



Hub City Teens and Their Angels

Maverick Angels is an investor network based in Southern California that prides itself on supporting entrepreneurship throughout the world as well as “giving back” to its own community. In 2008, Maverick Angels founder, John Dilts, who passed away unexpectedly last year, launched the Exploring Entrepreneurship Training Program in partnership with El Nido Family Centers. At-risk teens enrolled in this program acquire valuable leadership, management and technical skills that can be applied to any future career or business endeavor. Hub City Teens, an Internet-based social networking business launched in 2009, grew out of Exploring Entrepreneurship.

Developed by El Nido youth, for youth, HubCityTeens.com is a vibrant website designed to allow members to communicate with one another and access information relevant to their interests, from top music and movie picks, to resources for teen parents and job seekers. The business of running the site is a popular feature of the Compton Youth Development Program, with approximately 30 youth participating annually. During weekly meetings, the aspiring entrepreneurs engage in the ongoing activities of posting new content to the site and developing marketing materials to effectively expand its membership. Monthly presentations by Maverick Angels’ volunteers focus on teaching the crucial business and management skills needed to create a sustainable website, while at the same time mentoring the youth on how to build a successful business model for HubCityTeens.com. Fifteen dedicated “Youth Founders” of Hub City Teens attend the monthly meetings.

Maverick Angels’ volunteers share John’s commitment to investing in vulnerable communities. To honor his legacy, Maverick volunteers uphold John’s belief that active participation in the entrepreneurial process can promote the development of essential life skills among our youth. Fred Samulon (El Nido Board President and Maverick Angels Charter Member); Brian Wurfel (Chief of Operations at Maverick Angels); and Francisco Ramos (a dedicated volunteer) attend the monthly meetings and are in the process of creating the Hub City Teens business model to meet the requirements of becoming incorporated. Julia Dilts, Co-Founder and CEO of Maverick Angels, has pledged her support of Hub City Teens and is passionate, like her husband, John, about mentoring youth with a hands-on approach. While these leaders spearhead the volunteer effort, they also draw upon Maverick Angels’ larger membership to contribute as needed in their areas of expertise.

That Hub City Teens continues to flourish is a testament to the power of John’s legacy. Program Manager, Saul Figueroa, remarked that there is “much solidarity” among Maverick Angels’ members in embracing the program. As a result of this allegiance, El Nido is the designated “Charity of Choice” of Maverick Angels and was the sole beneficiary of the organization’s Annual Holiday Party Fundraising Event last December, which raised \$7,000 to ensure the success of Hub City Teens.

We are so very grateful for the support of Maverick Angels and extremely proud of our youth. To see the fruits of their efforts firsthand, please explore HubCityTeens.com.

The John Dilts Memorial Fund was established to build upon the works of an extraordinarily gifted and generous human being. If you would like to invest in the youth of El Nido through the John Dilts Memorial Fund, you may make an online contribution at elnidofamilycenters.org. Alternatively, you may mail a check payable to El Nido Family Centers (please specify “John Dilts Memorial Fund” in the memo section) to our administrative office at 10200 Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 350, Mission Hills, CA, 91345.