

W. MacDonald #39 BOS 1/27/15

Re: Testimony for Proposition 90 by Wayne A. MacDonald, 1959 Portsmouth Dr., EDH

Some brief background. I was a High School Teacher for 34 years in the San Francisco Unified School District. In 1974, I created the Urban Pioneer Program (U.P.P.), a self-contained, full-time multi-disciplined course of instruction for high school kids who, either had given up on school, were gang members, were throw-away kids abandoned by parents, were sexual minorities and sometimes, were suicidal. The 33 students enrolled each semester participated in a variety of phases - Expedition Wilderness phase, which included two plus weeks of intensive training in First Aid/CPR, topographical map and compass use, Mountain First Aid, rock climbing and rappelling instruction, Adventure Ropes Course work, Nutrition Instruction, and use of specific wilderness equipment - all in preparation for a two-week expedition in California Wildernesses. Additional phases were: Environmental Camp Counselor support, Urban Studies, three-week On-site Career experience, Academic course work, on-site Community service, and weekly Public Speaking feedback evaluations. In 1999, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (Queen Elizabeth's husband) came to America to visit my classroom because 16 of my students received Congressional medals in a program copied on one developed by him in England.

Based on the tremendous success of the program and my desire to share it with many more students, in 2001, I designed, created and directed a Charter High School based on the U.P.P - The Urban Pioneer Experiential Academy. The school opened in the Fall of 2002 with 186 students and was housed in the Presidio.

My wife, Joanne, was a Public Health Nurse. She became the Director of Child Services for the entire San Mateo Co. She was responsible for a large staff of doctors, nurses, social workers and clinicians who worked together to provide home visits/health care for pregnant teens and counseling for teen fathers. She also ran Well-Baby Clinics and did home visits.

Our two sons are Fire fighter-Paramedics who moved to Rocklin & Roseville from the Bay Area. Both used local real estate agents to purchase their homes. We left our gorgeous home in San Bruno, which the Examiner newspaper referred to as the "Jewel of Huntington Park" in a full-front page color cover story. This house was a former little dairy cottage that I spent many of my summer breaks over the span of 40 years converting into a large, 14 gabled Victorian. In 2010 we sold it and, because Prop 90 made it fiscally possible, we moved here to El Dorado Hills.

Since moving here:

We spent over \$100,000 on improvements to our home - new carpets, all interior painting, granite counter tops, ceramic floor tiles, new AC and Heating systems, solar thermal pool panels, massive garden clean-up, new lawns, etc. We used local contractors from the county when possible.

Giving Back:

1 of 2

Wanting something to do with her time and desiring to continue using her administrative experience, my wife joined the Assistance League of the Sierra Foot Hills, where she quickly became the chair of the Resource Committee which raises tens of thousands of dollars through - "Gardens of the Foothills", a tour show casing local gardens (our house was on the tour last May) and through - "Home for the Holidays", a tour show-casing local decorated holiday houses. The homes have been in El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Rescue, Shingle Springs and Placerville. (I created the descriptions of each home on the last 3 fund raisers for the brochure/admission ticket). The money raised is used for: 1) Project School Bell, a program which allows needy elementary and middle school children in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville to purchase \$100 worth of new school clothes at the local Kmart. 2) The funds also provide low-key recreational programs for Seniors in local assisted living programs. We set up an on-site Holiday Boutique where the wheel-chair-bound seniors can choose holiday gifts for love ones and for themselves. The program also provides card games and lessons on how to apply make-up for many of these seniors who have suffered some reduction in their mental faculties.

Respectfully submitted:



Wayne A. MacDonald