

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2012

In the NEIGHBORHOOD

Eight graduate from Haynes

Staff Report

LA VERNE — LeRoy Haynes Center Board member Bob Mason told the eight graduating seniors in the Haynes Education Center Class of 2012 last week to “never stop learning, learn every day.”

“Always reach for your goals and reach for your dreams,” said Mason, owner of R.H. Mason Insurance Managers in Claremont.

Mason, who like many of the kids at the LeRoy Haynes Center, was on his own at the age of 18, started his career in the insurance industry after moving to Los Angeles with \$400 in his pocket and taking a room at a downtown hotel for \$17 a night.



MASON

He started working in the mail room of an insurance company and worked his way up to president of the company.

“Like me, you have been given a second chance,” he told the graduates.

Former board member Beverly Lee said it is the graduation ceremony each year that inspires her.

“This is probably the most touching and meaningful event that I do,” she said, adding that it shows what the kids have gone through.

LeRoy Haynes Center teacher Ryan Olivas, named one of this year’s La Verne Teachers of the Year by the La Verne Chamber of Commerce, told the students receiving their high school diplomas that their senior year included everything from hiking in the canyons to swimming at the beach and even sitting in on a class at USC.

But on their graduation day, “this is a time of celebration,” he said, “of a significant milestone in your life. This is only the beginning of the rest of your life. From here on out, you are the master of your own destiny.”

La Verne council members Robin Carder and Charlie A. Rosales were on hand to congratulate the graduates.

The graduates received scholarships made possible by donations from Mason, Lee and an anonymous donor.

The LeRoy Haynes Center provides specialized treatment and educational services to children with special needs relating to emotional development, autism, Asperger’s Disorder, learning disabilities, neglect and abandonment.

Information about the LeRoy Haynes Center: 909-593-2581, or www.leroyhaynes.org.



Courtesy photo

Ryan Olivas, a LeRoy Haynes Center teacher who was named one of this year’s La Verne Teachers of the Year, spoke at the center’s graduation ceremony. Eight seniors graduated from the center last week.