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Toy Loan & Volunteer Services Newsletter

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DPSS Volunteers at the XXV LA Marathon

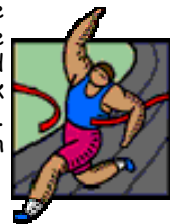


75th Anniversary Celebration

The 75th anniversary celebration was held on Thursday April 8 2010, at Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center. Over 100 guests were in attendance. We celebrated the hard working Toyrrarians who are the backbone of the Toy Loan Program and the 35,000 children for whom we serve each year. Many thanks to those of you who assisted in making this is a very special day. Looking forward to the next celebration in 2035!



DPSS employees, family, friends and community members came out to Water Station - Mile 24 to support the all the athletes. This year, because of the change in the Marathon route, we were on tree-lined San Vicente Blvd. in the beautiful City of Santa Monica. The smooth, salty beach breeze and the overcast skies kept all 115 volunteers and 25,000 athletes cool and energized as they came around the bend to the Mile 24 Water Station to refuel with cold water and even some orange slices given out by neighborhood children. Our great volunteers were there from an early 7 a.m. to prepare and set-up the water station, until late into the afternoon as the crowds started to dwindle and the sun started to head back to the horizon. DPSS Volunteer Services provided snacks for the volunteers to help them keep up their energy for the day long activity. Oh, and plenty of water was available as well. By 3:00 p.m. the last of the athletes were coming down the street and the final pace car signaled us to clean-up and break down the water station. All the dedicated volunteers helped clean-up the thousands of cups that carpeted San Vicente Blvd. and even recycled the plastic bottles. On behalf of the XXV LA Marathon, the City of Los Angeles and the 25,000 athletes, thank you to all the volunteers. We hope to see you again next year!



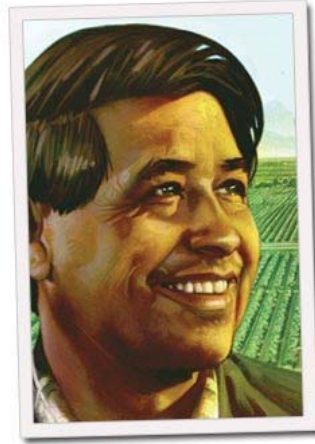
Dorothy V. Johnson High School Grand Opening

A grand opening was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at the Dorothy V. Johnson Community Day School. Head counselor, Paul Martinez hosted the Grand Opening with parent volunteers and several student leaders on hand to help. We were honored to have Principal Kenyatta Stiger in attendance along with other faculty members who spoke on the importance of educating the youth and promoting communication between parents and faculty. Mr. Martinez also spoke on the importance of the Toy Loan Program and how the program will help to promote leadership, good behavior and good grades among the youth at Dorothy V. Johnson Community Day School. Toy Loan staff provided a brief overview of Toy Loan and discussed the history of the Toy Loan Program. Each child in attendance was given a small toy, and there was refreshments for everyone. The inauguration began when two student leaders had the honor of cutting a ribbon attached to a bundle of colorful balloons. As we all looked in amazement at the balloons rising, we hoped that the Toy Loan Center will help the youth develop solid character traits such as honesty, responsibility, trustworthiness and kindness. It was a very successful event and knowing the impact the center will have on the youth as well as the community, made it all worth it. Everyone had lots of fun



From left: Paul Martinez—Executive Manager, Benitez—TL Director, Kenyatta Stiger—Principal

Cesar Chavez Community Service Week



On January 12, 2010, on motion of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Gloria Molina, the Board proclaimed the week of Monday, March 29 through Friday, April 2, 2010 as Cesar E. Chavez Community Service Week. The Board also established "You Count!" as the theme of the County's ninth annual Cesar Chavez observance, with the objective of promoting a full and accurate U.S. Census Count in 2010. DPSS employees came out in full force to volunteer at other County departments such as the Dept. of Animal Care & Control, Beaches & Harbors, Parks & Recreation, and the Public Library. Some of the community-based organizations that participated also were the Volunteers of East L.A. (VELA), Brotherhood Crusade, E. Roybal Health Center and the H. Claude Hudson Health Center. More than 300 DPSS employees volunteered. The most popular volunteer opportunity was the annual Beach Clean-up at Dockweiler Beach with the Dept. of Beaches & Harbors. As part of the Cesar Chavez Week, a food drive was held to benefit the Los Angeles Food Bank in which all DPSS employees were encouraged to donate canned and non-perishables food items for those members of the community in most need. Last year, DPSS donated the most of all County of Los Angeles departments, and we're looking forward to surpassing last year's totals.



Borders Century City Book Drive to Benefit Toy Loan



Help Support the Spring Book Drive

Please Visit Borders Century City

March 1, 2010 - May 1, 2010

Borders Books

Westfield Century City Mall

10250 Santa Monica Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90067

Toy Loan Staff at the Toy & Hobby Convention



On Monday March 29, 2010 Toy Loan Director Marcia Benitez, Toy Loan Coordinator Erica Moya and Asst Toy Loan Coordinator Heather Gardner attended the 49th Annual Western States Toy and Hobby Show at the Long Beach Convention Center. The convention was attended by toy manufacturers from throughout the globe. Everything from lollipops to Legos were on display. Erica and Heather were able to obtain a donation of 300+ toys from InfiniToy Company located in San Mateo, California. Many future toy donations were promised from various vendors. It was exceptionally productive for the Toy Loan Program as staff increased awareness and the vendors were pleased to hear that a toy lending program exists.

Upcoming Events

Ramona Gardens Housing Authority Grand Opening	April 20
Graham Elementary School Grand Opening	April 29
Arlington Heights Elementary Grand Opening	TBA
Huntington Park Grand Opening	TBA
Bradley Miliken Grand Opening	TBA
Carver Park Festival	May 1
TLAB Meeting	May 20
Remembering Our Veterans Event at Arcadia Park	May 29
Memorial Day TL Headquarters Closed	May 31

We Want To Hear From You!

If you have topics of interest for publication in this newsletter, please contact us at (213) 744-4344 or via email at toy-loan@dps.lacounty.gov