



**Armed Services YMCA of the USA** *Twentynine Palms Branch*

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# January 2012 Newsletter

## **Mission Statement:**

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that develop a healthy mind, body and spirit for military personnel and their families stationed at 29 Palms.

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**We want to wish you a Safe,  
Prosperous and Happy New Year!!!**

## Holiday Toy Program

Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>, The Armed Services YMCA transformed into the North Pole, with the extraordinary help of 50 volunteers, Santa and Mrs. Claus and of course of all of the Elves who made the preparations! This year we served over 600 families and 630 children, this was made possible by all of our kind and generous Donors. Our volunteers became our Elves for the day, and walked the families through registration, Thank You note signing, package pick up and while on their way out, stopped to see Dawn for a letter and gift card and finally met with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. The Elves then walked the families to their car and wished the a Merry Christmas.



Members from the Catholic Chapel who joined the festivities of the day and sang traditional Christmas Carols and put the Christmas Spirit in the air that was felt by all.



Our Elves hard at work, as they have the families sign in at the registration table, sign Thank You cards to our Donors, before proceeding to pick up their package.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and Donor's for making this year 's Holiday Toy Program such a success, also thinking of the Active Duty and their families during the Holiday Season.

## Bike Distribution

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, we passed out 150 bicycles and tricycles to the active duty and their families, as part of our Holiday Toy Program. Thank you to Camp Pendleton ASYMCA for this wonderful opportunity to pass along to the families in Twentynine Palms.



Our Volunteer, Krystienne and Board of Management President, Dominic Westfall passing out bikes to the families.



ASYMCA Board Member, John Potter, Navy Retired, passed away over the holidays. John and Sarah Potter have served on the Board of Management with the ASYMCA since late 2005 as representatives of the American Legion and VFW, Banning and volunteered at major ASYMCA events, and provided for the *Thank You For Your Service Program* by providing truckloads of bread and groceries for the active duty and their families.

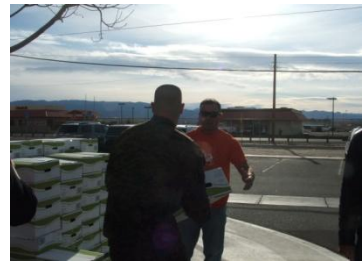
John was dearly loved by the staff and volunteers of the ASYMCA. Whenever he came to the office with grocery donations, to work or attend an event, to cook for volunteers, or any of the other things John was famous for, he made the time to interact with every staff member and volunteer to make them feel what they were doing for active duty and their families was very important.

John's last event was our Holiday Program on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He manned a table, with his wife Sarah, to meet the active duty and their families as they came through the door and say welcome and Merry Christmas. He expressed to all that day how much he enjoyed "taking care of my men."



## Holiday Meals

The Armed Services YMCA , Albertson's Grocery Stores and Palm Springs USO, once again partnered during the Holiday Season to bring pre-cooked Holiday Meals to the Marine Corps Base, for the Marines, Sailors and their families. We held two distributions, one in November and in December.



The Meals are here!!



The families patiently waiting for the meal.

## Baby Shower/Luncheon

The Armed Services YMCA partnered with the Palm Springs Assistance League and Raymond Moore, for a Baby Shower/Luncheon for 20 first time expectant mothers. The ladies enjoyed a beautiful lunch at the Marrakesh Country Club in Palm Springs and were surprised with the gifts that they received, such as the baby's first full layette, pack 'n play, baby monitors and so much more. Thank you to Raymond Moore and all of the ladies from the Assistance League for thinking of these ladies providing them a day of relaxation before their big day.



## Stator Brothers Charities

The Stator Brothers Charities donated \$10,000.00, for our Parent/Child Interactive Programs. Our Parent/Child Program provides age appropriate activities and socialization for children ages 6 months to 5 years. Thank you Stator Brothers for your kind and thoughtful donation, as the families will greatly benefit from your generosity.



Stator brothers Charities and General Manager for Twentynine Palms Stator Brothers.



Ms. Lisa's kinder Ready and Kinder Time Class.



Ms. Valerie's Playtime with baby and Tiny Tots Class.

## Care Packages

River Newland, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at the Washington Charter School in Palm Desert, along with her fellow classmates, put together care packages for the Marines and Sailors currently deployed. River, her mom and grandparents drove to Twentynine Palms to deliver the care packages, while here, River was able to hand deliver a couple of them directly to the Marines.



## Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack

Daisy Fernandez, the personal Assistant to the office of Mary Bono Mack, brought items for the Marines and Sailors that are deployed to Afghanistan. Thank you for the wonderful donations, as the Marines and Sailors will benefit from your kindness.



## National ASYMCA, Take 25

Every year nearly 800,000 children are reported missing to law enforcement. While the vast majority of these children are recovered quickly, there are many who never return home. To ensure these children remain in the hearts and minds of the public, in 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared May 25th as National Missing Children's Day. This day serves as a time to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families, remember those who are still missing, and make child safety a national priority.

To commemorate this day, NCMEC launched Take 25, a national campaign encouraging parents, guardians, and others to take 25 minutes out of their day to talk to children about safety. With a focus on prevention, Take 25 provides communities with free safety resources including safety tips, conversation starters, child ID kits, and event planning guides, to help initiate an on-going dialogue with children about safety.

Each May, individuals and organizations host community safety events to raise awareness of local missing children's issues. Events include community meetings, school presentations, child ID events and distribution of safety resources to community members. Since 2007, more than 10,000 Take 25 events have been hosted in 1,900 communities nationwide. Through these events, hundreds of thousands of children and families have been provided with potentially life-saving information. In 2012, we hope to increase participation in the campaign, but in order to do so, we need your help! For additional information, please go to [www.Take25.org](http://www.Take25.org).

## **Military Family Month**

During the month of November, we honor the Military and their families. The Armed Services YMCA holds their annual Art and Essay Contest in November, and the winners will be announced in 2012. Dependents of Active Duty Military or retired (with 20+ years of service) from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or National Guard/Reserves, in Kindergarten through sixth grade are eligible to enter. The deadline for the Art Contest is February 17, 2012 and the deadline for the Essay Contest is March 16, 2012. You can pick up the entry forms at our Administration Office, Bldg. 192, Monday thru Friday; 0830-1600. Please note that all Essays and Art Contest Entries will become property of the ASYMCA and will not be returned. For further information, please contact Kelly Roybal at 760-830-7481, or [ymca1@roadrunner.com](mailto:ymca1@roadrunner.com).

## **Armed Services YMCA News:**

### **Thrift Store**

- Monthly Bag Sale will be held on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00-2:00  
You can fill a 13 gallon bag for \$8.00.
- The Active Duty can receive up to 5 FREE Uniform items, per month.
- Check out the Thrift Store for ½ off sales through out the week.

The Thrift Store is open Tuesday thru Friday, from 9:00-5:00.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

We would like to wish Erin Dix a very Happy Birthday. Erin is the Facilitator for our afterschool enrichment program, Operation Hero and Kids Care Club. Thank you for all that you do!

Happy Birthday to our Executive Director, Anita Neu-Fultz. Anita, who does so much for the ASYMCA Staff and the Active Duty and their families. Thank you for everything that you do and know how much you are appreciated.



### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

We are always looking for volunteers to help us accomplish great things. If you are interested in volunteering or would like additional information on upcoming events, please contact Kelly Roybal at 760-830-7481, at [ymca1@roadrunner.com](mailto:ymca1@roadrunner.com)

We are looking for Active Duty to volunteer for the Palm Springs ½ Mile Marathon on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>, If you are interested, please contact Kelly Roybal.