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**From:** DCFS Public Affairs  
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# THE GOOD

## Celebrating Success at DCFS

December 29, 2010 Vol. 1, No. 18

### ♥Good to Hear

- On behalf of all staff, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to **Interim Director Antonia Jimenez**. Antonia comes to us from the Chief Executive Office where she was the Deputy CEO for the Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster. "I welcome the opportunity to work with all of you protecting children, strengthening families, and saving lives. You've accomplished so much already; together, we can do even more for our children and families," said Antonia.
- Two days before Christmas, an **anonymous caller** contacted DCFS Public Affairs wishing to donate money to purchase holiday gifts for a Compton family. The caller, who annually helps out families in need during the holidays, apologized that he wasn't able to donate more money as both he and his wife were dealing with serious health issues. On Christmas Eve, with the donated money, Compton CSWs Mirella Castaneda and Brandi Guzman purchased six pair of shoes, and six sweaters for the children, a DVD player and movies as requested by the family in time for Christmas day. Despite his own family's pressing health concerns, this generous soul made sure that those less fortunate were remembered.
- Recently, South County **P3 worker Rosemary Woods** located a father believed by his son, Jareth to be dead. The father had last seen his son when he was a month old. After confirming paternity through DNA testing, Rosemary arranged to have the father meet Jareth for his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier this month.

Jareth described their meeting as "a dream come true" and has since enjoyed his ongoing contact with his father. Jareth was also introduced to his paternal grandmother. What a wonderful holiday gift!

- Once again, a convoy of 20 **U.S. Postal Service** (USPS) trucks, driven by Santa and elves, made a special holiday delivery of toys to the San Fernando Valley and Chatsworth DCFS offices. This annual tradition, started 14 years ago by Santa Clarita Postmaster Bob Swanson, provided 2,000 specially requested toys for foster youth purchased by postal workers with their own money. The toy caravan was met by cheering social workers and staff, who after unloading the trucks, rewarded the postal workers with breakfast. The toys were distributed to the children by social workers at the "Holiday on the Lot" party on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.
- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, about 30 youth from the **Transitional Housing Program** were treated to a holiday party hosted by ABC-7 Spark of Love, the Xerox Corporation and Aetna. The festive affair held at the Ayres Hotel in Hawthorne featured a buffet dinner, a stand-up comedian and a bagful of gifts to brighten their holiday season.
- On December 17<sup>th</sup>, another **Mini Adoption Day** saw 49 adoptions that were finalized. Providing permanency for our youth at this time of year is especially meaningful. Congratulations to all the DCFS staff who assisted in making these forever families a reality.
- This past summer, 18-year-old foster youth **Daveion** participated in the Kids in the Spotlight program which teaches at-risk youth to script and make their own films with the help of industry professionals. Daveion's impressive film debut about siblings fending for themselves earned him acceptance into Promo Pathways. This is a one-year program offered free through Santa Monica College integrating high risk teens ages 17 to 21 into the commercial promotion business. Next stop Hollywood!
- The Office of Public Affairs wishes everyone at DCFS and our community partners a safe, healthy and **Happy New Year!**

## ♥Good News

12.25.10 [Washington Post: Newborn girl dropped off at LA fire station](#)

12.22.10 [The Signal: West Creek Academy Students Donate Toys](#)

12.16.10 [Daily News: USPS donates toys](#)

12.16.10 [La Opinion: El Cartero llego con Juguetes- The mailman arrived with toys](#)

12.15.10 [Chatsworth Patch: Postal Workers Deliver Gifts for Needy Children](#)

♥**Congratulations on 25 years with DCFS!**

Meredith Barrett-Wilkins  
Laura Telles  
Thompson

Vera Olivarez  
Gloria

♥**Congratulations on 30 years with DCFS!**

Rosalinda Acosta  
Sadie Roy

Carrol Harris

♥**Congratulations on 35 years with DCFS!**

Ann Galloway

♥**Good to See:**

[Season's Greetings Slideshow](#) (click to view)

♥**The Good Quote:**

“The first step in the acquisition of wisdom is silence, the second listening, the third memory, the fourth practice, the fifth teaching others.”

**-Solomon Ibn Gabriol - Spanish poet, philosopher and moralist**