



Caring Connections

October 2011

Hooray for the Rotarians!

Mission Statement:
Our Commitment is to be a
bridge to a healthy and
successful future for children
and families of the Bellflower
Unified School District

On Saturday, September 17th families woke up bright and early to get to the K-Mart on Rosecrans Avenue where the Bellflower Rotary Club assisted 60 happy little children with a back to school shopping spree. Each child received a gift card in the amount of \$100. Bellflower Rotary members, case managers and the Bellflower princess court assisted the students with the fun task of helping the children pick out clothes and shoes. Students had donuts and juice in the cafeteria area while they patiently waited their turn. Thank you to the Bellflower Rotary Club and the K-Mart management for making this event possible!

**2011-2012
Executive Board Members:**

Nichole McGahey
Bethel Reformed Church

Doug Easer
Bellflower Rotary Club

Jeanette Gosden
Consultant

Elizabeth Trombley
Kaiser Permanente

Cindy VanMeeveren
Bellflower Volunteer
Center

Mayra Lopez
Beaver, Menkes, & Hass
Accounting Corp

Renett Banagas
Community Services
Coordinator



*John J. Gunther Blue Ribbon
Practices in Community
Development Award*

*Association of California
School Administrators
Partners in Education
Excellence Award*

*Greater LA Federal Executive
Board Partnership Award*

*California School Boards
Association Golden Bell Award
for Partnerships &
Collaboratives*



Holiday Food Drives

It may only be October but we are already planning for our Annual Holiday Food Drive. Last year with your help we were able to provide over 500 families with holiday food baskets. We are on track to provide baskets for just as many families this year. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to our November meeting. Suggested items to bring for food baskets are:

- Boxed items such as instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, cake mixes, or corn bread mix
- Canned items such as vegetables, fruit, gravy or juice

Thank you to the Bellflower Volunteer Center and City of Lakewood for these yearly programs to help our families! For more information please contact the Bellflower Volunteer Center at (562) 925-9003 or the City of Lakewood at (562) 866-9771 ext.2418.

Polly's Pies Fundraiser

Don't worry about packing a lunch or cooking dinner on Wednesday October 12th. Stop by Polly's

Pies at 17198 Norwalk Blvd. in Cerritos and treat yourself and your family to a yummy meal (don't forget the pie!). Present the Caring Connections flyer and we will get 20% of the proceeds!



Donations

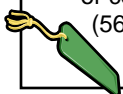
September
Cee Cee
\$70

Mini
Cee Cee's
\$240



Brakensiek Library Bookmark Contest

Children in grades Kindergarten through 12th can enter the LA County's 32nd Annual Bookmark Contest. Entries must be turned in by October 29th. This years them is "Picture the Adventure-READ". For more information please stop by the library or contact them at (562) 925-5543.



Coats for Kids Drive

As the weather begins to turn chilly, consider taking a moment to go through your closets and donate your slightly used coats to our Coat Drive. We will begin accepting donations at our November 8th meeting. Case Managers will also be collecting at their school sites. The coat distribution will take place at The Lord's Clothing Closet located at 9740 Flower St. on Wednesday, December 7th from 10:00-12:00pm.



B.U.S.D. Parenting Classes

The Bellflower Unified School District will be holding FREE parenting classes for the Fall. The following classes are:

- **Developing Capable Students**-Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00pm at District Office located at 16703 Clark Ave., Bldg. A-East Conference Room. No child care is provided and is taught in English.
- **Parent Academy for Student Success**-Thursdays from 8:45-10:45am at Thomas Jefferson School located at 10027 Rose St. Child care is available and is taught in English with Spanish assistance.
- **Let's Talk Parenting**-Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm at Ramona School located at 9351 E. Laurel St. Child care is provided and is taught only in Spanish.

For more information on any of these programs please call Marquitta Infante at (562) 866-9011 ext. 3313.

CareNow LA!



Free medical, dental, and vision care for uninsured, underinsured, and underserved population, is coming October 20th-23rd at the LA Sports Arena in Los Angeles. Wristbands are required for patient entry. Wristband distribution will be held on October 17th at 1:00pm. For more information please visit the website at www.carenowusa.org or call (310) 309-8117.

Community Events

- **October 17th-31st - YMCA Pumpkin Patch**
Located at 15530 Woodruff Ave.
- **October 28th - YMCA Family Fitness Night**
5:30pm located at 15530 Woodruff Ave
- **October 28th - Trick or Treat on Bellflower Blvd.**
4:00-6:00pm located between Flower St. and Oak St.
- **November 5th - Soroptimist Int. of Bellflower Annual Fashion Show**
11:00am located at the Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood. Tickets are \$50.
- **November 8th - Next Caring Connections meeting**
7:30am in the BUSD Board Room