

Palomar Council PTA *Fire Relief 2007*

Community Update: November 5, 2007

Contacts

For Families in Need:

- Becky Palenske, Palomar Council PTA Family Support Liaison for PUSD families in need in the San Diego area: bpalenske@san.rr.com, 858-538-2492
- Bobbi Crann, Palomar Council PTA Family Support Liaison for PUSD families in need in the Poway area: bcrann@cox.net, 858-679-0116

For Organizations Wanting to Help:

- Community Fire Relief Team spearheaded by Merrilee Boyack. Contact Merrilee at mboyack@cox.net, 858-748-6703 to coordinate your organization's offers to help.

For Information on PUSD's Fire Relief:

- PUSD Fire Relief Fund: Make check out to PUSD Fire Relief Fund and mail to Poway Unified School District, Attn: Mary Jo Stollfuss, Accounting Department., 13626 Twin Peaks Road, Poway, CA 92064-3034.
- PUSD Coordinator of Relief Efforts: Cindy Hicks: chicks@powayusd.com, 858-229-7344

Helping Effectively:

- **Housing** is a great need. Be aware of regulations that limit how much rent can be increased after a disaster.
- **Help with Clean Up:** Make sure FEMA inspects property before clean up, though sifting for treasures is okay.
- **Money is Needed:** Consider fundraisers for the PUSD Fire Relief Fund, or other fire relief funds.
- **Gift Cards are Useful:** Especially for gas, grocery stores and Target/Wal-Mart type stores.
- **STOP collecting clothes, books & toys:** These are not big needs at this time, and create storage and transportation problems.
- **Focus on Necessary Items:** Coordinate a tool drive (new and used) or a kitchen tool drive (new items only). E-mail Becky Palenske to coordinate a kitchenware project, and Merrilee Boyack on any other projects.
- **Tips on Furniture:** Please do not donate couches and mattresses unless in great shape.
- **Transportation:** Develop a list of people with trucks who are willing to be called on over time. Get those lists to Becky Palenske or Bobbi Crann, who will compile them and share with the Community Relief Team.
- **Crafts & Gift Baskets:** Families don't need these now, but now is the time to get your student organizations involved in creating home-made crafts. Gift baskets for teenage boys will be especially needed. E-mail Merrilee Boyack with your project, which may become part of a Holiday Boutique – free to FEMA card-carrying PUSD families.

The Concern:

- Over 25 Poway Unified School District (PUSD) staff and 300 students lost homes in the recent fires.
- Many more are not able to return to their homes due to smoke damage.
- There are over 350 other PUSD families who receive food and gifts for the holidays through Palomar Council PTA's *Adopt-a-Family* program.

Palomar Council PTA's Support Niche:

- Education and information out to PTA members who also volunteer for other organizations.
- Knowledge of the school communities, including those in need.
- *Adopt-a-Family* program to ensure all PUSD families have food and gifts over the holidays.

What We Have Learned:

- Families affected through loss of home or income need information, but not from a lot of sources. Refer them to Becky Palenske (PUSD families in the San Diego area) or Bobbi Crann (PUSD families in the Poway areas).
- Many organizations want to help. A Community Fire Relief Team, spearheaded by Merrilee Boyack, serves as a clearing house to help coordinate offers of help.



Palomar Council PTA
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