



EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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Photos courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry

Canines and Kids 'Ruled' at Annual Paws4Law Event



Three brothers enjoy some of the many activities at the Paws4Law event.

The third annual K9 Competition Trials held on February 15 drew crowds of participants and guests. The event was held by the Murrieta Police Department K9 Unit along with the

Paws4Law Foundation. More than 60 K9 units from Southern California, Mexico and Arizona competed for the Top Dog Award. One of the event's sponsors was the Community Outreach Ministry, a non-profit organization focused on helping at-risk youth. Children and teens from Riverside County attended the event; the region the outreach ministry serves. The group's mission is to help break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, drugs, violence, delinquency, gangs and incarceration in at-risk youth affected by one or both parents who are incarcerated.

Proceeds benefitted the Paws4Law Foundation, a non-profit organization that is "completely independent of the Murrieta Police Department and the City of Murrieta," according to its website, paws4law.org. The money raised by the volunteer members -- who receive no public funding from any governmental source -- is used to improve the performance and quality of life of active and retired police dogs.

The K9 Competition Trials included a public safety fair and kid's activities by the Murrieta Police Department and local vendors. Child Identification Kits were hosted by the Community Outreach Ministry who distributed Child Identification Kits and SAFE coloring books to youngsters and McGruff Crime Dog parent tips. The kits and coloring books were supplied by the California Legislature 67th Assembly District. The February 15 event included food, live music, and a police K9 demonstration.

The Child Identification Kits serve as tools for parents to protect and keep children safe. McGruff the Crime Dog, a registered trademark of the National Crime Prevention Council, is part of this federal agency's "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" campaign; a community outreach program that helps spread the word about crime prevention and community involvement to keep neighborhoods -- and children -- safe.

Clarissa Fears, an at-risk youth who now volunteers much of her free time mentoring other youth, attended the February event. The Elsinore High School student volunteered to face paint children. Fears volunteers at the ministry's many other events for at-risk youth throughout the year such as the group's holiday parties, camping trips and Mentor-Protégé workshops, many of which focus on teaching children about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).



Clarissa Fears, center, applies face paint to one of the many guests at the K9 competition.



Jennifer Thomas, left, and son Aiden enjoyed the day at the event. “Jennifer thanked the Murrieta Police Department and Community Outreach Ministry for helping the kiddos of today have successful tomorrows. She also thanked us for finger-printing her son at the Paws4Law event.”

The Community Outreach Ministry will be hosting Easter Celebration Workshops free for Children and Families on Saturday, April 4 from 11 am to 2 pm. The Easter event will be held at Wellness and More, 25377 Madison Avenue, Suite 104 in Murrieta. There will be three Mentor-Protégé Workshops presented at the event: “Children's Creative Art,” “Gearing Up For STEM” and “Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration.”

For more information on the Easter Celebration Workshops or to become one of the sponsors for the event, call 951-698-7650 or send an email to info@communityoutreachministry.org. To donate online visit www.communityoutreachministry.org. Donations may also be made by text. Send this message: DONATE CHAMPIONS to this number: (609)212-0627 hit send. You’ll receive a text back with a link to a page where you can donate to Community Outreach Ministry. Remember to forward the text message and donation link and ask others to donate too.