



American Red Cross

GREATER LONG BEACH YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTS...

Red Cross Reviews

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ABOUT US:

The Red Cross Reviews is a bi-monthly publication, distributed by the Greater Long Beach Red Cross Youth Program. It informs readers about the great events going on in the GLBC Youth Program. Publicity Chair, Opal Patel,, as well as various volunteers of the youth program oversee the production of this newsletter.

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'Happy Holidays!

Holiday Project 2009

By: Patrick Tith, President

It's that time of the year again when everyone is excited about Holiday Project! For those who do not know what Holiday Project is exactly, Holiday Project is a time where the youth volunteers put on a holiday celebration for families, and kids who aren't as fortunate as some of us are. Nearly every year, we serve over 1200 allowing them to create stockings, reindeer hats, eat some cookies, and receive a toy for the holidays. Santa Claus also comes out to enjoy this festive holiday celebration!

This year's theme for Holiday Project was Fantasy tales which brought in a combination of characters mixed with a fairy tale story. It took nearly two and a half months of preparation with



crafts, our toy drive and baking the sugar cookies.

Holiday Project takes place at Silverado Community Park in Long Beach. Unfortunately, this year it rained

but it did not stop any of our guests and volunteers from coming out to experience and enjoy this celebration.



As the event started, everyone had smiles and cheers. It rubbed off on the kids who showed excitement towards eating cookies, and making stockings with their names on it. At the end of the day,

each volunteer was glad to have put a smile on



each child's face.

Holiday Project is a meaningful celebration for these children and families who may not be able to afford a toy for Christmas this year. Our youth volunteers put all their energy in making this a successful year! We want to thank all those volunteers who came out to help

Belmont Shore Parade

By: Nandini Kannan
Activities Chair

This year's Belmont shore parade was awesome! It took place on Saturday, December 12th and there was several people everywhere, camping out and eagerly awaiting for the parade to start. It was one of the coldest nights, so it truly felt like winter :) The Greater Long Beach Chapter helped celebrate the holidays by participating in this parade that was very festive!

We walked along the path, as the ERV followed behind us. Mike Farrar and Jimmy Dower drove the ERV down 2nd street. We had close to 50 volunteers and staff walk the parade; most of our Red Cross Clubs were able to come out and participate as well. At first, we merely waved at the people. After that, we started to high five the little excited kids, and wish them all a happy holiday season. The parade was very lively as they had various floats and organizations there to represent themselves. Santa Claus and his elves were there to wish all the families a very happy holidays as well.

It was so very heartwarming to see the smiles

on the faces of the many people that were there, as well as the brightly lit faces of the children as we walked by. It was a lot of fun, and even though we just marched

through 2nd street, seeing those smiles made all the difference, and seeing their kind reaction to the Red Cross let us know that we do reach out and make a difference.



Measles Initiative Rummage Sale

By: Sarah White
International Chair

Every year, the Youth Services Program plans a Basketball Tournament in order to raise money for the Measles/Malaria Initiative. This year, we decided to host another event for the same cause. On October 17, 2009, our Youth Services program hosted it's first ever Rummage Sale Fundraiser for the Measles/Malaria Initiative. Geena Yu, a former Red Cross E-board Member,

gave us the idea and helped brainstorm ideas.

With a lot of calling we were able to secure our location at Grace Brethren Church, where the Chapter has held other events in the past. Every club was able to

pitch in something, from clothes and shoes to cookie jars and paintings. About 20 volunteers came to help, and we ended up raising close to \$270.

The Rummage Sale was a really simple way to raise money for the Initiative, and because of our volunteer's donations, we were able to buy approximately 300 vaccinations. Hopefully the Rummage Sale will become an annual event as a way to get clubs involved in helping the Measles/Malaria Initiative



Holiday Mail for the Heroes

By Amieris Lavender, Youth Volunteer

It's that time of year again. The Christmas trees are up, the lights are glowing, and the holiday spirit is simply contagious. Christmas time is here, and what a wonderful time of year it is. For some, it is easy to forget



forces. These brave soldiers give up time with their families to defend and protect our country. It is our duty

that some do not share the same luxury of having their complete family with them during this time. For some, a mother, father, sister, or brother is overseas serving in the armed

as civilians to not only support them, but their families as well.

The Red Cross youth decided to be a part of appreciating our soldiers and veterans by writing letters and expressing gratitude for the sacrifices that each soldier is making. On Wednesday, November 18th our volunteers came in and decorated cards, wrote special messages and helped to thank our soldiers and veterans for their work and their efforts in fighting for our country.



Holiday Trivia!!!

Did you know...

Animal Crackers are not really crackers, but cookies that were imported to the United States from England in the late 1800s. Barnum's circus-like boxes were designed with a string handle so that they could be hung on a Christmas tree.

Did you know...

During the Christmas buying season, Visa cards alone are used an average of 5,340 times every minute in the United States.

Did you know...

The Santa Claus' suit was developed in the 1930s. The Coca-Cola Company hired American artist Haddon Sundblom in 1931, to redesign Santa Claus. Sundblom chose the official colors of Coca-Cola, red and white.

Did you know...

In North America, children put stockings out at Christmas time. Their Dutch counterparts use shoes.

Red Cross Trivia

Every month at the Youth General meetings, a fact about the Red Cross is shared amongst our volunteers. At the next general meeting our volunteers are asked if they remember the fact from the previous month, and anyone who remembers receives a prize. So the fact that was shared at the last meeting was:

Every eight seconds, a Red Cross Chapter like ours, responds to a house fire.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

01/08/09: Youth Council Meeting!
4pm-5pm @ GLBC

01/09/10: LDC 2009 Reunion!
6pm-9pm @ GLBC

01/18/10: Martin Luther King Jr.
Day- Chapter Closed

01/23/10: Volunteer Recognition
RSVP Only

01/30/10: Safe Kids
9am-12pm @ GLBC

*Thank you to all that donated
and helped at Holiday Project, we
appreciate all your time and
effort!*

Writers

James Adamos
Amieris Lavender
Nandini Kannan
Opal Patel
Patrick Tith
Sarah White

Photography

Opal Patel
Tammy Pham
Priya Sodha

Editor

Opal Patel

Those interested in being a
part of the Red Cross
Reviews may contact:

Opal Patel

shark13masta@yahoo.com

Dear James

By James Adamos
Response Chair

Dear James,
My new puppy isn't house trained yet and peed all over my school project I spent weeks making! The project is due in two days, and I can't fix it by then. Should I tell my teacher about the puppy pee? I'm afraid she won't believe me! HELP!

-Frustrated student

Dear Frustrated Student,

You should definitely tell your teacher that your puppy peed all over your homework. I think she will get a kick out of that one. HAHA :D But yea, if she thinks you are pulling a joke on her, I say you whip the peed homework and show her to her face that you aren't kidding. But you know that's what i would do. :D

Dear James,
A few months ago, I realized all my friends have boyfriends, and I am the only one left that isn't dating. Out of desperation, I created a fake Facebook account of a cute guy that lives in Bakersfield and changed my Facebook status to say I was dating him to avoid looking like a loser. My friends have been asking to meet him and I think they're starting to grow suspicious. I've already lied to them telling them my "boyfriend" isn't photogenic and refuses to take pictures with me and lives too far away to come down to meet them. I've made such an intricate universe of lies about him, it just feels awkward to tell them he's fake. How do I deal with this?

-Desperate for a boyfriend



Dear Desperate for a Boyfriend,
I'm just gonna throw it out there. YOU ARE A TAD BIT OF A CREEPER. Don't go off and make a new Facebook just for ONE stupid boy. I would go up to your friends and just admit that you don't have a boyfriend. It would be humiliating, but at least you aren't living a lie.

Dear James,

I'm just a tad overweight. I don't want to reveal my weight, but lets just say I can't see my feet when I look down. The only serious relationship I've had is my relationship with the refrigerator. I dream about choco-pies and twinkies. With the holidays coming up, there's always a bunch of baked goodies, and I don't think I'll be able to stop myself. How do I keep from overeating and having to spend my winter break in a diabetic coma?

-Fatty

Dear FATTY,
HAHAHAHA, i appreciate your lifestyle, but you have to get that mess back in check. I can't stop your crazy dreams. I can't control what you eat. BUT YOU CAN just try resisting. i know it sounds hard, but you have to do it! DO IT FOR THE BAKED GOODS, THE CHOCO-PIES, AND THE TWINKIES. :)