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Four photos included in document below press release. (Photos courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry)

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Teens Dream of One Day Earning College Degrees

JaCori Neal and Clarissa Fears are two ambitious teens who have learned to overcome obstacles. They are focused academically, musically, and spiritually in Community Outreach Ministry's (COM) camping, annual Angel Tree Christmas party and year-round outreaches. At these events, they experience fun, friendship, the love of God and to give back to their communities.

In March, Neal participated in "Gearing Up for Stem" Mentor Protege Workshop held at Lakeland Village School, in Lakeland Village, CA. Neal demonstrated his TRON Meccano robot that he built and programmed by himself to sing, dance, and light up for the students. Neal was part of the COM team of engineers, grandparents, parents and students who mentored twelve students to assemble their own robot kits using the "tools of the trade," while practicing reading and following step-by-step drawing instructions. Students learned valuable lessons in teamwork and accomplished goals comparable to on-the-job training.



JaCori Neal with TRON Meccano Robot at Lakeland Village School in LakeLand Village

Fears in April, volunteered and did face painting for youngsters visiting COM's booth at the K-9 Trials. The K-9 Trials 2018 was presented by the Murrieta Police Department to benefit the Paws4Law Foundation held at the Murrieta Valley High School. COM featured *Child Identification Kits* a much-needed tool for parents to protect and keep their children safe and parent safety tips. Parent Tips From the McGruff Crime Dog® were handed out as a resource helping with bullies, home and neighborhood safety, staying safe on the Internet and what parents need to tell their children about saying no to alcohol, tobacco and drugs.



Clarissa Fears Face Painting at K-9 Trials Murrieta

For nearly 20 years, Dr. Mona Davies and her husband Bob have provided emergency referrals to at-risk youth and families impacted by incarceration. Their purpose in forming Community Outreach Ministry in Wildomar, CA. was to guide children and struggling caregivers to access resources for positive youth development and transition youth into healthy, well-educated and skilled adult members of society with a God given hope for a prosperous future.

Today, Neal and Fears are two exceptional high school students who, in a few short years, aspire to attend college. To that end, Fears, a freshman at Elsinore High School in Wildomar and Neal, a sophomore at Temescal Canyon High School in Lake Elsinore, are determined to find ways to pay for their college degrees apart from their families using creative solutions. Despite the odds, Fears and Neal are both very motivated young adults. Fears plays the flute in her school band while Neal plays drumline and marching band. Fears is training in Jiu-Jitsu and Neal is a wide receiver/safety on his high school football team. Both teens are active in church and have volunteered their musical and singing gifts for COM's book launch. Davies' are the authors of *Children's Liberation From Incarceration Breaking Cycles New Beginnings*. The book was introduced on September 10, 2017 at The Corporate Room in Wildomar where we were privileged to have elected officials present and 100+ community members.



JaCori Neal and Jaelin Neal singing at Book Launch Celebration in Wildomar



Clarissa Fears Playing the Flute at Book Launch Celebration in Wildomar

The students' above average academic performance, involvement in extracurricular activities and volunteer work will weigh favorably in the near future among college admissions officers, but little is guaranteed unless funds become available to help these two teens pay for school.

A newer charity, though, may be the answer to these teens' prayers. Give Something Back (Give Back) is a public charity that provides pre-college mentoring and college scholarships to students who have faced

adversity such as foster care, homelessness or the incarceration of a parent. Studies show that these students have a very low chance of entering or completing college. Give Back was founded by Robert O. Carr. He is determined to break the cycle and believes a college education is the key. Give Back has provided more than 1,500 scholarships to youth in seven different states. Give Back has programs in California, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. And, has partnered with over twenty-six colleges in those states.

“From our college partners to valued high school counselors, strong partnerships are critical to our success,” said Ms. Christine Brown in an email. Brown is the regional director of Give Something Back in San Bernardino, CA. “California is one of the newest states to join Give Back,” said Brown. “Since we are new, we rely on community-partners to help us reach out to our targeted population of foster youth, homeless youth and youth that have experienced the incarceration of a parent... While we were searching for community-based organizations that work with children of incarcerated parents, we came across Community Outreach Ministry and the amazing work they are doing with youth. We reached out to Dr. Mona Davies to tell her about our program and now we are in the process of considering two of the youth for a scholarship to one of our partnering universities.” (JaCori Neal and Clarissa Fears)

Everyday children of incarcerated parents struggle and may be vulnerable of becoming the next generation of inmates. They need help to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, drugs, gangs and incarceration. Community Outreach Ministry (COM) a 501 C3 non-profit public charity is a volunteer organization founded in 2000 by Dr. Mona and Bob Davies serving Southwest, CA. COM raises scholarships in order for youngsters to engage in camp activities, mentor protégé workshops and Christmas programs. These scholarships are: “*Giving at-risk kids a second chance to be winners and champions.*” We believe God calls all of us to care, share and save the lives of struggling children. We welcome on-line donations at <https://www.paypal.me/communityoutreachmin> to improve lives making our community a better place. For details contact us by phone at (951)-698-7650 or e-mail us at info@communityoutreachministry.org.