

Airline Exec Flies Funding Into Watts Youth Programs

By **LESLIE JONES**
Contributing Reporter

A complex offering fine arts instruction, academic tutoring and other services and activities for children is taking shape in Watts.

Good Works

That's thanks in part to the chairman of **Northwest Airlines** who has pledged a \$300,000 grant to Strive, a non-profit organization running the nascent complex. The grant will go to salaries for full-time faculty.

"I've made quite a bit of money in my life," said Northwest Chairman Gary Wilson of his donation. "And you can't take it with you."

The mission of Strive is to improve the community by supporting area children with a clean, positive environment where kids can benefit from academic and creative activities. Also on tap are community events — such as a monthly jazz night — where local teens will be hired to cater and host. Teens will have to apply as for any other job, but the program is meant to teach young people about how to get and maintain employment.

Strive recently finished turning two donated warehouses into an 11,000-square-foot enclosed mini campus. Wilson issued a \$125,000 matching grant in 2004 to aid the completion of construction.

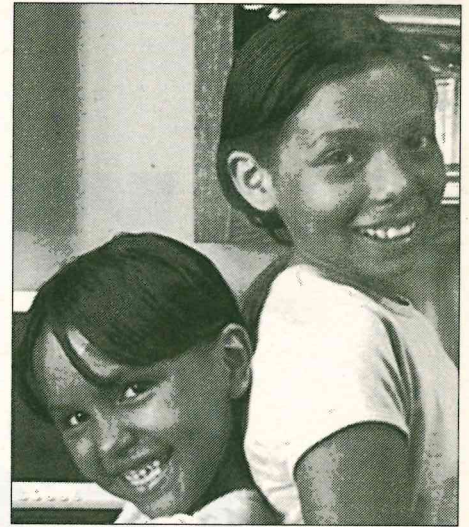
The new facilities are the realization of a 16-year-old dream for Strive's founder and director, Jim Tetreau.

In 1990 Tetreau left his job as a manager at a luxury hotel so he could devote himself to children of Los Angeles. After studying at demographics to find where children were neediest, he picked Watts. The 1992 riots slowed progress, but Tetreau was able to secure two donated warehouses. The process took a lot longer than Tetreau had expected. He'd approached celebrities he knew from his days in the luxury hotel industry and had thought his efforts would have been met with more support. But "I couldn't comp suites and limousines anymore," he said.

It did help, though, that Wilson stepped up with his pledge and mailed hundreds of letters to friends — friends with last names like Hilton, Eisner and Spielberg. Tetreau says Wilson would come to visit the site in the mid-'90s, sit on a crate and listen to ideas for the future.

As a matter of principle, Tetreau and other organizers haven't sought any government funding. Tetreau sees part of the problem in Watts being the mindset that nothing can get done without government aid. To encourage responsibility and participation, Strive will charge \$25 per quarter and \$1 per class attendance starting next year.

Tetreau is frustrated when he has to spend the first half hour of his day painting over graffiti. This has been happening less fre-



Kids: Participants in Strive program.

quently, though, since local gang members told Tetreau they're getting the word out to leave Strive alone. Strive is beginning to gain the trust of a community that's used to seeing do-gooders set up shop for six months, get frustrated and leave, Tetreau said.

The organization will develop arts programs based on interest. Right now the Saturday ballet classes, taught by a former member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, have a waiting list. Tetreau is eager to hire four new faculty members who will allow Strive to serve more children and stay open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

nia State University, Northridge; Rubalcava-Beck is the owner of S.R. Group Communications; and Sunoo is the director of the Asian Pacific Islander small business program.

Health Care

The California Association of Physician Groups has elected **Robert Margolis** as its board chair, **Jennifer Jackman** and **Barton Wald** as members of the executive committee. Margolis is chief executive of Torrance-based HealthCare Partners; Jackman is chief executive of Bright Medical Associates; and Wald is president and chief executive of Physician Associates of the Greater San Gabriel Valley.



Margolis

Southern California, a non-profit trade group, has elected **John Young** as president. Young is currently president of Young Homes.

Personnel

Diane Saunders has joined the Los Angeles office of Development Dimensions International, a human resources consulting firm, as an account executive. Saunders was previously director of major accounts at Dearborn Financial Services.

Amy Zimmerman & Associates, a Manhattan Beach-based firm specializing in administrative and accounting staff, has hired **Mandy Fard** and **James McCrary** as senior career managers. Fard was previously a senior direct hire recruiter at Spherion; McCrary was a recruiting manager at Global King Management.

Ray Soll has been elected as second vice chairman of the American Staffing Association board. Soll is founder of HR Business Staffing in Torrance.

Mark Evanoff has been appointed to president and chief operating officer of Los Angeles-based Ramsey-Shilling Commercial Real Estate Services. Evanoff was recently senior vice president with the firm.



Evanoff

Kudos

The following podiatric physicians with a full time practice have been named by Podiatry Management Magazine as among the nation's 175 most influential podiatrists: **Noreen N. Oswell** and **Oliver Foster**, Los Angeles; **Eric Hubbard** and **John Pagliano**, Long Beach; and **Franklin Kase**, Burbank.

Marion Taylor Baer has been honored by the American Dietetic Association and named the 2006 Cooper Memorial Lecturer. Baer is director of the Child Center, a division of the USC University Center for Excellence in Development

Law

Jams the Resolution Experts, an alternative dispute service, has hired **Richard E.**