

Alumni Give Big

A record number of donations provided a memorable evening for children and mothers of the Marjaree Mason Center.

Children ranging in age from 4 months to 16 years seemed equally taken aback as they entered room 210, which had been magically transformed into a cozy living room complete with a fireplace,

decorations, tons of goodies, and a huge Christmas tree that was packed to its tinsel with gifts.

As each family arrived they were showered with merriment and cheer from Channel 26's Kopi Sotiropulos, the Clovis High School Choir, and assorted elves and helpers from SJCL. After some group carols, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in full regalia. As Kopi called out their names, each child made their way to Santa to receive gifts that had been specially purchased just for them. Santa took a moment to talk and take a photo with each, with only one little guy deciding he'd rather not! Before the night was over, attendees also chose a snuggly blanket and large stuffed bear, courtesy of Shoe Box Sharing, to take home.

When it was time to go, many of the children sported their new jackets and hats along with smiles of happiness and gratitude as they boarded the bus for the return trip to the Marjaree Mason Center (MMC).

The SJCL Alumni Association wishes to thank everyone who donated and took part in this very special event.



The family of staff (Pictured above) assisted Santa & Mrs. Claus in presenting gifts and sharing Christmas cheer along with Kopi Sotiropulos, Clovis High School Choir, and the Alumni Association Board to the children of the MMC.

Thank you for your support

The Board of Directors of the SJCL Alumni Association would like to thank all who donated so generously to this year's Marjaree Mason Children's Party.

Hon. Catherine V. Benko, Jeffrey Boggs, Geraldine Brown, Karen Buck, Hon. Nancy Cisneros, Pricilla Wright Craft, Peter and Christine Cummings, Victoria Denny, Jennifer Deruosi, Sheri M. Fisher, Kristina Garabedian, Allison Gong, Brande Gustafson, Doug and Marcia Haas, John & Carey Hartsock, William Hazen, Herman & Eloise Janzen Living Trust, Rhea Ikemiya, Denise Kerner, Donna Korotie, Nichola Krebsbach, Samuel & Melinda Kylo, Scott Levy, Jeannie Lewis, Hon. Diane Lushbough, Jere Mealer, James J. Mele, Jan Pearson, Stacie Prickett, Hon. R.L. "Chip" & Carol Putnam, Richard A. Ruiz, Howard & Margaret Shainberg, Nancy Silacci, Steven P. Simonian Jr., Diane Skouti, Hon. Nancy Smith, Michael Splivalo, Bradley Stevens, John Suhr, Kimberly Sweidy, Phil and Linda Tavlian, Mark Wilson, James P. Witherow, Jane Woodcock, Alicia Wrest, and Hon. Georgia York.

When Law Students Became Santa Claus

The mission was clear: excite children with many gift-wrapped toys.



By **Ali Huda**, Member, Law Students for Community Advancement

When eight members of Law Students for Community Advancement (LSCA) entered the gift distribution site on Saturday morning, they rolled up their sleeves, sorted, and wrapped one hundred toys. By the afternoon time, they distributed all one hundred wrapped toys to fifty-six smiling Syrian refugee children residing in El Dorado Park, mainly in Section 8 housing.

This gift distribution event was the culmination of a month-long toy drive project coordinated by members of LSCA, who solicited toy donations from the student body, faculty, and other local businesses throughout January to donate those toys to children in the Syrian refugee community of Fresno. Their purpose was to unite the community, to aid the growing refugee community, and bring awareness to the ongoing refugee crisis.