



St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

P.O. Box 1376, Solana Beach, CA 92075

February 2014

www.missioncircle.com

858.792.0516

Our mission is to organize, lead, and engage the parishioners of Saint James and Saint Leo Catholic Community to improve the lives of people in need.

Remembering Our Dedicated "Donations Lady"



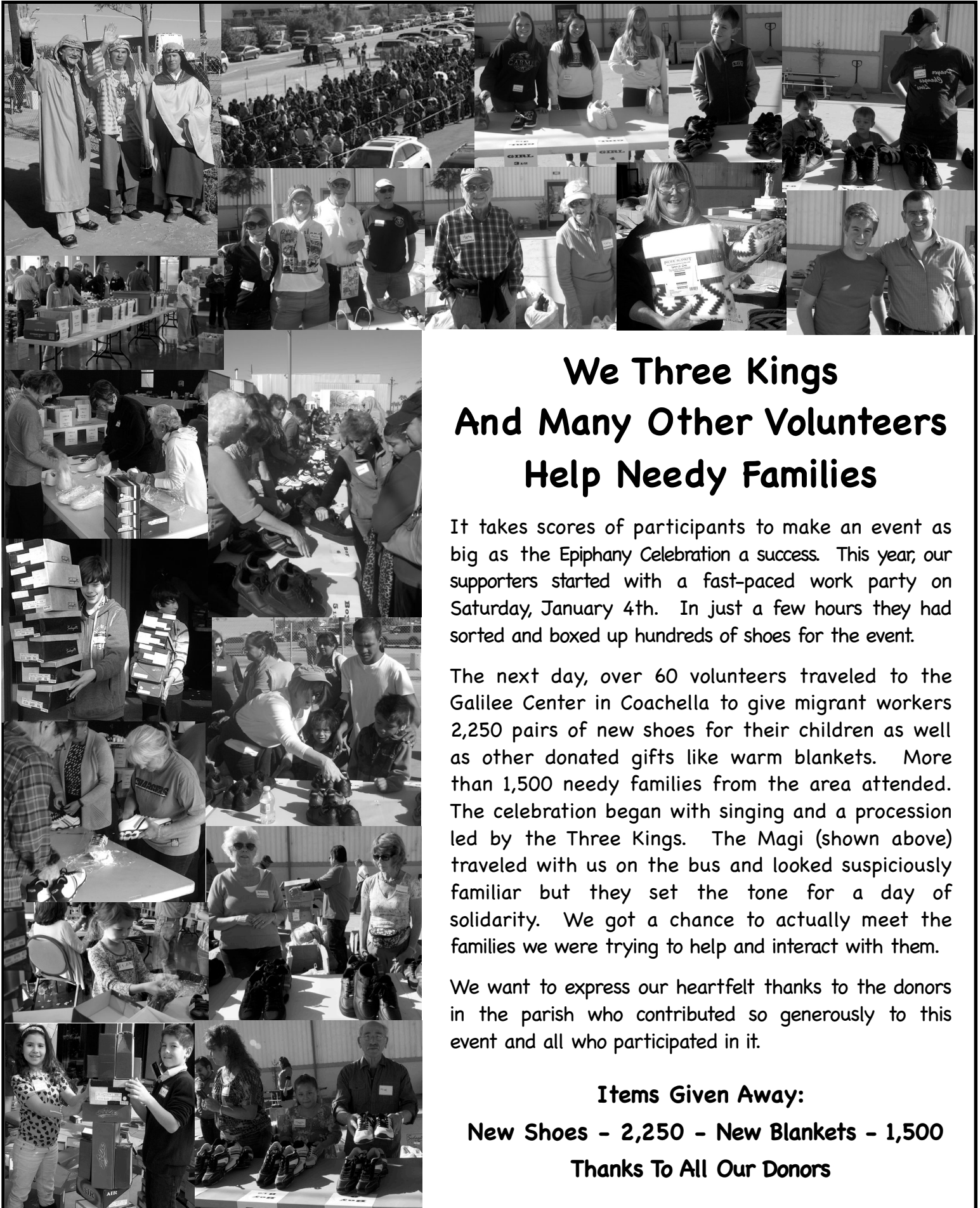
Last December we lost Laura Wagner, a long-time member who served as past president and instigated many activities like sewing lessons at the Casa Eudes Girls Home. For years Laura ran our Donation and Bread Programs with the efficiency of a head nurse (which she had been). She also started our program to assist needy migrant families in Coachella. Her kindness and tireless efforts will serve as an inspiration to the rest of us.

Walking The Walk With The Poor At The Epiphany Celebration



We Give New Shoes And Warm Blankets To Hundreds Of Migrant Families





We Three Kings And Many Other Volunteers Help Needy Families

It takes scores of participants to make an event as big as the Epiphany Celebration a success. This year, our supporters started with a fast-paced work party on Saturday, January 4th. In just a few hours they had sorted and boxed up hundreds of shoes for the event.

The next day, over 60 volunteers traveled to the Galilee Center in Coachella to give migrant workers 2,250 pairs of new shoes for their children as well as other donated gifts like warm blankets. More than 1,500 needy families from the area attended. The celebration began with singing and a procession led by the Three Kings. The Magi (shown above) traveled with us on the bus and looked suspiciously familiar but they set the tone for a day of solidarity. We got a chance to actually meet the families we were trying to help and interact with them.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to the donors in the parish who contributed so generously to this event and all who participated in it.

Items Given Away:

New Shoes - 2,250 - New Blankets - 1,500

Thanks To All Our Donors



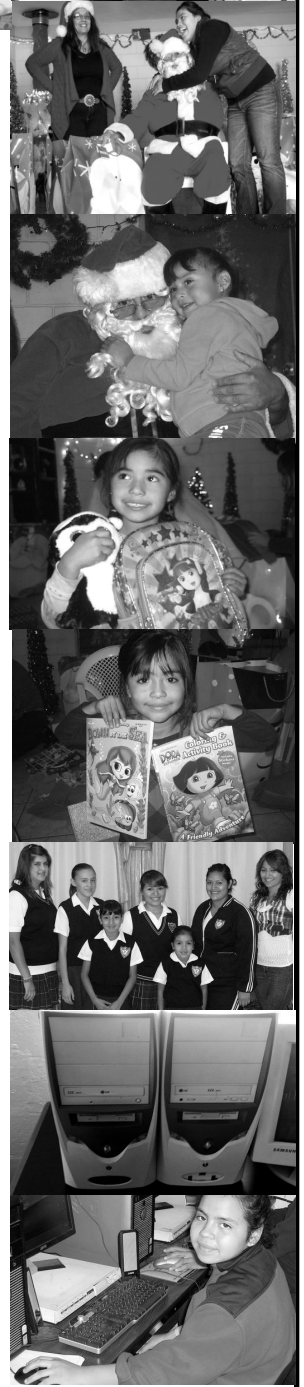
Making Merry At The Casa Eudes Christmas Party

Santa got a chance to thaw out when he headed for our Casa Eudes Christmas party this year. It was so warm and sunny, the girls gave their dance recital outdoors in the courtyard!

After Mission Circle volunteers served a delicious holiday feast of turkey with all the trimmings, Santa arrived and headed straight for the shade of the social room to give out all the gifts. Thanks to the generosity of the parish, there was a big bag of goodies for every one of the kids plus the sisters, the staff, and the staff's children. If you donated a gift, we can't thank you enough. You brought joy to a Casa Eudes child this Christmas.

New Computers At Casa Eudes Will Help Students Keep Up

We're in the process of upgrading both the internet connection and the computers the girls use to do their homework. The current machines are so outmoded, the tech people helping us joke that they can only be recycled as doorstops or boat anchors. When the new system is in place, the girls will find it much easier to do their homework. There are just a few old computers now and the connection is so slow, the girls often have to stay up late to finish their assignments.





“Recycled” Donation Shed Going Up

Our donation program has been given some big items in the past but we recently received a whole building! Well, OK. It's actually just a one-room structure that Habitat for Humanity could no longer use but it will make a perfect storage shed for us. To take advantage of this sudden windfall, a crew of volunteers tore the structure down and transported it to the lower church parking lot in the truck we use for pick-ups. Now we're waiting for the parish administrators to decide on the exact spot to reconstruct it. Once that happens, our helpers will have a “shed raising” party. We have two other sheds our donations program is using at the moment to store donated food, clothing and household goods. One of them has just about lost its battle with termites and old age. This new, recycled building will be a much sturdier and roomier replacement.

Put Your Talents To Work To Help The Poor

Here's your chance to use your skills to improve the lives of others. Most of these Mission Circle jobs take just a few hours a week:

Website Manager -- update event information, photos, and the calendar. Takes about two hours a month plus attending a monthly Mission Circle meeting .

Mission Circle Secretary -- take notes during our meetings once a month and submit a report. Update member information. About an hour a week.

Organizer For Our Donation Program -- schedule local food pick ups for and its distribution to soup kitchens in the area. Organize the donations of clothes and household goods. Takes about one hour a week -- mostly phone work.

Maintenance Person For Our Donation Sheds -- make sure the grounds and the donations sheds are clean and the bread and donations are stored efficiently. Enough strength is needed to move and lift up to 50 pounds. Requires about two hours a week.

Youth Outreach Contact -- serve as a liaison between young adults, young families, and teens in the parish. Promote and encourage their participation in our Mission Circle events. Estimated time about one hour a week.



Events Calendar

| WHEN | WHAT | WHERE |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| February | | |
| During February | MC Quarterly Newsletter | US Mail |
| 7:30 am Sat 8th | MC/SBYA* - Maintenance | Casa Eudes, TJ |
| 7:00 pm Tues 11th | MC Board Meeting | St. James Meeting Room |
| 7:30 am Sat 22nd | MC/SBYA - Maint./Crafts | Casa Eudes, TJ |
| March | | |
| 7:30 am Sat 8th | MC/SBYA* - Maintenance | Casa Eudes, TJ |
| 7:00 pm Tues 11th | MC Board Meeting | St. James Meeting Room |
| 2:00 pm, Sat 15th | Bread of Life Dinner | Parish Hall & Oceanside |
| TBD | Fish Feast | Parish Hall |
| 7:30 am Sat 22nd | MC SBYA - Maint./Crafts | Casa Eudes, TJ |
| 2:00 pm Tues. 29th | Bread of Life Dinner | Parish Hall & Oceanside |
| April | | |
| 7:00 pm Tues 8th | MC Board Meeting | St. James Meeting Room |
| 7:30 am Sat 12th | MC/SBYA - Maintenance | Casa Eudes, TJ |
| 7:30 am Sat 26th | MC/ SBYA - Maint./Crafts | Casa Eudes, TJ |
| 2:00 pm, Sat 29th | Bread of Life Dinner | Parish Hall & Oceanside |

*St. Brigid's Young Adults

News Briefs:

Filling Holiday Baskets -- Mission Circle volunteers participated in a Community Resource Center event held at the Fairgrounds on December 20th. Our workers helped hundreds of poor families select food, clothing, household goods, and toys to brighten their holiday.

Booking Dinners For The Homeless -- different groups in the parish continue to prepare dinners and serve them to the homeless at The Bread Of Life Mission in Oceanside

Tutoring Students -- twice a week after school volunteers from the parish give some students at St. Leo's a little one-on-one help with their homework. The kids often come from Spanish speaking households and need a bit of coaching to keep up in school.

Offering Shelter To The Homeless -- for two weeks in January the parish hall was home to nine homeless families participating in the Interfaith Shelter Network. Every year in the winter, along with 115 other faith communities in the San Diego area, we temporarily house and feed people who had "no place to lay their heads". Some parish volunteers provide meals while others stay overnight in the hall to provide companionship and encouragement.

Many Thanks



To all the "Santa's Helpers" who hosted the Christmas party at Casa Eudes for the girls in the home, the sisters who care for them, the staff, and the children.



To the Mission Circle supporters who spent a Saturday morning sorting hundreds of pairs of shoes for the Epiphany Celebration.



To the many volunteers who traveled to Coachella on the Epiphany to give new shoes and warm blankets to hundreds of migrant families.

To everyone who participated in our many programs to help the poor. As Mission Circle starts a new year, we pray for your continued support.

St. James Mission Circle
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Neighboring Faiths Help Us Care For The Poor



We're getting a lot of assistance from a surprising source: the members of other faiths. There is a group of young Mormon men who regularly help the

St. Leo ladies make the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for prisoners in the TJ jail. They also helped clean out the donation sheds recently and participated in the food packaging event. The Christian-based Bread of Life Mission picks up donated bread from our shed every week for their food pantry. Last year we also delivered extra pastries we had collected from local stores to St. Peter's Episcopalian Church for their homeless program. Compassion for the poor unites us all.

Visit Our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sjmissioncircle

We post all of our upcoming events on this site. If you are already a member of Facebook, just register as a "fan" and refer the site to others. If you are not a member, visit the website to check on our activities.

Go To Our Website at www.missioncircle.com

You can get more details on our activities and volunteer opportunities at this website.

Want to donate on line? Just go to our website and follow the easy directions.

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