

Children Bake for Chile

Contributed by Shirin Coleman
Monday, 30 October 2006
Last Updated Friday, 09 February 2007

Four children in Burlingame, California raised over \$425 for the Chilean Temple by baking and selling their treats at the Unit Convention in October.

The idea for the bake sale fundraiser began this summer when 8 year old Arden David Coleman coaxed his older brother, Maxwell, 11, to start a bakery business with him. Together they baked, learning the proper mixing and measuring.

The boys made a decorative poster board sign and positioned their sale table in the neighborhood where real estate agents drove past for Tuesday Open House tours. The brothers cheerfully sold their treats, marketing their oatmeal raisin cookies, green tea honey cake, chocolate fudge brownies and banana bread. Arden David enthusiastically recalls,

"The arrow was pointing the wrong direction, but lots of customers came anyway. The firemen came to our bake sale too, because they were super hungry. The mailman and the garbage men came, too. Maxwell and I were disagreeing how to split our money from our bakery business. We solved the problem and decided to give all our money to the Chilean Temple instead of buying candy and more toys. We wanted to help build something important for the Baha'i Faith; that's the Chilean Temple for the world right now."

The Coleman brothers were so enthusiastic about their successful business that they set out to have a bake sale at the next Feast, where community members cheered them on and shouted "Dawnbakers!" in enjoyment and appreciation of their efforts.

From these two events the boys raised \$151 for the Chilean Temple. Their grassroots effort spirited their friends, the Arami sisters, Katia, age 6, and Anya, age 8, to team up with them to have a grand bake sale at the Unit Convention. These four children, a beautiful sight to behold, wore pink aprons and chef's hats while inviting Convention goers to buy their treats baked with love and pure intentions to help build the Temple of Light. Each baked good sold for \$1 and was packaged in a festive bag which included a quote from the Bahá'í Writings. The friends attending the Unit Convention joyfully supported the young bakers and encouraged their good efforts by buying the delicious desserts.

In the words of one of the young bakers, "I'm going to tell my kids that I had a bake sale to help build the Chilean Temple!" A privilege proved priceless.