



## Community Connection

### **HireLAX Apprenticeship Readiness Program Rings in New Year with Start of Cohort 7**



On Monday, 35 students began an eight-week course that has the potential to change their lives. The HireLAX Apprenticeship Readiness Program (ARP) offers free construction training to people who live around LAX, so that they can use their new skills building the future of LAX and beyond. All of us at LAWA wish the new class the best of luck!

### **LAX Community Relations Hosts First Airfield Tour of New Year**



Last Thursday, LAX Community Relations Division team members Teresa Braden and Yena Ji gave the division's first airfield tour of the new decade. The first tour group of the year was comprised of local aviation enthusiasts, including an engineering professor, an aviation advocate and LAX fans. The group learned about upcoming developments and new features that are coming in the next few years, such as the Midfield Satellite Concourse (MSC) and LAX's Automated People Mover.

## **Local Boy Scouts of America Troop and Families Visit LAX, Los Angeles Fire Department Station 80**





Last Friday, LAX Community Relations Principal Public Relations Representative Harold Johnson welcomed Boy Scouts Troop 594, along with the scouts' family and friends, to LAX for an Aviation Career Tour. Troop 594 family and friends were excited to get up close to the airplanes and hear about the different job opportunities and programs offered by LAWA. The best part of the tour was getting a personal inside look at Airport Rescue Fire Fighting Station 80, which is uniquely located on LAX's airfield. The firefighters on duty were happy to give a behind-the-scenes look at their facility and fire trucks.

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## Holiday Happenings

Over the holiday period, LAWA staff and stakeholders gathered to bring the spirit of the season to our neighbors and surrounding communities. Here are a few examples from the

past few weeks of how we all came together to spread warmth and goodwill throughout the LAWA community.

## **Santa Claus and Los Angeles Airport Police Surprise Passengers with Gifts on Christmas Morning**



Santa Claus and the Los Angeles Airport Police Division (APD) handed out teddy bears, candy canes and tree ornaments on Christmas morning. In what has become a Christmas tradition at LAX, APD celebrated its fifth year of surprising travelers and their children on Christmas morning with a visit from Santa Claus and his helpers. The annual event starts early Christmas day as Santa Claus, APD officers and K-9 Teams make their way from terminal to terminal handing out gifts to children and adults, posing for photos and spreading the Christmas cheer.

## **LAX External Affairs Staff Wraps Gifts for Families with Playa Venice Sunrise Rotary Club**



Last month, LAWA External Affairs team members Maria Tesoro, Clarence Espinosa, Mary Kim and Shezzell Johnson participated in the Playa Venice Sunrise Rotary Club's Holiday Gift Wrapping Night at the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce office. Together in

good cheer and company, attendees wrapped gifts for families in the club's "Adopt a Family" program, one of which was adopted by LAX Community Relations. Pictured, from left, lower photo: Mary, Clarence, Shezzell and Maria.

## **Van Nuys Airport Hosts Annual Adopt-a-School Holiday at Stagg Elementary School**



Last month, Van Nuys Airport hosted their Annual Adopt-a-School Holiday Event at Stagg Elementary School in Balboa. Some of the featured guests were Stagg Elementary School Principal Dr. Angel Barrett, Los Angeles Unified School District Deputy Director of Engagement Michael Menjivar, Ninety-Nines San Fernando Valley (SFV) Chairwoman Kimberly Chan, Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Chief of Operations Christian Moreno, VNY Director of Public and Community Relations Diana Sanchez (who also served as the event's emcee), Los Angeles Police Department Santa Sleigh Driver Juan Ceja, and Mid

Valley Family YMCA Executive Director Lionnel Zaragoza. The students were filled with excitement as Santa and his friends greeted each student. Not only did Santa bring an extra special gift for each of the more than 500 students, but he also brought with him a cheerful snowman, a fun-loving reindeer, and a whimsical elf. VNY mascot Vinny also joined in to bring joy, fun and laughter to the children. The event also showcased a performance by Brettso the Great Magician, VNY holiday lunch bag gifts, and a check donation from SFV Chairwoman Chan, who presented it to Dr. Barrett at the conclusion of the event.

### **32nd Street USC Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School Enjoy Fun and Festive Activities at Flight Path Museum**



LAX Community Relations coordinated a fun and interactive event last month at the Flight Path Museum and Learning Center for 25 fifth grade students from 32nd Street USC Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School. The event, called "Santa's Gingerbread House," included a behind-the-scenes airfield tour to introduce attendees to the world of aviation, a Gingerbread house decorating contest, a sing-along to holiday music, and a visit from Santa Claus, who read, "T'was the Night Before Christmas" to the students. Santa also told stories and took selfies with each student. Each of the five winners from the Gingerbread decorating contest received toys donated by LAWA employees. LAX Community Relations hosts an event each year for young students.

## **Van Nuys Airport Shares Holiday Cheer with Mid Valley YMCA for Annual Preschool Holiday Play**



Last month, Van Nuys Airport Public and Community Relations Director Diana Sanchez attended the Mid Valley YMCA Preschool holiday show in Van Nuys. The students worked hard to prepare for their performance, which included various holiday songs. The children were filled with excitement as Santa and his friends greeted each student with joyful cheers and laughter. VNY was proud to contribute to this event by providing the costumes for the Christmas characters.

**LAWA Team Members Help Serve Holiday Dinner, Contribute Toys to US VETS, Inc.**





Last month, LAWA team members lent a hand and helped serve a holiday dinner to more than 300 veterans and their families at the U.S. VETS residential dining hall in Inglewood. Veterans from all military branches were represented as they feasted on a full holiday dinner, including eggnog and a variety of desserts. They were entertained by a local church choir singing traditional Christmas carols. The children received toys donated by LAWA and other entities.

The LAWA team members also donated toys to the nonprofit's veterans and their children. U.S VETS Development and Communications Manager Vicky Gallion visited LAWA to collect the toys, which were given to the children and grandchildren of veterans living in the nonprofit's Inglewood residential facility.

US VETS - Inglewood has served the community for over 25 years, and houses up to 600 veterans. In addition, they provide job readiness training and other supportive services to veterans and their families. Upon receiving the toys, Ms. Gallion remarked, "Thank you so

much for the toy donation. We appreciate it and our new relationship with you and your team!" Pictured, top photo: LAWA Executive Secretary Shezzell Johnson serves attendees. Pictured, from left, lower photo: LAWA Principal Public Relations (PR) Representative Harold Johnson, LAWA Principal PR Representative Gaby Pacheco, LAWA Management Analyst Clarence Espinosa, Vicky and LAWA Community Relations Director Maria Tesoro.

## **LINXS Staff Give Back at Holiday Season with Toy Donations**



Last month, employees at LAX Integrated Express Solutions (LINXS) partnered with the Salvation Army to provide Christmas gifts to local children in need. Through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, employees fulfilled the Christmas wish lists for families who are in crisis as a result of medical issues, unemployment, homelessness, medical issues or other difficult circumstances and who otherwise wouldn't have the resources to celebrate Christmas. Employees collected gifts for 30 children. The Salvation Army distributed these gifts to the families so that each child has something to open Christmas morning. Pictured, front row, from left: Ashley Amparano, Haley Harleman. Back row, from left: Carolyn Knutson, Grant Smith, Sharon Simpson, Melissa Williams, Nenita Cartagena-Herman, Steve Krier and Rex Measom.

## LAX ConRAC Partners Hosts Holiday Luncheon for Craft Workers



In the spirit of the season, LAX ConRAC Partners (LAXCP) team members served up some festive cheer to those building the future home of the Consolidated Rent-A-Car (ConRAC) facility. A holiday luncheon was held in honor of 190 craft workers who are currently working at the ConRAC site, showing LAXCP's appreciation for the hard work and dedication these men and women provide to the project throughout the year.

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