



23905 Clinton Keith • Suite 114#116 • Wildomar, Ca 92595

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Media contact: Dr. Mona Salomo-Davies

Phone: 951-698-7650

E-mail: daviesmmd1@gmail.com

Website: communityoutreachministry.org

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Mother Daughter Tag Team

Each year with anticipation and excitement we volunteer for the Angel Tree Christmas Program. My daughter, Johnna Hose, and I, Janice Hare, work as a team.

I have been faithfully involved for the last 16 years. In 2005, my grand children were recipients of Angel Tree through Community Outreach Ministry (COM). As a Caregiver, I was so humbled by their contact, offer of hope and their offer to deliver Christmas gifts to my grandchildren. I was so emotionally moved by the support and generosity of the program that I decided to give back and became a volunteer. And now, because of COM, every year through our various ministries: Christmas party, spring, summer and fall camps we have been able to

provide encouragement by supporting and meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families.

Every year for the COM Annual Angel Tree Christmas party, I contact each Angel Tree family; we average more than 60 families per year. I communicate with the Caregiver on behalf of the incarcerated parent. I explain that each child will be the recipient of a clothing item and fun gift from their parent. I ask for individual recommendations of a clothing item the child needs and a fun gift that they want. I verify name, clothing size, gender, and age. So many Caregivers are in awe of the program and express their appreciation for the supportive services; “We are so happy you thought about the boys”, “Thank you for including our children”, “Your organization is such a blessing”.

Often the Caregivers will express family difficulties, giving me the opportunity to listen and pray with them. Hearing my own personal testimony means so much to them, because they know I can relate to their circumstances. I can additionally recommend supportive services. Once the gift list is complete, I turn it over to Johnna. She has been volunteering with the program since her release from incarceration, in 2010. She loves giving back and knows firsthand of the benefits to the children from the incarcerated parent perspective. She personally completes two Angel Tree gift tags per child, one for clothing and one for fun gift. It is not unusual for her to write between 200-300 gift tags. There is a family numbering system sequence to each tag that she is responsible for transcribing. Afterwards she delivers the tags to COM for distribution to the donors, who purchase the gifts.

At the Christmas party, Johnna and I manage the registration process. It is so rewarding to meet the families and see the excitement on the children’s faces. Every year, we are

beneficiaries of so many blessings as we share in the enthusiasm of the families knowing they are valued and loved.

Would you help us reach prisoners children all year round to engage in social, educational, and vocational workshops this April at our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Day Camp? To give online www.communityoutreachministry.org tap chip in or scan the QR Code with your phone. Another option is text DONATE CHAMPIONS to (609)212-0627. Checks may also be payable to Community Outreach Ministry, 23905 Clinton Keith Road, Suite 114 #116, Wildomar, CA. 92595. For details call 951-698-7650 or info@communityoutreachministry.org.