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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **OUSD Provides Holiday Spirit to Those Less Fortunate**

ORANGE, Calif., December 16, 2010—Schools and departments throughout the Orange Unified School District are in a giving mood this holiday season. Listed below are examples of what teachers, students, staffs and parents are doing to make the holidays brighter for those less fortunate:

### Schools

Anaheim Hills Elementary-Food drive sponsored by their PAL students.

California Elementary-Collected aluminum tabs to donate to Ronald McDonald's House.

Canyon High- Participated in the Second Harvest Food Bank canned food drive.

Canyon Rim Elementary-Participated in a food drive and coat drive for various local homeless shelters. Also, collected toys to distribute to disadvantaged children in Orange County through Spark of Love.

Cerro Villa Middle-French Club participated in Caroling for Cans. Spirit Squad sponsored a soldier and leadership filled duffle bags for the children who live in motels in Anaheim. CASA/PAL students participated in The Giving Tree for the Seal Beach Animal Shelter and Meals on Wheels Tray Favors.

Chapman Hills Elementary-Partnered with Orange County Social Services and adopted 15 local foster and adopted needy families. Each classroom "adopted" a family and purchased specific gifts for their family.

Crescent Elementary-Student Council collaborated with Leadership Team-Orange for Operation Bit of Home by collecting DVDs to send to our troops overseas.

El Rancho Charter Middle-Students adopted twenty families from the Southwest Community Center in Santa Ana. Students will travel to the Community Center on Friday, December 17th, to deliver their gifts to the families.

Esplanade Elementary-YMCA/ASES program collaborated with Leadership Team-Orange for Operation Bit of Home by collecting DVDs to send to our troops overseas.

Imperial Elementary-Student Council coordinated a collection of Toys for Tots that was kicked off by a visit from four Marines in uniform at our flagpole ceremony. Imperial is also contributing to the District-wide *LT-O!* Community Service activity, the collection of DVDs to send to the troops overseas.

Lampson Elementary-With generous donations from the community, Lampson was able to provide Thanksgiving baskets to its families, which Student Council also donated canned goods towards the baskets.

Linda Vista Elementary-Student Counsel is hosting a "Warm Hearts-Warm Feet" sock drive. The new socks will be donated to the Orange County Rescue Mission.

McPherson Magnet-McPherson Leadership collected gifts for Operation Santa Claus to provide gifts to children who are abandoned, neglected, abused, or placed in foster care. McPherson Leadership also collected food for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Nohl Canyon Elementary-Student council sponsored Project Holiday Hope. Students donated brand new toys to those children in need and supporting families who are in transition.

Olive Elementary-Student Council sponsored "Adopt a Marine this Holiday." Students brought in care packages for Camp Pendleton Marines stationed in Afghanistan. Olive also put on a canned food drive in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank.

Orange High-The annual Make-a-Wish drive features staff members who sponsor gift items from the wish lists of our needy students. The JROTC also hosted the Toys for Tots campaign and organized a canned food drive.

Palmyra Elementary-Macy's has teamed up with the Make-a-Wish Foundation for the "Believe Campaign." For every letter written to Santa, stamped, and dropped off at Macy's, Macy's will donate \$1 to Make-a-Wish, up to \$1 million. Palmyra Elementary turned in nearly 300 letters.

Parkside-Following the Parkside tradition, they once again adopted a deserving family from the Parkside Pre-School and Kindergarten community.

Richland High- Staff, students, and families in the community helped out by contributing money to a needy family.

Running Springs Elementary-Student Council collaborated with Leadership Team-Orange for Operation Bit-of-Home by collecting DVDs to send to our troops overseas.

Santiago Charter Middle-Their Industrial Technology students made cards to be given to orphans in eastern European countries. Also, the Second Harvest Food Bank and Operation Santa were supported by students and families.

Sycamore Elementary-Student Council sponsored a canned food drive. The collected food was distributed to needy families in the community.

Taft Elementary-Student Council held a can food drive to support the Friendly Center. They collect over 800 cans to support needy families during this holiday season.

Villa Park Elementary- VPE Student Council sponsored the Holiday of Hope Toy Drive.

Villa Park High-Participated in the Giving Tree (Toys for Kids), Toys for CHOC, Food Drive (First Harvest), Christmas Caroling (Various assisted living facilities) and the Red Cross (Holiday Blood Drive).

Yorba Middle-Students raised money to purchase holiday baskets for twenty needy families at Yorba.

### Departments

District Office-Staff participated in the toy (gift) drive for the Friendly Center.

Human Resources-Participated in the toy (gift) drive for the Friendly Center.

Transportation-For more than 25 years, school bus drivers, in coordination with CASTO (California Association of School Transportation Officials), have granted the Christmas wishes of older, former school bus riders. Through the Orange County Regional Center, former student passengers who have been orphaned and/or abandoned are requested.

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA*

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