



Aztec Boys & Girls Club
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Raffle Participant Newsletter 1/26/09

2009 Harley Raffle

The 2009 Harley will be held Saturday March 21, 2009 at the Aztec Civic / Senior Center. As you can see on the opposite side, we have a great line-up of Harleys for this year's drawing.

Mr. Wallace Maples of Murfreesboro, TN won the Early Bird Drawing this year. Mr. Maples proved that sometimes buying your ticket early pays off. He won the Early Bird Drawing with ticket #00008. Congratulations to our first Tennessee winner!

As you may have guessed, in these difficult economic times, the demand for the services provided by the Aztec Boys & Girls Club increases dramatically. We are continuing to strive to provide excellent programs and a professional staff to our members, but may be forced to curtail some of our programs and services if we do not have a successful Harley Raffle this year. Our Club generates almost half of our operating budget from our raffles.

Once again, we are attempting to sell 3,500 tickets, but will have the drawing on the scheduled date regardless of the number of tickets sold. Tickets are \$100.00 each or available in 3-packs for \$250.00. For more information or to purchase tickets online using a credit card, please visit www.aztecbg-club.com. You can purchase tickets with a credit card by calling us toll free 1-800-461-1238. You can also mail your check or money order to P. O. Box 488, Aztec, NM 87410.

Destination- the Future

Gage, his mother Felisha and his sister Stevi are fixtures at the Aztec Boys & Girls Club. Gage, at the age of 16, is already a ten year veteran of the Club and a role model for the younger kids. He's a member of the Junior Staff, and for the past two school years, he has worked at the Club after school, tutoring, checking kids in and out, working in the concession stand, keeping score at basketball games. He has an infectious smile and a calm and easy manner as he makes his way through a throng of noisy kids who descend on the Club after school. He's comfortable and at home.

It wasn't an easy journey- not for Gage, not for his mother, not for his sister. Gage's father got involved with drugs and was sent to prison when Gage was five. Felisha, a young mother of two small children, had to support her kids, work full time and take college classes at night. They faced a lot of tough times together. Fortunately, they did not face those tough times alone. Felisha found the Aztec Boys & Girls Club and it was a lifesaver for all of them.

Gage credits the Club for helping him make the right choices as he grew up. He says the Club taught him respect, leadership and the importance of contributing to the community. He lives those lessons every day. He is a peer leader in SMART Moves, a program that teaches kids to resist the lure of drugs, tobacco and alcohol. He is a member of the Boys & Girls Club's service group, the Torch Club, which does community service work. He saved his money and went to Europe last summer as a Student Ambassador.

And he has his eye on the future. He'd like to be a radiologist. Or the Executive Director of the Aztec Boys & Girls Club. Gage moves confidently through the noisy crowd of kids, smiling and easy. It's clear that he has somewhere to go.

You Can Help

Program and membership fees support just over 10% of the funds needed for the Aztec Boys & Girls Club to provide services to our members. In order to continue providing quality value-based programs, and to keep them affordable to families, especially those who need us the most, additional support must come from concerned individuals, corporations and foundations. The community must invest in our most precious resource and the next generation of leadership... our youth.

Consider that it costs on average \$375 per member to operate the Aztec Boys & Girls Club and our Teen Center for a year. Coincidentally, it costs approximately \$75,000 per year to incarcerate a young person in San Juan County. Which would you rather spend your money on?