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Boys & Girls Clubs holiday event returns to Burrage Mansion

REDLANDS – More than 150 youth received toys and met Santa Claus at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside’s 13th annual Holiday Extravaganza at the Burrage Mansion on Friday, Dec. 17.

Kids from the seven Inland Empire communities where the Club offers programs were bused to the Burrage for the event, which was held both inside and outside. The Club held a smaller-scaled drive-through event at its clubhouse in 2020 because of the coronavirus.

Previous Holiday Extravaganzas have included about 700 kids; this year’s was scaled back because of the pandemic.

Club members chose a toy, heard a story from Santa and Mrs. Claus, did crafts, enjoyed a magic show, sang holiday songs with Redlands Community Music Association volunteers, played games, and were treated to pizza and burritos. The Redlands Fire Department and many Inland Empire corporations and businesses collected hundreds of toys donated by their employees and the community.

The Club was one of the beneficiaries of The Redlands Fire Department’s annual Spark of Love toy drive. Firefighters and fire explorers helped the kids pick out toys.

Some volunteers escorted groups of kids around the Burrage mansion and grounds, while others helped kids do activities and supervised games.

The Club also hosted a party for middle school and high school members in a separate area of the Burrage grounds.

The Burrage, which is owned by Redlands native and businessman Tim Rochford and his wife Carol, was decked out for Christmas. The Rochford’s personally gave a book to each child at
the event.

Sponsors, volunteers and toy donors included the Rochford Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Redlands-Noon, Myron F. Ratcliffe Foundation, Amazon, Starbucks, T-Mobile, KFROG 95.1, iHerb, Dollar Tree, Assisteens, National Charity League, Redlands Community Foundation, Redlands Employment Services and Rotary Club of Redlands.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside has served the Inland Empire since 1967, and has sites in the communities of Corona, Moreno Valley, Redlands, Rialto, Riverside, San Bernardino and Victorville. Our Clubs serve over 2,000 youth daily in after-school settings, and we offer both winter and summer camps. Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. For more information, visit www.BeGreatIE.org