



# St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

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

February 2016

[www.missioncircle.com](http://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 Don Brosnahan Who Could Build Anything -- Including Our Charity**

For years Don and his crew did all the construction and repairs at the Casa Eudes Girls Home in Tijuana. But he did so much more than that for Mission Circle! From serving as our president to buying sacks of candy for the kids at our Christmas parties and the Epiphany celebrations, Don devoted himself to our work with the poor. It was a privilege to know him and be part of his "Second Family." He'll be with us in spirit always.

## **The Delivery Truck Got "Lost"**



## **We Got Torrential Rains**



## **But 2,032 Needy Kids Still Got New Shoes**





## The Epiphany Celebration Was Cancelled -- But The Gifts Weren't

A delivery goof delayed the arrival of pairs of shoes for the migrant kids in Coachella and torrential rains caused local flooding. In the face of these natural and man-made disasters, the parish Sorting Party on Jan. 9th and the Epiphany Celebration on Jan. 10th were both cancelled. They could not be rescheduled because of conflicting church events. Happily, the shoes arrived at the Galilee Center in Coachella the next week. Instead of the big, organized celebration we had planned, just a couple of parishioners went there on the following Sunday to help distribute the shoes. On the bright side, the kids still got 2032 pairs of new shoes and 2350 pairs of socks to keep their feet warm and dry this winter. Maybe next year we'll all be able to hold the Epiphany Celebration without building an ark or coping with a late delivery.



## Our Box Truck Doubled As Santa's Sleigh

The Community Resource Center asked us to help them transport goods for their Holiday Basket event to the Del Mar Fairgrounds. We were happy to help. The event gives food, warm clothes, household necessities, and toys to 7,000 local families who are in need. Several willing helpers shuttled the items between Encinitas and Del Mar, filling in for Santa's sleigh. No reindeer showed up, though. Not even Rudolph.



## The Christmas Market Was A Gift For Us, Too

The Alternative Christmas Market was a new event this year and it proved to be a big hit with both the shoppers and the sellers. All the ministries in the parish sold "shares" of varying amounts to support their respective programs. The shares could be purchased by parishioners to give as Christmas gifts. Mission Circle was very grateful to receive several hundred dollars from the event. We're hoping the market will become an annual parish event at Christmas time.







## A Christmas Party Even Scrooge Would Love!

One of the merriest Christmas parties we've ever attended was held at the Casa Eudes Girls Home on Saturday, December 19th. Over a dozen Mission Circle "elves" helped host the party for 34 kids, the sisters who care for them, the staff, and the staff's children. We loved every happy minute of it!

What made the party so special? Feasting -- like the big turkey dinner with all trimmings. And dancing -- like the colorful recital the girls staged for us. And singing -- like the Mexican Christmas carols sung during the "posada" which is a traditional procession symbolizing the search for shelter by Mary and Joseph.

But it was the laughter of the little girls when Santa came jingling in that made the party so wonderful. And their cries of delight when he passed out huge bags of presents for everyone. We want to thank all our St James parishioners who donated gifts. Your overwhelming generosity added so much to this magical day. We wish you could have shared the Christmas fun with us. Even Scrooge would have loved it.

## We Distributed Holiday Baskets To Help Our Neighbors In Need

The CRC Holiday Basket event provided over 7,000 poor people in the area with warm coats, blankets, toys, baby items, and food. Over half of the people this program serves are children. Volunteers, including quite a few Mission Circle supporters and people from our parish, escorted hundreds of families through the huge venue at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. They helped them select clothing, household supplies, food, and gifts to brighten their holiday season.

The Community Resource Center's Holiday Basket Staff send their sincere thanks to all the Mission Circle volunteers who participated -- our members and parishioners helped make the holidays a lot happier for many local families who need help.



## Our Three College Students Started A New Term

Last year we started a new program offering college scholarships to girls from the Casa Eudes home. These are high school graduates who are good students but they are alone in the world. They have no family to help them. Without these scholarships they would end up in menial, dead-end jobs.

Mission Circle awarded three college scholarships to the girls who graduated from high school in 2014. We found them an apartment and enrolled them in Tijuana universities. Thanks to the generosity of donors in the parish, we paid for their tuition, books, and living expenses.

Now these girls have finished their first semester. As you can imagine, they had a lot of challenges to face this past year -- but we're happy to say they've met them all! Laura changed her major to marketing and has earned top grades in her new field. Soledad is also doing well with her nutrition studies. Maritza, who wants to be a doctor, had a difficult time last semester coping with the rigors of medical school but she seems to be managing much better this term.

We are proud of the progress our students have made and we look forward to helping them finish their courses and enjoy a brighter future.

## Help Stock The CRC Food Pantry On Fridays

On Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mission Circle volunteers stock the pantry and fill grocery orders at the Community Resource Center in Encinitas. The clients include seniors, folks with disabilities, and people who are going through an unexpected change in their lives and need a helping hand. It's easy to sign up to participate in this program. The center is located at 650 Second Street in Encinitas. You can work for just one hour or stay for all four -- but most volunteers work in two hours shifts. This is a wonderful way to help needy people in our own neighborhood. Please contact Pierre Godefroy at [Pete8@pacbell.net](mailto:Pete8@pacbell.net)



## Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<b>February</b>		
During February	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail
4:00-5:50 p.m. all Mons & Weds	After School Tutoring	St, Leo Mission
11 am, all Thursdays	Make PB&J Sandwiches	St. Leo Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
5 p.m. Fri. 12th	Host Fish Feast	St. James Parish Hall
7:00 p.m. Tues. 10th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat. 13th	MC/SBYA*Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 am Sat 27th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
<b>March</b>		
4:00-5:50 p.m. all Mons & Weds	After School Tutoring	St, Leo Mission
11 am, all Thursdays	Make PB&J Sandwiches	St. Leo Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:30 am Sat 12th	MC/SBYA*Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues 15th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 26th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
<b>April</b>		
4:00-5:50 p.m. all Mons & Weds	After School Tutoring	St, Leo Mission
11 am, all Thursdays	Make PB&J Sandwiches	St. Leo Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:30 am Sat 9th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 am Sat 12th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 23rd	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ

\*St. Brigid's Young Adults

### News Briefs:

#### On-going programs and events coming up:

**Volunteers Needed To Help Tutor At St. Leo's** -- We offer homework help to elementary and middle school children on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30pm. To learn more about the program please contact Amanda Maytom at 858-342-922 Or, email: [amanda.maytom@att.net](mailto:amanda.maytom@att.net)

**We'll Host The Fish Feast On February 12th.** We invite all our supporters to attend the Lenten dinner in the parish hall that evening. Mission Circle shares the proceeds with the Knights of Columbus.

**Our On-going Programs Continue** like our sandwich program that feeds the prisoners and homeless in TJ as well as our CRC food pantry volunteer work, our maintenance and crafts programs at Casa Eudes, and our dinners for the homeless at the Bread of Life Mission in Oceanside. For more information about these activities, check our website at : [www.missioncircle.com](http://www.missioncircle.com)

## Many Thanks



To all our generous donors who gave scores of Christmas presents for the Casa Eudes Girls, the sisters, the staff members and their children. Thanks also to the many helpers like chef Jeff Sturgis and Maggy Hillenbrand who organized the event.



To Katie Hodsdon and the other organizers of the Epiphany Celebration for all the stressful hours they spent trying to locate the lost shipment of shoes for the big event. Dealing with the situation was a nightmare for these dedicated people. By the time the shipment arrived, it was too late to hold the Sorting Party and the Celebration. But we are very grateful to our generous parish who donated 2032 pairs of new shoes and 2,350 pairs of socks for the migrant kids in Coachella. They finally got them the next week.



To the sponsors and donors who help support our new Futures Program offering life-changing scholarships to Casa Eudes high school graduates.

St. James Mission Circle  
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Solana Beach, CA 92075

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## **You're Invited To One Of Our Meetings:**

This is an open invitation to all our supporters to come to one of our monthly meetings.

They're held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room of St. James Church (formally the church library). You're welcome to come and learn about our charity as we plan events and discuss the many ways we help the poor.

If you are interested, please contact Jeff Sturgis at [pres@missioncircle.com](mailto:pres@missioncircle.com).

### **Please Send Donations To:**

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

Want to donate on line? It's very easy. Just go to our website and follow the simple directions.

**Visit Our Facebook page  
at [www.facebook.com/sjmissioncircle](http://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](http://www.missioncircle.com)**

You can get more details on our activities and ways you can help at this website.

**For volunteer opportunities, contact  
Jeff Sturgis, President - [pres@missioncircle.com](mailto:pres@missioncircle.com)**

### **Mission Circle Contacts:**

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