

For Goodness Sake Project Update 11/07/08

Wine Tasting Event

A gift was suggested for Tamara Rible to thank her for letting us hold our wine tasting at her home. It was great fun and also successful. Linda Kelso has a dinner donation and Mary Chisholm has a great quillow to give. The gift will be put together on Monday, November 8.

Blankets of Belief

Thirty-one red, white, and blue blankets were hand delivered to Southern California to be sent to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan by Soldier's Angels. The blankets were delivered by Mary Chisholm's sister who delivered them on her way home from a visit to Stockton. With delivery of these blankets, this project is officially over.

Welcome Home Heroes - November 8, 2008

Volunteers for this event have been briefed and will start at 8:00 a.m. The event concludes at 5:00 p.m. Then the displays will be taken down. Mary and Catherine will volunteer at the wall with names of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Other volunteers will take money, sell tickets, and direct the crowd and serve as "meet and greet" personnel. Members of the VSA are being met on the tarmac by the F-18 pilots. All proceeds from this event go to help veterans in San Joaquin County.

The Blanket Brigade

The goal for this year is 150 blankets. Currently, 75 have been completed. On Sunday, November 2, Mary and Catherine went to Temple Israel to show the young people's group how to make the blankets. They have 100 yards of donated fleece and completed 12 blankets that day. They will donate others as they are completed.

The Blanket Brigade meets every Monday through December and will start up again in January. Linda Kelso's mother, Phyllis, is also hard at work on blankets in Manteca with her group. There is still a need to purchase additional fleece to complete this project. We also need to reimburse the purchase of fleece in the next month or so. We will ask everyone to bring their receipts to the next meeting.

Books for Troops

Monday, November 8, in the Mustang Room, 11 boxes of donated books will be sorted and packed for mail to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Temple Israel also provided letters and cards of encouragement to be sent with the boxes of books. This project has

been on hold pending sufficient fund-raising to pay the cost of postage for these books. With the success of our recent fund-raisers, we can now afford to get these packaged and in the mail.

VSA Barbecue

Members of For Goodness Sake assisted the Veteran Student Alliance with their fund-raising barbecue. It was a very successful event with over \$1,700 raised for their operational expenses. For Goodness Sake members assisted by making food items, selling raffle tickets, donating raffle prizes, and serving food.

Bucks for Baskets

The Weekend in Monterey basket, valued at over \$700 raised \$740. The actual cost incurred for the basket was \$250 so the profit margin was good. Special thanks to Linda Kelso who purchased the bed and breakfast room! Bucks for Baskets will return in February 2009.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Shopping in San Francisco

Ticket sales are slow for the bus trip to San Francisco planned for Saturday, December 6th. After completion of the Monterey raffle, attention will be focused on selling the bus tickets. Catherine will submit an article to the Lincoln Center Chronicle, although we are unsure if we can get it printed in time. Currently, 10 seats have been sold. That leaves 46 to be sold.

Cards and Letters for Troops

Their Angels has requested cards and letters for troops again this year. We are currently printing Christmas cards and general cards for staff and students to complete. We will also include cards and letters from Temple Israel in the Books for Troops mailings.

Stand Down for Veterans

The San Joaquin County Stand Down event is scheduled for January 30, 2009. Volunteers from VSA and For Goodness Sake will be there to assist. The Blanket Brigade will donate 150 blankets to be included in back packs for veterans. In addition, we have committed to accept donations of toiletries for the back packs.

Fisher House

We currently have 14 of the 21 blankets needed for Fisher House. We also have a number of quillocks and 1 yard blankets. We want to complete this project and deliver

the blankets and welcome baskets in the first few weeks of December. The welcome baskets should contain sample sizes of shampoo, conditioner, soap, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, wipies, floss, powder, brushes, combs, deodorant, and mouthwash. Mary also has made a number of the rice bags that can be warmed up. A drive to collect toiletries will be started in the next week or so. Linda is contacting local hotels for donations.

Boots to Books Scholarships

We have raised sufficient funds to start the scholarship fund. We have already missed the deadline to get it into Delta College's Scholarship Booklet, but as soon as we finalize the selection criteria, we can still advertise it to currently enrolled veteran students. It was recommended that each scholarship be set at \$250 each and that we start with 2 scholarships.

Once we complete this year's projects, we can determine what additional funds can be moved scholarships.

Boots to Books Scholarship Dinner

The VFW and the Welcome Home Heroes Foundation have both offered to partner with For Goodness Sake to hold a scholarship dinner to raise money for veteran scholarships. Currently, Catherine is checking on the use of the Atherton Auditorium stage for the event, but also has contacts with Parks and Recreation about the use of the Community Center. A subcommittee for the scholarship dinner will be set up to select a time/date and place and to start the planning process.