

# The Canticle

The newsletter of the Santa Maria Urban Ministry December 2007

## SMUM Fundraiser a HUGE Success!!

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the new playground by shopping at Barnes and Noble on October 11. A total of \$9,445.72 was spent, and SMUM will receive 15% to go toward a safe and age-appropriate playground for the students of ABC Playtime. This project was inspired by the Santa Clara Valley Deanery.

The partnership with Barnes and Noble is fun and rewarding, and we plan another fundraiser with them in the spring. Our goal will be \$10,000 in sales in order for SMUM to receive 20% of the proceeds.

Below is a photo of the present ABC Playtime playground, and in the coming months we will show you the changes that the new playground makes.



ABC Playtime playground with visiting Girl Scout workers

## Other Grant Proposals Out

Grant proposals are outstanding to the Sharks Foundation and the Junior League of San Jose for additional funds toward the playground improvements. The Canticle will keep reporting on the progress of funds raised and improvements as they are made.

SMUM could not function without your continued support. Thank you again for your

support with fundraisers, prayers, and contributions to general operating expenses.

## WHAT ARE YOU GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS?

*The real Christmas giving that makes this life worth living  
and shows that we are any use in this old world of care  
is to give where it is needing and pass not by  
unheeding  
the wants of those around us who do not get their share.*

Albert Shroud

What are you giving this Christmas? SMUM can help you find an answer to that question. Most of the families served have at least one adult member who has a full-time job. Yet, for many, the job is at minimum wage and with no medical coverage. It is important to note that about half of those served are children.

These are Christ's people who need some of your time, talent, and treasure. So, what can you give this Christmas?

**Time.** You can organize a wrapping party to help SMUM prepare the gifts for distribution. Make it a family affair, a neighborhood occasion, or a Church activity. Your group can be from three to twelve people. You can even plan a "party within a party" by bringing music and goodies to share. Wrapping parties can be held during the weeks of December 10 and 17 in the morning, afternoon, or evening at SMUM. Call Lawrence Robles at 408-292-3314 to make arrangements.

**Talent.** You can organize an "Adopt a family" program to assist working-poor families. These families receive unique gifts selected for each family along with gift certificates and perhaps cash or the makings for a holiday meal. If your family or group is interested in this program, contact Lawrence to be matched with a family.

**WHAT ARE YOU GIVING FOR CHRISTMAS?***(cont. from page 1)*

**Treasure.** You can donate new and unwrapped toys, clothing, and books. Gifts should be unwrapped so that they can be inspected and separated into age- and gender-appropriate groupings. You can also donate funds to help cover the cost of Christmas foods and gifts not covered by other sources.

*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ~ Matthew 2:1*

**St. Tim's Gets to Work at SMUM**

St. Timothy's Mountain View held its annual Gourmet Dinner to benefit SMUM in late October at the church, and 10 members also pitched in to help with painting and maintenance at Santa Maria recently. Assisting with the work day were Doug Bailey; Tim Kohler; Doug Merrell; Bill Shreve; Nate Speck-Ewer; Will, Sandy, Christopher, and Katie Watkins; and Dave Wilde. Thank you, St. Tim's!



St. Tim's workers paint a new sign by the ABC Playtime playground

**Recent gifts** to SMUM include on-going contributions from St. Andrew's Saratoga and St. Stephen's in the Field plus a gift of \$2,500 from St. Francis Willow Glen. Many thanks to them and our faithful Friends of Santa Maria.

**October at SMUM: Needs Up, Giving Down,**

Like many (if not all) agencies in Santa Clara County, Santa Maria Urban Ministry experienced increased needs during the month of October, with decreased contributions. During October we did the following:

- Provided food from for 334 households: 787 individuals including 338 children through our Food Pantry program
- Received in-kind food donations valued at \$7,103 (as compared to \$12,000 last October)
- Made 95 bags of clothing available to clients through our Community Closet (again from reduced donations)
- Served an average of eight children at ABC Playtime (with services limited by available volunteer time)
- Operated Studio 17 on Tuesday evenings (with services again limited by available volunteer time)

Volunteers gave 466 hours of time in the areas of Community Closet, Local Motion Ministry (food transport), ABC Playtime, Studio 17, the Food Pantry program, and Welcome Desk.

**EL MINISTERIO URBANO  
DE SANTA MARIA  
SANTA MARIA URBAN MINISTRY**

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