

***The Stories of LEAD
Class of 2008 Yearbook***

Being exposed to the San Diego region through so many lenses has created a sense of hometown pride and obligation to serve. LEAD has encouraged participants to engage in dialogue, decision making, and bring about changes and solutions to recreate San Diego as a new and better place for all.

- Kathy Myers

LEAD is a "creation of a dialogue" that doesn't typically exist and should on a daily basis in the community. LEAD is about fostering a community of learning and giving back. Due to this positive experience and the "creation of a dialogue," I am inspired to go beyond LEAD to continue the conversation. I have a renewed sense of volunteerism. ***- Derek Danziger***

I am more empowered. LEAD has given me a foundational education that I can continue to build upon on my own that will enable me to be part of the local conversation on various issues. The real value comes in what you do with the information you are given; you get out of the program as much as you put in. The more engaged you are, the stronger those relationships will be and the more you will become involved in the community in the future.

- Molly Jarrell

The in-depth seminars and the people I've met through LEAD have changed the way I view our City. I was able to meet people who I want to work with to make my vision for a better San Diego come true.

- Woo-Jin Shim

I have found that the personal involvement of current and past LEAD members on boards, as volunteers, and in response to the needs of the LEAD Partner Organizations has been a strong motivating factor for me to get even more involved in community activities.

- Diana Kutlow

The program helps you understand the issues of the San Diego Region that will help shape our future. It gives you an opportunity to find areas of interest or ways in which you can help. After LEAD, you have a network of people from diverse business and public backgrounds and you can get involved in non profits and other organizations as much as you desire or have time for.

- Gerard Reed III

I now not only love San Diego, I understand it. You can not realize solutions if you do not understand the problem. LEAD San Diego has given me a forum to better understand the community and how I can play a larger role in creating solutions to our region's most difficult problems.

- Heather Haltaufderheide

LEAD is a great way to connect with the community we live in. It's a great way to meet people who also care about making a difference. I appreciate the diversity of the class and the rich subject matter we had the opportunity to explore.

- Alisa Crothers

LEAD emphasizes that the well-being of any community relies upon the strength of its institutions and the success of these institutions relies upon the vision and efforts of the people that support them. I asked Hal Dunning why he had chosen to get involved with Walden Family Services. His response was insightful: while challenging, foster care is a small enough issue (compared to global warming or world peace for instance) that he felt he could make a significant impact. That reinforced the concept of choosing wisely where to contribute your time and energy.

- Daniel Stewart

LEAD paints a robust, yet detailed portrait of the dynamics of the region and presents opportunities for genuine and meaningful service.

- Morgan Appel

Part of being a leader in the region means "paying it forward." As I have learned over the past nine months, "paying it forward" not only means sharing with others about the LEAD training, but contributing to the organizational needs of LEAD San Diego. I look forward to continuing to spread the word to others about my positive LEAD experience and assisting LEAD with future projects.

- Steven Zasqueta

Any leader who truly cares about making positive changes for the region should give serious consideration to LEAD. Like most of us in this year's class, one will quickly learn that "they did not know what they did not know." I would sum up the experience as educational, thought-provoking, tear-jerking, inspirational and one of the more rewarding experiences I've had.

-Shannon Erdell

LEAD helped me understand more about some of the issues within San Diego. I have always known that it is important to volunteer in the community, and one of the best things LEAD offers is the opportunity to meet other people and become inspired to volunteer *more* in the community.

-Rachel Ganaden

Where else but LEAD can you meet so many different people, have so many different experiences, and learn so many new things about our region, all within a few months?

-Heather Dauler

The best and most surprising part of the LEAD experience is learning from your fellow classmates. We come from a diverse set of professions and backgrounds therefore we all have different strengths. The seminar series and LAT projects are the cornerstones of the LEAD experience, but through the interaction between classmates, I have learned the most.

- Stephen Lew

I don't think I have ever been involved with a group of individuals that are so completely diverse, intelligent, funny, warm - and possess such deep and genuine commitments to giving of themselves and back to the community. I began to see myself differently. I started to believe that there is far more that I am capable of doing in order to effectuate change within my world.

The whole experience makes me feel so grateful that I am required to pay it back – and that the education and connections that I have made through this process have made me capable of doing so.

- Karen E. Trimble

I have been impressed with the many leaders that are among us. They have reinvigorated me and I have made a commitment to continue to assist the partnering agency we worked with so that they can complete critical programming and continue to thrive well into the future.

-Jeff Gately

The dedication exhibited by my fellow LEAD classmates has inspired me to become even more involved in the San Diego community. LEAD opened my eyes to how vast our community needs are and the challenges we will face as our city continues to grow. I am encouraged that our community needs will be met by these individuals who have demonstrated such a deep commitment and passion for our city. My experience with LEAD San Diego has been nothing short of exceptional.

-Tina Gilmore

Sherrie-Lyn calls them ah-ha moments... At every session there was something new that I learned or a view that I changed based on the information provided. Overall I found the program to be educational and inspiring beyond my expectations.

-Karen Sedgwick-Tyler