EVENT PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION
Media contact: Dr. Mona Davies
Community Outreach Ministry
951-698-7650
daviesmmd1@msn.com
Website: communityoutreachministry.org
Photos courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry

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Media contact: Dr. Mona Davies, 951-698-7650

Celebrating the Spirit of Christmas
Nineteenth Annual Angel Tree Christmas Party

The 19th annual Angel Tree Christmas party hosted by Dr. Mona and Bob Davies of Community Outreach Ministry was a royal celebration, in partnership with Angel Tree® a program of Prison Fellowship. The party was held December 8 at Elks Lodge #2591 in Wildomar. The incarcerated parents signed up their children to ensure their kids celebrated the Spirit of Christmas in a joyful atmosphere with Christmas festivities.

The annual event began with a patriotic performance by The Temecula Valley Young Marines (TVYM) who performed Colors, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Wildland Firefighter Kevin Ferris with a team of firefighters gave the children a tour of the U.S. Department of Forestry firetruck from Murrieta and “Smokey the Bear” was there to greet the children and their families. Johnna Hose with Smokey the Bear said, “Rain or shine never miss it! This will be my 9th year with Angel Tree and I love every minute!”

California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer Anthony Florez of Temecula was assisted by CHP explorers. Together they found ways to educate party goers about safety and how youth at age 15 can enter the explorer program. Children learned significant safety tips such as the importance of wearing helmets while riding their bicycles and to always use seat belts when travelling in vehicles.

The Vista Community Clinic of Lake Elsinore brought its state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic for the children and family members to receive free dental assessments. At her booth, Debbie Cortez of Purses from Heaven of Lake Elsinore stuffed purses with Bibles and toiletry gifts that were given to the caregivers at the event. Clarissa Fears of Elsinore High School in Wildomar and her team had fun face painting the children.
Lunch was catered by New Life Culinary Creations and served by Denise Ronzello, Wells Fargo and TVYM. Jonay Cordeiro of Coast to Coast Enterprise LLC in Menifee donated 200 delicious and beautifully decorated Christmas cupcakes. Enchanting Christmas carols were sung by the Mountain View Church Children’s Choir of Wildomar. The singers, who ranged in age from four to twelve sang “Christmas Is A Time to Love,” “Little Town of Bethlehem” and “Silent Night.” The exuberant and gifted Lake Elsinore Neal Brothers Jacori and Jaelin and little sister Jaden Cook sang “O Holy Night” “Winter Wonderland” and “Hallelujah.”

Caring gift sponsors included: Menifee Rotary Club, Nike Factory Store-Lake Elsinore, Denise Ronzello and gals from Shear Expressions Salon of Murrieta, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Southland Arthritis Rheumatology-Menifee; Massage Envy-Murrieta, Wildomar and Menifee, Wellness and More-Murrieta. Additional gift sponsors included Dr. Jeff Prais Dental Office-Murrieta, Yolanda Burgess Bookkeeping-Murrieta, Coast to Coast Enterprise LLC-Menifee and Wells Fargo’s Dina Attia District Manager of Inland Crossroads District said, “It has been an honor and a privilege to participate with Community Outreach Ministry’s mission. This is my go to during this season.”

Of the 154 children adopted, 51 percent were girls and 49 percent were boys. Fifteen percent of the children were within the zero to four year age range, 44 percent were between five to ten years in age, 21 percent of the little party goers were 11 to 13 and 20 percent of the youth were between 14 and 18. The children's ethnicities were Hispanic at 49 percent, Caucasian at 36 percent and African American 15 percent. The children were from the following cities: Wildomar (25 percent), Murrieta (24 percent), Lake Elsinore (22 percent) and other (29 percent).

We are grateful to the Elks Lodge for the use of their banquet hall, Janice Hare of Mt View Church for obtaining the children’s wish lists, Johnna Hose of Destinations Explored by Dream Vacations of Murrieta for writing the Angel Tree tags, Marcella Martinez of Wildomar for wrapping gifts, Ankoma Hose and TVYM for distributing gifts. Our heartfelt thanks to all for the greatest Christmas Party ever and “helping to break the cycle of incarceration giving kids a second chance to be winners and champions.”

First Photo Neal Brothers Jacori and Jaelin singing the National Anthem and TVYM Colors
Second Photo US Department of Forestry "Smokey the Bear" and Johnna Hose of Murrieta

Third Photo Mt. View Church Children’s Choir from Wildomar

Fourth Photo Ashley Linn family, Noah and Angelina from Murrieta
Fifth Photo Tami Smith family, Lagan and Radley from Hemet

Sixth Photo Vicky Dawkins Family, Dino and Deion from Temecula

(Left to right) Jessica, Andrea, Seymana, Kela, and Monica with Nike Lake Elsinore
Wells Fargo Inland Crossroads District

Wellness and More in Murrieta Jennifer Hernandez and Officer Josh Rodriguez