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When he's not leading a team of service attendants at Division 10, Senior Service Attendant Caesar Murillo coaches baseball at San Dimas High School. Photo by Elizabeth Leider.



Metro's Caesar Murillo Knows All About the Rewards of Coaching

• For more than 20 years, he's helped shape kids lives

By ELIZABETH LEIDER

(March. 8, 2007) When kids talk to Caesar Murillo they get lively stories and seasoned advice. "My kids have always done well. That's one of the things I'm really proud of," says Murillo, a senior Metro service attendant and charismatic high school coach.

Murillo has been coaching football and baseball for more than 20 years. It began as a way to spend time with his children and grew into his passion. "In a sense it's like not growing up because I'm doing it through my kids."

Murillo's in his 18th year with Metro, currently at Gateway Division 10. He spent his first 13 years working the graveyard shift so he could coach during the day.

His debut stint in youth sports was as a gym teacher for the Alhambra School District, grades 4 through 8. Since 1985, Murillo has coached at San Gabriel High School, Sierra Vista High School, La Puente High School and, from 2001 until now, at San Dimas High School.

Within five minutes you can tell why many of the youngsters Murillo has coached have turned out so well.

A pivotal role

"From the ninth grade on, those are the most important years of your life," says Murillo. As a coach, he plays a pivotal role in helping the kids find their way.

Some of his former athletes have played professional baseball with teams such as the Texas Rangers, Pittsburgh Pirates and Los Angeles Dodgers. A few have played college football at schools like Boise State University.

Over the years, Murillo has tried to quit coaching. His wife of 38 years, Yolanda, wants him to take a break, but Murillo just can't seem to give up this "very rewarding" lifestyle. "The biggest reward is when the players remember and acknowledge you. Those are the things that make a difference."

It's always a pleasant surprise when Murillo runs into former students. "The fun thing is when you go to a game and they'll see you and say, 'Hey coach come here, I want to introduce you to my friends.' And you'll get to go down to the bull pen."

Former students seem to have the same comment when they see their old coach, they thank him for making such a difference in their lives.

And as Murillo knows, "those are the things that make coaching special."

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