Welcome to the second issue of the Fall 2009 CASSA Newsletter. It has been a great semester and we, the CASSA Executive Board, would like to thank all of the CASSA members for making this semester a great success. Fall is full of holidays and fun, and we appreciate CASSA for taking the time out of their daily lives and participating in CASSA’s volunteer efforts and events. We wish you all luck on your finals and hope you have a fun, safe Winter Break. See you next semester!

-CASSA EXECUTIVE BOARD
On October 18th, CASSA participated in the 19th Annual CHOC Walk at the Disneyland Resort. CASSA formed a team of fifty-one walkers and raised a total of $2,755.00 altogether to be donated to the CHOC organization. On this bright and early Sunday morning, CASSA walked throughout the Disneyland Resort, proudly wearing blue and orange leis. It was astonishing to see so many people, both old and young alike, come together to support the same cause. CASSA members marched down Main Street with excitement in their eyes and with the feeling of making a difference. While being at the Disneyland Resort, members realized that this was not just another visit at the 'happiest place on earth', but rather a chance to give back to an organization that helps children and their families throughout Orange County. As the walk continued, members danced, sang, and cheered with the Disney characters along the route. The total distance of the walk was 5K, and members received encouragement to finish from each other, other teams, and cast members. At the end of the walk, each member saw first-hand exactly why there really are a million reasons to walk.
If you ever get the chance to volunteer at Pretend City in Irvine, CASSA highly recommends it! Pretend City is virtually a mini world for young children between the ages of one and ten. There are several different areas placed throughout the building, all with an individual theme. CASSA worked in an art studio where the children got their hands painted and made cards. Some went “grocery shopping” and learned how to ring up items. Others played on the “beach” and learned how to recycle. There was also a restaurant where children can pretend to be customers and learn what a bill looks like, or the children could act as restaurant waiters and serve their parents a meal. Also included at Pretend City are a bank, library, farm, theatre, and drive-through pharmacy. The ground was made to look like a road and the children all got the chance to ride mini cars, fire trucks or police cars. They even had to abide by the traffic signals.

After talking with some of the staff members, it was explained that the purpose of Pretend City is to create a fun, but great learning environment for children. With their parents, the children learn how life works in general and the major components that make up most of our lifestyles. The children do not even realize they are learning because they are having such a great time with all of the hands-on experiences. This place is an extremely great opportunity to interact with children and even talk with some parents about their opinions on Pretend City. Although it has only been open for a little over three months, the word about Pretend City is spreading fast.

The staff truly appreciated CASSA’s hard work and have invited us back. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for another opportunity to join CASSA at Pretend City in the near future.
Orangewood Hallow-

CASSA regularly volunteers at Orangewood Children’s home in Irvine, California acting as mentors and social support for children removed from their homes. This Halloween, CASSA had the opportunity to assist as chaperones at Orangewood’s Halloween Dance.

The Orangewood Halloween Dance was a blast! CASSA helped set up by bringing out tons of prizes for the kids, setting up the tables with candy and balloons, and decorating the walls of the gym. All of the volunteers dressed up to make the experience more enjoyable. Once the kids arrived in the gym, fun and socializing began immediately. The children at Orangewood enjoyed the dressed up CASSA volunteers and loved guessing what the volunteers dressed up as.

Orangewood provided the dance with an awesome DJ and once he started the music, the kids had dance-offs and were having fun just hanging out with their friends. The staff also gave us glow sticks to pass around to all of the kids and volunteers. The kids received prizes for the best dance moves, but at the end of the night everyone went away with at least four or five prizes! The attendants at the dance were provided with a delicious Panda Express dinner, which Orangewood was very kind to let CASSA join in on once we helped serve everyone. After dinner, everyone danced some more and some of the younger kids were showing the CASSA members some really cool dance moves! It was a wonderful experience to see these kids having a great time! The dance was a great success and CASSA cannot wait to help out at next year’s Halloween dance!

Halloween at the Zoo!

Aside from usual October midterms, some CASSA members took the time out of their busy schedules to volunteer at the Orange County Zoo on Saturday, October 31st for Halloween. CASSA came dressed up and ready for trick or treating and fun-filled activities for the children attending the event at the zoo. CASSA hosted activity booths for arts and crafts, face painting, and trick-or-treat stops. The children were also able to see scheduled “treat”-stuffed pumpkin feedings to the mountain lion, mule deer, coyotes, bobcats and other animals in the zoo. After attending each activity booth and completing a scavenger hunt, the children were awarded with a prize of their choice.

The children and CASSA volunteers had a ‘spooktacular” time as they had fun and learned about the native animal of Orange County.
**FOOD DRIVE**
The month of November often reminds us of the array of food that we eat at the Thanksgiving holiday. However, not everyone is capable of having such a feast. In an effort to help out those in need of food during the holiday, CASSA collaborated with the College of Health and Human Development’s Inter-Club Council to collect non-perishable food items for the hungry. Canned food was collected through the month of November to be donated to those in need. CASSA donated over 100 cans to the cause.

**World’s Largest Book Drive**
In an effort to improve literacy amongst children and the world, CASSA collaborated with The Women’s Center to collect book donations for the World’s Largest Book Drive even for the Invisible Children organization. CASSA donated 26 textbooks and 40 children’s books, making a contribution of a total of 66 books. These books will be donated to the school children affected by the detriments of war in Northern Uganda.

**CASSA Helps Bring a Reason to be Thankful**
Thanksgiving is a holiday centered around food. CASSA volunteered at Interfaith Food Center, a Whittier soup kitchen, on November 20th to help provide and serve a nice, warm Thanksgiving meal to the homeless and needy families in the community. It was an opportunity for CASSA to reach out to those less fortunate and also come back from the volunteer service with a greater appreciation for what many take for granted on a daily basis: a filling meal. Thank you to all who participated in this event and for making a difference in the lives of those you helped by providing them with a Thanksgiving holiday.
Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a non-profit volunteer service that collects and distributes items to children living in underprivileged, impoverished areas around the world. Often these children are living in extreme cases of poverty and war and lack the basic necessities to live. CASSA members were given the opportunity to aid these children by filling shoeboxes filled with items such as toys, toothpaste, and other basic needs items for the Operation Christmas Child donation. CASSA was able to collect sixteen boxes for the cause to a local Chick-Fil-A donation location. As a token of their gratitude, Chick-Fil-A awarded those that donated with a certificate for food.

CHRISTMAS AT KATHY LAND

Kathy Land was such a great experience for CASSA! For the past 24 years, Kathy Ireland has put on a great Christmas Celebration for less fortunate children. On this day, children come and participate in fun holiday festivities. This year, Kathy Land was held at the Yardhouse restaurant at the Irvine Spectrum. By 7:30 AM, CASSA was all checked in, given breakfast, a free shirt, and then there was a short orientation on what all of the volunteers were going to do that day. Once assigned to our stations, we got our tables ready and got to know the other volunteers helping at our stations. The children soon arrived at 9:00 AM and then the fun began!

There were several different stations, from decorating Santa hats, to bracelet making, to gingerbread decorating and cupcake decorating, and more! Each new group of children arriving at our stations provided a chance for all of us to brighten their day and make sure they were having a wonderful time. Everyone, including the volunteers and chaperones, took turns receiving a delicious lunch served by the Yardhouse staff. At the end of the event, and once the restaurant was cleaned up, all of the volunteers headed to the Improv and sang Christmas songs with the children and a teen band. There were even a couple of child movie stars that showed up to support the event!

Overall, this day was such a great experience for CASSA members. It was a way that we could share the joy of the holiday spirits with the children and make this a holiday season they would never forget.
Guest Speaker Events

Looking to make a difference in a child’s life? Joie Taylor, CSUF’s Jumpstart Program Coordinator, spoke with CASSA about how students could make a difference. Jumpstart is a national non-profit organization working towards the day that every child in America will enter school prepared to succeed. Jumpstart pairs caring adults, like you, with preschool children in low-income communities. The goal is to help children build the literacy and social skills needed to succeed in school. As a Jumpstart Corp member, you can receive a number of benefits such as: gain academic course credit in the Child and Adolescent Studies Department, earn a Work-study wage if eligible, and an AmeriCorps education award for up to $1,250 in the process.

Thank you Joie for coming to speak with CASSA.

On November 18th, CASSA hosted its last guest speaker event for the Fall 2009 semester. As CASSA members enjoyed snacks, Dr. Debra Stout shared her experience in the research field. Dr. Stout has had experience in the counseling field, research field, and as a professor at several local colleges. Currently she and her husband own a business, Doctors Non-Profit Consulting, which offers program evaluation and other services to child-related organizations. Her appearance coincided with the release of the 15th Annual Children’s Condition of Children in Orange County. She elaborated on the needs of children such as the increase in youth gang involvement and youth homelessness. CASSA was surprised to hear that the average age of a homeless person in Orange County is eight years old. She emphasized the importance of conducting research and evaluations in order to effectively assess the needs of children and create programs to meet these needs.

Thank you Dr. Stout for speaking to CASSA.
Volleyball Social/Tailgate

On November 6th CASSA had their second member social. This social consisted of a fun-filled tailgate with In-N-Out burgers, face-painting, and an opportunity drawing for fun spirit items. CASSA then showed off their school spirit by attending the CSUF women’s volleyball game at the Titan Gym. CASSA cheered on the players as they spiked and scored their way to victory.

GO TITANS!!!

CASSA Hits the Ice!

On a cold December night, CASSA members gathered together for an ice skating social at Anaheim Ice. Members arrived dressed in scarves, gloves, and boots, and their eyes were filled with excitement. As soon as everyone arrived, they received their ice skates and were all ready to show their skills on the ice. With smiles on their faces, members glided around the ice rink, socializing with others and, altogether, having fun. Some members took a little time to warm up to the ice, and others just took off right from the start. Some held hands on the ice while some formed conga lines and skated around the ice rink. Some also sang along to the Christmas music playing, which made it into a more winter wonderland event. All together, CASSA members enjoyed a night of ice skating with their friends and it was evident that everyone had a great time.
Many of CASSA’s general meeting are filled with activities, socializing, and updates on CASSA news. The remainder of this semester continued this tradition, but one special general meeting on November 4th a few of our Executive Board members were able to share a little extra from a Future Teacher’s Conference they attended. President Lani Endo, Vice President Jessica Gutierrez, ICC Representative Veronica Lopez, and website Manager Sarah King brought back information from the workshops they attending on working with parents, classroom management tips, adding music and movement in the classroom, and having fun. This workshop overview had our CASSA members up and out of their seats, dancing and singing, and having a blast. We look forward to bringing more fun activities to our general meetings.
Upcoming Events:

JANUARY:
* Monday Jan 18th from 11-1PM: "Book Doctor: Rehabilitate used books to distribute at a reading event.
* CASSA’s Spring 2010 meetings will begin on Wednesday, January 27th, 2010.

For more information about becoming a CASSA member or general questions feel free to email us at:
Csuf.cassa@gmail.com
Or stop by our office in EC 553
Mondays: 11:30-12:45, 2:30-4:00, 4:30-6:00
Tuesdays: 10:00-10:45, 11:30-12:45
Wednesdays: 8:15-10:30, 1:00-3:45, 2:30-4:00
Thursdays: 10:00-10:45, 11:30-12:45, 2:30-7:00
Fridays: CLOSED

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!