

**Comments from the 2011 Check Presentation Ceremony at the Mustard Seed School
(11-17-2011)**

Next week we celebrate Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday that allows us to take time to gather together and focus on our blessings. Many of us are grateful for our jobs and homes, our family and friends, and for this beautiful part of the world. However, there are many others in these difficult times who are struggling without jobs or homes, alone, and hungry on this special day. These are the folks who are cared for by Loaves and Fishes and the Mustard Seed School.

Today, we are gathered to make a contribution to the Mustard Seed School, which has provided a safe haven for the neediest kids in our community for over 20 years. We are grateful for the Sacramento community that has supported this school and made it possible for them to continue to nurture and educate kids who are temporarily without a permanent home. The Mustard Seed Spin, the annual cycling event for kids and families to benefit the school, has only been around for 7 years, but we are happy to report that our event is thriving. This is due to our wonderful generous sponsors, our dedicated and hardworking volunteers and our new board of directors, for whom we are very grateful. WE also are thankful for the hundreds of participants who ride in our event—we are so happy to continue to introduce families to organized cycling.

This year, we are very excited to make our largest donation so far to the Mustard Seed School. We know that the school relies entirely on private funds to continue to operate. We are grateful for the school's contribution to our community and are proud to be a part of their success.

Therefore without further ado, I hereby present the Mustard Seed Spin's contribution of \$32,000 to the school. In addition, we have a special gift for the school's director, Angie Hassel. This wonderful Mustard Seed Spin calendar was imagined by Karen Longenecker and created by Barry Trute to memorialize the 7th annual ride.

Happy Thanksgiving to Sacramento and especially to the Mustard Seed School!

Victoria Akins, M.D.
Executive Director, Mustard Seed Spin