

Kiwanis

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Riverside **Uptown** Kiwanis Quarterly Report to Supporters

October through December 2008

This short Quarterly report provides highlight information about activities of Riverside's Finest Service Club, the **Uptown** Kiwanis Club. You have supported us, and we want you to know what we are doing. *Indeed, we would be flattered if you would consider joining us as a member in our ongoing pursuit to make this a better Community. Contact us at 682-9590 if you are interested. Here are a few of the things we have been doing in the Community this past Quarter:*



THE NEW ORANGE TERRACE LIBRARY was opened in October and included a donation of at least two dozen children's library books donated by **Uptown Kiwanis** in honor of Suzette Woodbury who passed away unexpectedly at a very young age. Suzette was the mother of two small children, and wife of member **Ron Woodbury** who is on the Library Foundation Board, and coincidentally lives near the library. He will be able to take his children to this facility many times and enjoy these books along with many others. Several **Uptowners** were on hand for the library dedication. Other memorial donations helped pay for a new Electronic Book Kiosk in the library honoring Suzette where children can interact with the available electronic books.

JOHN NORTH HIGHSCHOOL KEY CLUB kids showed up for their annual Bake Sale in November. They told us about their own service projects, and presented homemade cakes and cookies; auctioning them off to members and taking home several hundred dollars for their programs. Member **Mike Adcock** is the primary **Uptown** coordinator for this Key Club.

SOME 60 THANKSGIVING BOXES were prepared this year and delivered to 30 families in great need at both the Magnolia Elementary and Highgrove Elementary Schools. **Uptown Kiwanis**, under the leadership of member **Diane Castleman**, worked with Burgess Moving Company and Stater Brothers on Mary Street to help provide boxes and a portion of the nutritious food. PTA groups at each of these schools then made the family selections and deliveries a few days before Thanksgiving.



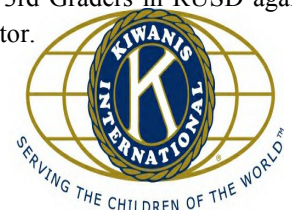
HIGHGROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL achievement awards by **Uptown Kiwanis** are being implemented this year for the first time. Terrific Kids, and BUG (Bringing Up Grades) awards are presented by **Uptowners** to children in each grade in assemblies each quarter. The program is headed by member **Ben Orozco** and supports Principal Esther Garcia's "No Excuses" program to motivate children to attend and do well in school. This school was chosen because of the enthusiasm of the Principal, and the fact that some 85% of the children are in low income families. President **Steve Mains**



also collected enough money from club members to provide 22 backpacks for children at this school whose parents could not afford them.

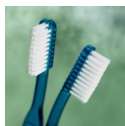
DICTIONARIES were provided to all 3200 3rd Graders in RUSD again this year. Member **Booker Huling** is coordinator.

Uptown Kiwanis Meets every Tuesday Noon at the Canyon Crest Country Club for Lunch and an enlightening Program about activities in our community. Visitors are always welcome.



THE BLUE STAR REGIMENT FROM JOHN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL received a \$1000 donation from **Uptown Kiwanis** for their trip to one of Riverside's sister Cities in China this coming spring. What an experience for those kids.

JIM CAVANAUGH'S LIFE was celebrated in a memorial service in October at the Riverside Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center. Many of the fellow **Uptowner's** who knew Jim and worked with him in the numerous roles he held in our club for so many years, were on hand to help share our love for him with his family. Jim had been a member for more than 50 years.



CLOTHING AND PERSONAL CARE ITEMS were handed out by **Uptown** members at Villegas Park to some 1739 folks in October. Member **Vivian Stancil**, who coordinates this effort in spite of being legally blind, was also selected by the Mayor's Commission on Aging for this year's Sr. Citizen Award.

LADIES at THE SETTLEMENT HOUSE started a weekly sewing party, to support **Uptown's SOOTHIE DOLL PROJECT**. They now gather weekly for sewing projects including putting together many Soothie Dolls used in area hospitals. This project is led by member **Si Ober** who coordinates the donation of material, stuffing, sewing, and distribution of the dolls, to help doctors and nurses communicate with small children who can point to "where's my owie". A gracious letter from Loma Linda Hospital was received this quarter expressing appreciation for donation of 41 of the dolls for their use. Member **Becci Diaz** is the Director at the Settlement House, and has been successful in obtaining at least two significant grants for this facility that we are aware of. **Uptown** works with many Community Support agencies to strengthen the fabric of our Community.



MFI WOMEN'S DRUG ABUSE CENTER was the recipient of a \$500 grant recommended by **Uptown's** Community Service Committee this quarter.

THE FESTIVAL OF TREES FOUNDATION at County Regional Medical Center was the recipient of \$2000 from **Uptown Kiwanis** for use in their Children's Care facility this quarter. Club members were also treated to a luncheon meeting at the Hospital with a tour of the Premature Babies Ward by member **Jerri Vaughan**, who is an Administrator at the Hospital. Some 300 babies are born here each month. Our own members **Kathy Hartman**, and **Mike Adcock** are on the Foundation Board and recently allocated Foundation moneys to purchase 20 rocking chairs for Mom's to use while their premie babies are confined to the hospital. We've got so many good people in so many good places, doing so many good things.



THE SALVATION ARMY got a lift from **Uptown Kiwanis** members again this year, ringing the bells and monitoring the Red Army Kettle on two days in early December. We raised nearly \$600. Member **Chuck Sprague** organized the efforts of our club in front of Rite Aid in the Canyon Crest Shopping Center.

UPTOWN'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY FOR SENIORS at Goeske Center went off again without a hitch on December 2nd. Some 120 guests from the various Convalescent Homes in Riverside, many of whom are in wheelchairs, enjoyed the dinner accompanied by songs from the Ramona Madrigal Singers and of course Santa Clause. It was coordinated this year by member **Norma Rakow**. Guests were also given new lap robes as they entered by the Happy Hookers Crocheting Club, who have coordinated their efforts with **Uptown** for several years.



RAMONA HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB kids also brought their homemade cookies and cakes to **Uptown's** luncheon meeting in December. They told us about their own service projects, and auctioned the goodies to members, taking home \$333 for their programs. Member **Sharon Tyrell** is Uptown's Key Club Coordinator for Ramona HS.

TOYS FOR SOME 80 CHILDREN who have a father or mother in the service in Iraq were delivered to MAFRB to add some Holiday cheer to these children. Member **Dennis Hodges**, coordinated this program in coordination with other Kiwanis Clubs in the area.

THE ART ALLIANCE, RIVERSIDE BANNER ART venture is being supported by **Uptown** with the purchase of one of the large banners (\$650) that will be posted on street light poles on several of our major streets this Spring. Member **Grace Slocum** is heading up our efforts on this project. It is expected to be the largest Outdoor Public Art Show in Riverside's History, with some 300 artists (both students and professionals) enlisted to create original Art Banners.