

Corporate Partners Help Children Read

"A book is like having a garden in your pocket." — Chinese proverb

CII's newest Corporate Partners are teaching CII children to explore their imaginations through reading programs at each of the campuses.

In April, **United Parcel Service** began a weekly reading program for children at the Central Los Angeles location. Two volunteers from the Finance Department read to the children twice each Friday. The word quickly spread through UPS and volunteers from Human Resources, Business Development and other departments started reading to the children twice a day on Wednesdays.

American Express has begun to mirror the Central reading program at the Torrance campus.

REALTECH Leasing and Management Company, which maintains an office building near the Central campus, helped the reading program by donating 40 new books to The Colleagues Memorial Children's Library. ♦



Summer Highlights



Shop 'til You Drop

"Can I have these shoes? Really? For free?" asked one youngster as he held a pair of Nike sneakers as if they were the most precious thing in the world. "They fit perfect! I can really have these for free? I'm gonna find some shoes for my sister, too!"

CII hosted another successful Community Clothes Closet in the courtyard of the Central campus where 300 families shopped for apparel and housewares. "If it had not been for CII, my seven children would not have shoes to wear to school," said one young mother.

The C.H.I.P.S., one of CII's generous support groups, adopted this project several years ago. They worked throughout the year collecting donations of clothes, shoes, toys and household items. They also donated gift certificates from K-Mart, Payless Shoes and Target

Stores for bonus drawings throughout the afternoon.

Hooray for Volunteers

Red carpet. Flashbulbs popping. Fans screaming. No, it's not the Academy Awards. It's CII's Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

When volunteers arrived at the Marina del Rey Hotel they were greeted with camera flashbulbs, paparazzi and screaming fans (actually CII employees) in the spirit of the Academy Award theme. Volunteers were escorted down a red carpet and then to their tables.

Awards were given out to individuals, organizations and corporations for their commitment in serving the children of CII. Entertainment for the evening included CII employees singing, dancing and performing stand-up comedy. ♦



1. A UPS volunteer reads a favorite story to a group of children from the Therapeutic Day Care Program.
2. Volunteers from UPS help decorate the Central campus for the graduation party.
3. Garen Smith presents Susan McComas, President of Les Amies, with an award for her dedicated service to CII's children and families.
4. Youngsters dance the Bunny Hop while they wait to meet the Easter Bunny.
5. Children play a ring toss game at a 4th of July carnival sponsored by UPS volunteers.
6. Noted artist and author Cynthia Saint James and guest artist Robin Strayhorn held a showing of their original art at CII's Torrance campus. The two artists generously donated 40% of the sale proceeds to CII. Left to right: Francis Crawford, Cynthia Saint James, Nike Irvin, President of the Riordan Foundation and Beverly Heath.
7. The Teamsters delivered a truck full of Easter baskets for the children's Easter party.
8. The Tsubaki Ensemble, a Japanese culture touring group, perform a traditional tea ceremony with children at the Central campus. The ensemble also gave a karate demonstration and a flower arranging lesson.
9. A graduate from the Torrance campus sports a candy lei made by volunteers from American Express.
10. A CII shopper chooses a dress at the Shop 'til You Drop Community Clothes Closet.

Please consider donating your gently used shoes, clothing and household items to CII for the next Community Clothes Closet. Your discards are someone else's diamonds and can make a difference in the lives of a struggling family. Contact Sharon Hogg at (213) 807-1858 or Barbara Barnes at (213) 807-1809 for more information. ♦