

Grant-A-Wish-For-Senior Program Recap

We are Parents Teachers Association (PTA) parents from Garretson elementary school in Corona. We wanted to create opportunity for our 4th grade students in the school district to practice kindness by fulfilling the wishes of our senior community.

Why seniors? Our elderly has a lot of wisdom to share. They have contributed so much to our society and deserve lots of respect and loving kindness. However, sometimes due to circumstances they cannot control, they often ended up forgotten, bullied, and rarely visited in elderly home. Hence, we created this program called “**Grant-a-Wish-For Seniors**”.

To begin this program, we collected wishes from three senior assisted-living facility/day care centers in Corona (Valencia Terrace, Brookdale Corona and Inland Empire Adult Day Care Center). The seniors were educated beforehand that these were wishes to be fulfilled by fourth graders and their parents. Thus, the wishes ranged from having puzzles and coloring books to holiday postcards and visitations to walk their dogs. The wish paper was enclosed inside a clear plastic pendant case that was tied around each student’s neck with a red/blue/yellow cotton string. We hoped this colorful gear would pique the interest of the student’s parent/guardian and motivate them to practice kindness to seniors.

Then, during World Kindness Youth Conference, we hosted a kindness booth to present Grant-A-Wish-For-Senior program. We had approximately 150 compassionate students who chose to pick up a wish from us. The children showed genuine interest and excitement in making someone happy by taking on an altruistic quest. We also have parents who donated blankets and various activity/coloring books to give away to the senior community. Teachers also volunteered to deliver the donated gifts to the seniors. Additionally, we invite students to partake in three fun activities with our senior representatives, Ronni Armstrong from Valencia Terrace and Karol Schmer, a retired speech pathologist from Garretson Elementary in our booth. They play large Jenga blocks, tie up knots to create blankets to give to seniors and play bean bag toss. Overall, our youth’s enthusiasm and willingness to perform a kind deed was unforgettable. The kindness vibes were everywhere that day and will continue to spread to our senior community.

Lastly, we like to thank World Kindness Youth Conference committee, sponsors, Ms. Shirley Zink, CNUUSD, PTA and all the wonderful volunteers and participants who made this event possible. With you, this world is a better place.



Figure 1. PTA and High School volunteers setup Garretson Elementary Grant-A-Wish-For Senior Booth



Figure 2. Garretson PTA volunteer (from Left to right: Cassie Spaise, Amber Pelland Mojica, Jane Lieu, and retired Speech Pathologist Karol Schmer).



Figure 3. Three lovely Fourth Graders helped Ms. Ronni Armstrong from Valencia Terrance to make blanket.



Figure 4. Exuded Students visiting Grant-A-Wish-For-Senior booth. Donated blankets and Wish pendants are displayed at our booth. Volunteers (from left to right) are Jane Lieu, Cassie Spaise, and Cristina Viruega.



Figure 5. Teacher (Ms.Reynoso) and her class visited our booth.



Figure 6 Many visitors come to learn about how to be kind to seniors.



Figure 7. Ms. Karol Schmer, retired speech pathologist playing giant Jenga with students.



Figure 8. Ms. Ronni Armstrong and a wonderful student working together to make blanket.



Figure 9. Example of a Wish pendant. Senior wish list and instruction for seniors were placed inside the necklace pendant.



Figure 10. Happy seniors from Inland Empire Adult Day Care Center receiving their gifts.