

League helps kids put their best feet forward

Redlands Daily Facts

Members of the Assistance League outfitted Franklin Elementary students with socks and shoes for their Junior Olympics. The socks and gift cards for shoes were presented at the school's monthly PeaceBuilders assembly.

REDLANDS - Members of the Assistance League of Redlands recently presented a pair of socks and a Payless gift card for shoes for every student in Franklin Elementary School to use in their Junior Olympics this month and in the Running Club every Tuesday and Thursday over the summer.

The gift cards were wrapped in socks, and teachers were each given a bag with the correct number of socks, to pass out to their students at the end of the day.

Principal Rhonda Bruce and Assistant Principal Roy Cencirulo expressed their appreciation for the gifts, which will encourage students to be physically active over the summer.

Assistance League officers Debbie Schwartz, Madelene Handy and Paulette Surdzial were invited to present the socks at Franklin's monthly PeaceBuilders assembly, where students nominated by their teachers and peers received PeaceBuilder certificates.

Counselor Jackie Land called out the names, and read off the peace-building accomplishments of the students, who were honored for such qualities as helpfulness with others in class, being a good friend, kind words, serving as a role model, improved behavior, being considerate of other's feelings, noticing hurts and working to heal.

All the administrators and teachers at Franklin encourage their students to follow the PeaceBuilders' motto, which is:

I am a PeaceBuilder.

I pledge to help people,

To give up put-downs,

To right wrongs,

To seek wise people,

To notice and speak up about hurts I have caused.

I will build peace at home, at school, and in my community each day.

"The PeaceBuilder program is supported throughout our campus, in every classroom, and on the playground,"

Bruce said.

"Jackie Land does an outstanding job of leading our PeaceBuilder program. It gives all of us a common language to use.

"We are so fortunate to have the support and kindness of the Assistance League of Redlands," he said. "This wonderful group of women do so much for our students. Operation School Bell is one of the highlights of my year. I enjoy seeing the joy in each student's face when he or she is able to get the new clothing, jacket, backpack, book and hygiene kit. It is an experience that our students remember forever."

Providing clothing for students is one of the major contributions of Assistance League across the nation. In Redlands, the Assistance League's Operation School Bell clothed almost 1,000 school children, and the Dental Center served more than 800 children and adults this past year.

Other philanthropies include an awards luncheon for students in adapted physical education classes; kits with clothing for victims of assault; and RALF (Redlands Assistance League Friend) bears provided to police and sheriff's departments for trauma victims of all ages.

Members of the Assisteens, the league's teenage auxiliary, put in thousands of volunteer hours assisting in many community activities, including the Redlands Bowl, Redlands Shakespeare Festival, the Redlands Symphony, Inland Master Chorale and various other organizations.

Members of the Heritage Auxiliary conduct tours of historic Redlands for every fourth-grader in Redlands area schools, and the Professional Women of Redlands auxiliary provides Operation School Bell with hygiene kits and new clothing for teenage students.