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Toy Loan Program News



Lucille Becerra Roybal Youth & Family Center's Annual Volunteer & Sponsor Appreciation Award

On Thursday, March 6, 2008, the Lucille Becerra Roybal Youth & Family Center (LBRYFC) honored the Department of Public Social Services Toy Loan & Volunteer Services Programs along with other volunteers and sponsors at an annual breakfast held at Luminarias Restaurant in East Los Angeles. For the most part all elected City Officials sent a representative - with the exception of City Councilman Jose Huizar of the 14th District and Olivia Mitchell, Director of the City of Los Angeles Youth & Family Program, whom both were present during the festivities. All in all, there were upwards of 80+ guests. These ranged from traditional volunteers to major corporate sponsors.

This Volunteer and Sponsor Appreciation Breakfast is an event LBRYFC hosts annually to recognize their volunteers and sponsors for helping (through labor, donations and monetary assistance) with special events, such as Mothers Day Celebration in which they pay tribute to 250 mothers of the community, Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway in which they provide a full Thanksgiving dinner basket to over 1000+ community residents, and lastly their Christmas Toy and Food Basket Giveaway for 1000+ community residents with children. Aside from these main events, volunteers and financial sponsors continuously help throughout the year in many other ways. Toy Loan & Volunteer Services Programs has been partnering with LBRYFC for the last few years in their effort to make the Christmas holiday special for all in the community.



Pictured from left to right: Ozzie Lopez, LBR YFC Director, Juana Cornell-Ojalvo, Director of Toy Loan & Volunteer Services Program, Maria Lopez, LBR YFC Resource Development Specialist, Richard Amiel, Toy Loan Coordinator

49th Street School Grand Opening

The Grand Opening took place on February 28, 2008. Dora Casillas, Pupil Services Attendance Counselor and head Toyrarian was very excited on that day. Miss Casillas welcomed Toy Loan Staff Richard Amiel, Toy Loan Coordinator and Alex Ruiz. The children were excited with anticipation. Miss Casillas had all the children sit in the auditorium and Mr. Amiel introduced himself. The children listened attentively as he described how the program worked and how responsibility is rewarded. After the presentation, the children moved from the auditorium to the Toy Loan Room where there was a ribbon cutting ceremony. Miss Casillas handed the scissors to Mr. Balderrama, Principal of 49th Street School, who had the honor of cutting the ribbon. As soon as the ribbon was cut the children piled into the room and gazed at all the toys. Immediately

the children began wanting all the toys in sight. Miss Casillas and fellow teachers led all the children back to the auditorium to have cake that was provided by Miss Casillas. Toy Loan Staff handed out little wallets to the children. A total of 200 children registered on the first day! Needless to say the event was a great success.



Lou Costello Youth Center's Grand Opening

Lou Costello Youth Center held its Grand Opening on a beautiful Southern California Spring day, on Thursday, March 27, 2008 Ms. Sheka Stacker, Recreation Coordinator and Toyrarian put together a rather large Grand Opening inviting Children from the community, parents and staff. Everyone enjoyed good food, good friends and of course, the most important part, good toys! Ms. Stacker welcomed the Toy Loan Staff, Richard Amiel and Alex Ruiz to the Opening. There were approximately 40 children in attendance and were excited when they entered the gym and saw all the toys on display. Some children were from the after

Los Angeles County Toy Loan Program
 2615 South Grand Avenue, 2nd Floor
 Los Angeles, CA 90007-2608

Phone: (213) 744-4344

Fax: (213) 743-9998

E-mail: toyloan@dpss.lacounty.gov

<http://www.ladpss.org/dpss/toyloan/default.cfm>



Toy Loan

Addressee:

school program and others from the community. There were a few parents' that arrived during the time of the event and signed the application for membership for their children to participate in the program. The event was such a success that it ended at 7:30 p.m., long after the scheduled 6:00 p.m. closing. A total of 40 children became members and borrowed toys. Mr. Ruiz took pictures and talked with the children. Mr. Ruiz approached a little girl and asked how she liked the program. She replied "it's fun and it's free".



Children showing off their new toys.



Did you know?

A superhero is a fictional character of unprecedented physical prowess dedicated to acts of derring-do in the public interest. A female superhero is sometimes called a super heroine. One of the most famous Super heroine is Wonder Woman. Did you know her magic "lasso of truth" was the creation behind the lie-detector. The creator of Wonder Woman was William Moulton Marston, who also worked on the systolic blood-pressure test used to detect deception while he was a doctoral student in the psychology department at Harvard University. His research lead to its predecessor of the polygraph test. So Wonder Woman's lasso was the direct result of this research. Cool Huh!



Special Reminder:

Monthly Reports are due the fifth day of the month. Please contact Toy Loan Headquarters if you need additional copies or have questions.

Upcoming Events

Easter		3/23/08
T.L.A.B. Meeting		3/27/08
11th Annual "Remembering Our Veterans & Their Families" Event		5/24/08
Memorial Day		5/26/08
T.L.A.B. Meeting		5/29/08
Back To School		8/30/08

We Want To Hear From You!

If you have suggestions on how to improve the program, best practices, recommendations for potential new Toy Loan centers, or any topics of interest for publication in this newsletter, please contact us at (213) 744-4344 or via email at toyloan@ladpss.org