000
United Way Campaign Funds $1,846
Roseville Termite and Pest Control $  100

The following individuals have generously donated to A Touch of Understanding:

These donations were made directly to ATOU. Many other generous individuals donated to our mission through payroll deductions to various giving campaigns.)

James and Karen Bell Joseph and Arlene DiBiase Laura Beeman
Jeffrey Ecklund Marge Gengler Chester and Barbara Gmirk
Duane and Denise Gragg Maureen Graves Andrew and Gertrude Howe
Dorothy Hurley Tomislav and Jennifer Kuzman Pequita and Richard Marasso
Russell and Kimberly Nash Jo Ann Neider Gayle and Robert Nolasco
Richard and Dianne Penney Robert and Betty Lou Schultz Susan Gaire and Erik Stavrand
Beverly Taylor Mary Walton Michael and Deborah Ziegler

Memorial Gifts:

In memory of Eleanor Williams by Lauris and Edward Ennis

This year our ATOU family was touched by the passing of two dear members: Chad Mallo, son of founding Board Vice President, Anmarie Mallo and Lauris Ennis, wife and mother of co-founders Edward Ennis and Leslie DeDora. A Touch of Understanding is part of the legacy of these two individuals. Many donations were made in their memory and honor.

In memory of Chad Mallo:
Carole Sue and Stan Acres Susan Bell Robert and Linda Bradley
Ronald and Carol Brown Bev and Duane Bruce Anne and Gary Casagrande
Greg and Maria Collins Jane Copes Jamela Coss
Ron and Ulla Cowger Diana Davis Robert and Mary Ann Dean
Joanne and Bill Devine The Dutra Family Lauris and Edward Ennis
Diane and Peter Filice Jim and Paula Golson Bill and Diane Guenther
M. Christine Schacker Hennessy Kelly and Sean Holiday Beverly Houston
Jim and Kitty Jack Ken and Suzie Johnstone Barry and Lynda Keller
David and Carol Lawson Julie and David Long Lynn Lucia
Thomas and Sharon Merchant Lynn and Sidney Morris Stanley and Janis Ohara
Monica and Morgan Otis Linda and Jack Otley Dennis and Gayle Peterson
Michael and Dee Ann Phillips Christopher and Shannon Quinn Cindi and Rick Marment
Susan and John McVay Suzanne Rische Ruby and John Rodina
Demetrio and Belinda Sanchez Mark and Tish Santor John and Jackie Sawicky
Liane and Kazunori Sekigawa Kenneth and Lora Shipley Holli and Adam Tamas
Clara and Dan Taylor Dana and Jim Wallace Edwin and Francisca Wolf
D.K. Young
In memory of Lauris Ennis:
Edward and Joan Benedict
John DeDora
Norma and Charles Fries
Lyn Johnsen
Richard and Olga Mac Garva
John and Ruby Rodina
Georgene Waterman
Pam Berry
Barbara and Devina Dubnick
Chester and Barbara Gnirk
Betty Kruppenbacher
Ron and Sharon Middlekauff
Michele and John Skinner

Total Individual Donations: $5,403.

Inkind Donations were received from:
Joyce Beeman, Auburn
Home Again Medical, Inc.
Ralphs, Granite Bay
Raleys, Granite Bay
Roseville Transmission, Roseville

Our Challenge for 2004-2005
The economic environment continues to challenge A Touch of Understanding as well as other nonprofit agencies. As the resources diminish, the demand for our presentations increases. In response to this challenge we are seeking additional avenues of funding.

Our individual donations have increased in the past years, due to the sad passing of a number of family and friends spurring memorial donations. We appreciate being remembered at such sad times and know that the individuals will be honored by the work we do with children. We also receive donations honoring birthdays and anniversaries. We are planning to add another celebratory category of donations called “Gratitude Donations.” These donations will be accepted and acknowledged to thank someone for a kindness shown.

We are fortunate to have a new relationship with Lyon Real Estate. A local agent, Steve Shapiro, will donate 25% of his commission to A Touch of Understanding if a buyer or seller designates ATOU as recipient. On the corporate level, a new program is starting which includes a number of agents participating in which the buyer or seller receives 5% of the commission back and ATOU receives 10%. In both cases, A Touch of Understanding benefits from individuals doing business with Lyon.

We have also begun participating in a car donation program, with Car Program, LLC. A Touch of Understanding receives a portion of the proceeds from cars donated on our behalf.

Our first Crab Feed, in collaboration with the Granite Bay Rotary, in January of 2004 was a huge success! We look forward to an even more successful event January 29th, 2005!

Schools have already begun scheduling for the 2004-2005 school year. Some have called saying, “We didn’t call soon enough last year, and we wanted to make sure to get on your calendar this year!” It will be a challenge to provide A Touch of Understanding to all the interested schools. Our dedicated team of volunteers will continue to grow in size and experience to meet this need.

Thanks to your support, A Touch of Understanding is rising to the challenge of the times, continuing to touch the hearts and minds of children and young people throughout the Greater Sacramento area. We sincerely appreciate your partnership in our mission of “Building Empathy ~Igniting Respect.”