



CHUCK'S CHRONICLES

The latest news and announcements from the Thriving Third!

In This Issue

**Community Food
Pantry of Murrieta**

**Valley Community
Pantry**

**The Salvation Army
Hemet Corps**

**Assistance League of
Temecula Valley**

Students of the Month

Contact Us

French Valley Office

*37600 Sky Canyon Dr. #505
Murrieta, CA 92563*

Valle Vista Office

*43950 Acacia Ave,
Hemet, CA 92544*

Tele: 951-955-1030

Fax: 951-677-0669

www.supervisorchuckwashington.com

D3email@rivco.org

FROM THE DESK OF CHUCK WASHINGTON



The Giving Season

The holiday season is often called “the giving season.” It’s a time to give presents, food and friendship to all. It is also a time to give back to the community. Many individuals and families donate time, money and gifts to their favorite nonprofits during this time of year. But for nonprofits, “the giving season” is every day of the year.

Chuck’s Chronicles always devotes space to local nonprofits. For the final edition of 2019, I’d like to highlight four nonprofits that epitomize the concept of “giving back.” My office supports each one of these fantastic organizations, and I invite you to read more about them and do the same.

Chuck’s Chronicles will take a break during January, but it will return in February 2020 with the final article on our transportation series and a new series on the 2020 Census. Have a great holiday season – see you next year!



VETERANS ASSISTANCE & EVENTS

American Legion Post 852

36505 Winchester Rd., Murrieta

Office: 951-305-0852

Email: commander@al852tmv.org

Website: www.al852tmv.org

Veterans Supplemental Support Network

Office: 951-821-8776

Website: www.vetsupportnet.org

Reaching New Heights Foundation

4053 Chestnut St, #203, Riverside

For benefit eligibility and enrollment info

Office: 951-878-6696

Email: rhinc3@att.net

Riverside County Department of Veterans Services

4360 Orange St, Riverside

Office: 844-737-8838

Website: veteranservices.co.riverside.ca.us

Veteran Sisters

30141 Antelope Rd. Ste. D674 Menifee,

Office: 951-305-3244

Email: Admin@VeteranSisters.org

Murrieta VA Clinic at Loma Linda University Medical Center

28078 Baxter Road. STE 540, Murrieta

Office: 800-741-8387 x 5312

Eligibility representative is onsite on Thursdays.

Community Connection

Anza Valley Municipal Advisory Council

Location: Anza Community Hall

56630 Highway 371, Anza

Next meeting: January 8, 2020

Website: www.anzavalleymac.com

Information: 951-955-1030

City of Hemet: 951-765-2300

City of Murrieta: 951-304-2489

City of Temecula: 951-694-6444

City of San Jacinto: 951-487-7330

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

Location: Frances Domenigoni Community Center

32665 Haddock Street, Winchester

Next meeting: January 9, 2020

Website: www.winchestermac.org

Information: 951-955-1030

Hemet/San Jacinto Valley Chamber: 951-658-3211

Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber: 951-677-7916

Temecula Valley Chamber: 951-676-5090

San Jacinto Chamber: 951-654-1645

Nonprofit Spotlight

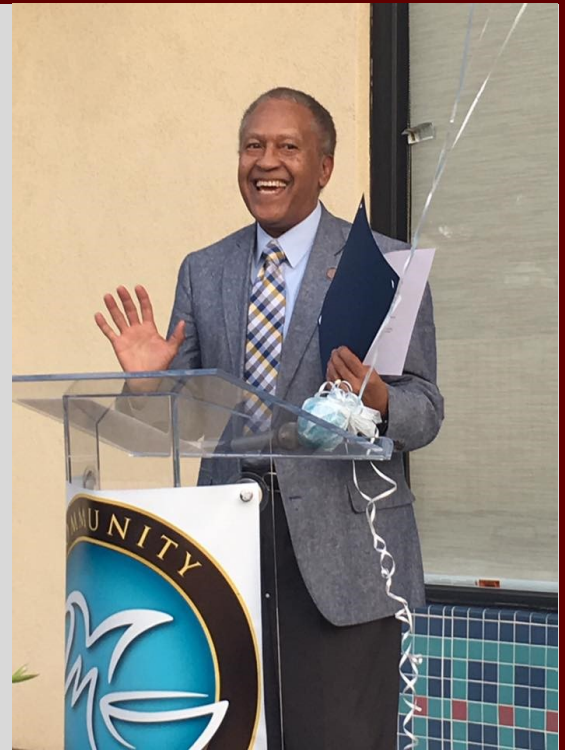
Community Food Pantry of Murrieta

During the holiday season, families often come together to celebrate with delicious and carefully prepared feasts. Every year, nonprofit organizations like the Community Food Pantry of Murrieta help families who need assistance preparing for the season's festivities. The Community Food Pantry of Murrieta is one of the four branches of Community Outreach of Murrieta, a local nonprofit that provides various forms of assistance to families and individuals from Murrieta, Winchester and French Valley. The pantry supplies food and toiletries to over 5,000 individuals per month. Supervisor Washington's staff visited the pantry at the end of November, when volunteers were busily packing turkeys, canned green beans, potatoes and cranberries into bags for local families to enjoy for Thanksgiving. Maria Bhanukitsiri, the pantry's manager, explained that during the holiday season, the surrounding community gets into the spirit of the season by dropping off food and hosting food drives. However, after the start of the year, donations slow down significantly.

"People tend to eat every day, not just during the holidays," Bhanukitsiri said playfully, noting that locals who want to support the pantry should hold food drives in the months between the holidays to help keep the pantry fully stocked.

In total, the pantry provides 1.2 million pounds of food to community members annually. Bhanukitsiri explained that the food pantry does more than just provide a hand out. The pantry can help community members become self-sufficient. One individual experiencing homelessness received food from the pantry and was able to save enough money to get a job and an apartment.

The Community Food Pantry of Murrieta is located at 39493 Los Alamos Road, Suite A, Murrieta. Individuals who would like to receive food must register with the pantry with proof of address, proof of income, a picture I.D. and birth certificates for any dependents. Food distribution hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. For information, please visit <https://communityoutreachofmurrieta.com/food-pantry/>.



Supervisor Washington attended the ribbon cutting for Community Outreach of Murrieta in 2017.

Nonprofit Spotlight

Valley Community Pantry

Since 1965, Valley Community Pantry has been serving the San Jacinto Valley. About 60 percent of the pantry's clients are under the age of 18 or over the age of 55. Their typical clients consist of veterans, seniors and single mothers and fathers with an average annual income of \$13,904. Each month, Valley Community Pantry provides assistance to approximately 2,700 of the community's most at-risk and low-income individuals. Recently, the pantry has undergone some changes, and executive director Jim Lineberger is eager to show locals what the pantry does for the community.

"We don't just do food here. Take a tour and see what we're about," he said.

In addition to providing food to clients, Valley Community Pantry can provide emergency utility assistance for gas, electric or water bills. They deliver groceries to seniors and can provide temporary rental or motel assistance. Thanks to a partnership with a leasing company, the pantry has a new program that allows them to provide new or gently used household appliances to families. One family recently asked the pantry to provide them with only nonperishable food items, as their refrigerator was broken. The same day, Lineberger received a call that a refrigerator was available, and he was able to pick up that refrigerator and give it to the family in need!

In addition, during the holiday season, the pantry provides food baskets and toys to local families. The pantry is always in need of food and monetary donations, especially during their "low season," from February to May and then again from August to October. Lineberger encourages locals to visit their website at www.vcpcares.org to find information on becoming a donor or sponsor of the pantry. Those interested in scheduling a tour of the pantry can email Jim Lineberger at director@vcpcares.org.

Valley Community Pantry is located at 191 Columbia Street in Hemet, just behind Trinity Lutheran Church. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to noon.



Valley Community Pantry donates household appliances like this one, shown off by Jim Lineberger, to local families in need.

Nonprofit Spotlight

The Salvation Army Hemet Corps

During the holidays, employees and volunteers of the Salvation Army brave the winter chill to collect donations in their iconic red kettles. But where do those donations go? The Salvation Army Hemet Corp has a number of beneficial programs to serve those living in the Hemet, San Jacinto and Idyllwild areas.

Their SAM (Salvation Army Meals) Program focuses on at-risk children in the Hemet and San Jacinto school districts. Some children living in low-income families receive the majority of their meals from

school, meaning that they lack access to nutritious and substantial meals during the weekend. The SAM Program provides about 600 wholesome meals per month to children of low-income families. This program helps improve the overall health and wellbeing of these children while allowing them to focus on enjoying their childhood.

In addition to the SAM Program, the Salvation Army Hemet Corps has other programs dedicated to the wellbeing of children. During the holiday season, they can provide toys to children of low-income families.* They can also send kids to camp in Big Bear on a sliding pay scale. Before students go back to school, they can receive a backpack filled with school supplies from the Salvation Army.

Of course, their programs are not limited to children. The Salvation Army can provide referrals to a local rehabilitation center for those battling addictions. They also give out bus passes to help with people struggling to get to work. Finally, the Salvation Army has a family services office located at 340 S. Palm Avenue in Hemet where they provide groceries to 900 individuals per month. So the next time you see a red kettle in your neighborhood, you will know where those funds go! To learn more about how to get involved with the Salvation Army Hemet Corps, call Lt. James Fleming at 714-499-3943 or email james.fleming@usw.salvationarmy.org.

**Please note that the registration date for Christmas 2019 assistance has passed. Families interested in signing up for next year's event can contact Lt. Fleming next September.*



Volunteers pack meals for the SAM Program.

Nonprofit Spotlight

Assistance League of Temecula Valley

Assistance League of Temecula Valley is a local all-volunteer nonprofit organization celebrating 30 years of serving the communities of the Southwest Riverside County through its philanthropic programs.

The main philanthropic program, Operation School Bell, provides the opportunity for low-income school children (K-12) to select new school clothing and shoes free of charge at local department stores in the Temecula, Murrieta, Menifee, Lake Elsinore and Romoland school districts. During this year's "shopping events" in August, September and October, 2,554 children received new school clothes.

A parent of a participating student wrote this note, "This program is very helpful because it saved extra money to put gas in the car and to feed the kids."

Additional philanthropic programs include:

- *Chapters for Children* - in partnership with seven local Southern California Assistance League chapters, this program provides new school clothing to low-income military families with school children stationed at Camp Pendleton. The Temecula chapter provides boys' jeans.
- *Operation Foster Youth* - facilitates collaboration with local foster care homes and foster family agencies to provide necessary supplies to foster family agencies for children entering the foster care system.
- *Operation SHADES* - provides financial literacy classes for targeted youth, ages 16-18, and may include older emancipated foster youth.
- *Operation Bear Hug* - provides cuddly bears to children who are sick, traumatized or injured who visit local emergency rooms and other agencies that service the community.

(cont'd p. 7)



Happy Operation School Bell students leaving with their new clothes.

Assistance League, cont'd

- *Operation Scholarships* - awards financial aid to graduating high school seniors in our local districts and project grants are awarded to district teachers to enable them to provide enrichment activities for their students.
- *Assisteens®* - auxiliary encourages and provides volunteer and leadership opportunities for students in grades 7 through 12.

Philanthropic programs are funded through grants, contributions from the community and thrift shop sales. All revenue is returned to the local communities served through the philanthropic programs.

Assistance League Thrift Shop is located at 28720 Via Montezuma, Temecula. For more information about programs and membership, call (951) 694-8018 or visit www.assistanceleague.org/temecula-valley/.

Special thanks to Electra Demos for writing this article!

November Students of the Month

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Hemet Unified School District | Murrieta Unified School District | San Jacinto Unified School District | Temecula Unified School District |
| Hamilton High School <i>Dystany Hodges</i> | Visit Murrieta High School <i>Aundrea Kaiser</i> | Mountain View High School <i>Rebecca Bahrke</i> | Chaparral High School <i>Charlene Miciano</i> |
| Hemet High School <i>Jacquan Williams</i> | Murrieta Mesa High School <i>Chunda McCain</i> | San Jacinto High School <i>Justin Hawley</i> | Great Oak High School <i>Fernanda Ferragut</i> |
| Tahquitz High School <i>Guadalupe Carrasco</i> | Springs Charter School <i>Zoe Collins</i> | | Linfield Christian High School <i>Jake Mosher</i> |
| West Valley High School <i>Halle Shumaker</i> | Murrieta Valley High School <i>Jillian Horn</i> | | Rancho Christian High School <i>Maggie Gorham</i> |
| Helen Hunt Jackson College Prep HS <i>Maximus Moore</i> | Oak Grove School <i>Ashten Espanol</i> | | Temecula Preparatory High School <i>Veronica Arriaga</i> |
| Western Center Academy <i>Alexander Lagarda</i> | Murrieta Canyon Academy <i>Keeley Quimby</i> | | Temecula Valley High School <i>Eric Olivares-Camarillo</i> |

End-of-the-Year Recap:

The Third District Within the Community



(Left) Supervisor Washington gives a high five at the You IQ event at Sierra Dawn Estates in Hemet. This event provided resources and information about healthy aging and safety for seniors (2-20-19).



Supervisor Washington reads to children at the Grace Mellman Community Library as part of the Read Across America campaign (2-28-19).



Supervisor Washington gives opening remarks at the “Send Silence Packing” event, a powerful visual display of more than 1,000 backpacks that represent the number of college students who lose their lives to suicide each year (4-22-19).



Supervisor Washington and members of local public safety departments at “Supervisor Washington’s Public Safety Celebration” in Valle Vista (4-27-19). Photo Credit: Leone Photography



Supervisor Washington tours the storm damage and road work on State Route 74 in Idyllwild (6-11-19).



Supervisor Washington shows off a fire engine purchased by County Service Area 38 and the Riverside County Fire Department for Station 23



Captain Purvis and Supervisor Washington at the San Jacinto Unified School District's "Principal for a Day" event. Supervisor Washington served as "principal" at De Anza Elementary School (9-6-19).



Supervisor Washington speaks at the City of Murrieta's 9/11 Remembrance Event (9-11-19)



Supervisor Washington and the Third District staff at the French Valley Air Show (11-9-19)



Supervisor Washington speaks at a press conference detailing the activities of the Gang Impact Team Operation, which targeted organized crime, wanted felons, and those trafficking weapons and drugs in many areas, including Hemet (11-20-19).
