

CORONA STAKE NEWSLETTER



A Letter From President Brashear

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Stake Conference. There was a wonderful Spirit in each session and throughout the conference. I'm so grateful we had Elder Wright with us - what a blessing!

A question came up after all the sessions were over as to why stake conference was so wonderful? What made it so special?

I think that it wasn't just the preparation of those who spoke - it was the preparation of those who attended. Much like any church meeting, if you come prepared to listen and learn it can be a place of spiritual revelation for you. So thank you brothers and sisters for coming to stake conference with an open heart, willing to be taught by the Spirit. Hopefully you received something to help you stay on the covenant path and let God prevail in your life. May the Lord bless us as we continue to go forward in faith.

Much love,

President Brashear

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CORONA STAKE JUSTSERVE RECEIVES NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

by **Donnette Wheat and Kim Lay**

From the earliest days of the Church, members have been encouraged to engage in service beyond the walls of their homes and chapels. In 2009, in an effort to make it easier to find service opportunities, the website JustServe.org was created and piloted here in California.

The Justserve.org website allows participating organizations the ability to post service opportunities soliciting volunteer support. Volunteers both within and outside of the Church membership can then sort through the projects to find ones that best fit their interests, skills, and availability. JustServe.org is now reaching communities all across the United States and several countries worldwide.

The Corona Stake is proud to announce that earlier this year the JustServe organization in Corona was awarded the title of "NonProfit of the Year" from the Corona Chamber of Commerce at the 2022 Board Installation and Gala on January 20th. President Rudy Preciado, from the Stake Presidency, accepted the award along with Riverside Coordinating Council JustServe Specialist Donnette Wheat and Stake Communication Director Kim Lay. During the presentation, JustServe was recognized for its extensive volunteerism in the community and in particular its role in supporting various other local nonprofits throughout the year.

Others in attendance at the awards ceremony were Elder Rozsa- Area Seventy, Rebecca Bennion of the North America West JustServe Council, President Kevin Tolley from the Riverside Mission Presidency, and Holly Waite former Stake Relief Society President.

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#JUSTSERVE

Pictured in the photo starting from the left:

Elder Douglas Rozsa, Karen Speigel, Kevin and RaShelle Tolley, Holly Waite, Donnette and Joe Wheat, Kim Lay, Rudy and Linda Preciado, Kim Mabon, Jim Steiner

CORONA STAKE JUSTSERVE RECEIVES NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

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Kim Lay, the Corona Stake Communication Director said, "It is our goal to continue to encourage our full time and ward missionaries, church members, and community members to get out and volunteer on an ongoing basis so they can experience the blessings that come from serving. Serving together brings feelings of accomplishment and satisfaction. Inviting others to participate with you in serving others also helps strengthen the community."

Some of the service provided by JustServe volunteers and local full-time Missionaries over the past year include:

- Volunteering for the Riverside County Women's Leadership Conference hosted by Crossroads Church.
- Volunteering at the Saturday food distribution drive-thru's throughout the pandemic with For the People Task Force and Manna House.
- Volunteering with the 100-mile club.
- Collecting Run2Rescue donations to help victims of human trafficking.
- Youth and Missionary volunteers assisted the Make-it Cozy organization by cleaning appliances and furniture to help provide furnishings for homeless transitioning into homes as well as organizing their warehouse.
- Participated with the City of Corona and Norco City "Clean-up" days, as well as numerous other service projects throughout the year.
- Making blankets for the homeless and giving them to City Net and the Hope team to pass out.
- JustServe volunteers partnered with the non-profit Angels Over Cliffs during their Christmas toy giveaway last year at Crossroads Church for homeless children and their families.
- Volunteers participated in Operation Christmas Child and donated Christmas boxes full of toys to send to other countries.
- Last winter volunteers harvested and donated oranges and other food for the Corona Friends Church food drive-thru.
- Donated goods to Corona Life Services.
- Volunteers participated with the YMCA to "stuff" backpacks for their annual Healthy Kids Day.
- Volunteers baked and donated hundreds of cookies to support Hillside Farms Cookie Project as an annual fundraiser for Peppermint Ridge.
- Volunteers and Missionaries coordinated food donations from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Bishop's Storehouse and donated them to various local food pantries.
- Volunteers donated crockpots to the non-profit Operation Love from Home.
- Volunteers donated food for AngelHart Network for their food pantry at Corona High School.
- Youth volunteers planted trees at Jameson Park.
- Volunteers helped to place almost 3,000 flags in the ground representing each 9/11 victim at the Chamber of Commerce 9/11 event.
- Volunteers and missionaries came out to help with the Peppermint Ridge fundraising event Run the Ridge.
- Girls ages 12-17 volunteered to clean up Corona's Brentwood Park. Teams shoveled mountains of mulch into wheelbarrows, then unloaded and spread it around trees and other bare areas. Other girls grabbed paintbrushes to repaint an entire basketball court.
- In September as part of the annual "JustServe Day of Service" was held where women and girls made towel kits and sheet sets for Make It Cozy, bereavement beanies for Kaiser Riverside, "Welcome to America" posters for refugees, and fleece blankets for cancer patients at City of Hope Corona.
- Youth volunteers participated in a fundraiser for the Malouf Foundation.
- Volunteers helped Giving 365 set up for their Christmas event and helped promote their Christmas donation drive. ■



CNUSD Teachers Receive the 2022 Crystal Apple Awards

by Communication Council Staff

CORONA, CA (March 17, 2022) On the evening of Saint Patrick's Day, high school teachers from the Corona-Norco Unified School District were awarded the Crystal Apple Award from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Corona, CA Stake. The awarded teachers include Abel Gonzalez- Santiago High School, Rikki Watson- Santiago High School, David Ganahl- Centennial High School, and Paul Lorkowski- Norco High School.

For almost 20 years Corona Stake seminary students have been awarding the Crystal Apple Award to high school teachers. Kim Lay the Communication Director for the Corona Stake spoke at the event and said "The Crystal Apple Award presentation is an annual event to publicly recognize teachers in our community that exemplify virtues of, not only knowledge but goodness and charity, each year the students are asked to consider a teacher that has made an impact in their lives, a teacher that goes above and beyond or goes the extra mile to help students be successful."

Matt Hill a senior seminary student conducted the awards ceremony. As part of the evening, the seminary student(s) that nominated their teacher presented their award. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Pictured in the large group from back left row: Kevin Bash, David Brashear, Jacob Ellis, Rob Ibbetson, Malcolm Heron, Scott Waddell, Gavin Chambers, Sam Waddoups
 2nd Middle from left: Bobby Spiegel, Fauzia Rizvi, Ryan Lay, Isabela Sandberg, Tom Richins, Reggie Thompkins, Wes Speake, Kenny Torres, Sam Buenostro, John Zickefoose, Alexis Barile, Monica Sandberg, Jennifer Chapman
 1st Middle row from left: Isabella Piquet, Hannah Finger, Karen Spiegel, Mary Ybarra, Elizabeth Marroquin, Lisa Simon, Daniel Frumusanu, MaryAnn Sherman, Kimberly Skaggs, Virginia Coriddi, Kim Lay, Rudy Preciado
 Front row from left: David Ganahl, Abel Gonzalez, Paul Lorkowski, Rikki Watson (not pictured)



CNUSD Teachers Receive the 2022 Crystal Apple Awards

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The student presenters were Daniel Fumusanu (For Paul Lorkowski), Isabela Sandberg and Ryan Lay (for Rikki Watson), Kimberly Skaggs and Gavin Chambers (for Able Gonzalez), and Isabella Piquet and Hannah Finger (for David Ganahl). The students spoke about their own personal experiences on how their teacher made a difference in their lives. Many dignitaries from Riverside County and the City of Corona and Norco were also there to present the teachers with certificates.

The evening also consisted of a musical number called "Trust in the Lord" sung by all seminary students, featuring Caden Morgan and Francis Flores as soloists. In addition to the musical number, a video presentation directed and edited by senior seminary student Davis Knoll was played to show what seminary means to the students. Tyler Sundberg, a Seminary Teacher, David Brashear the Stake President, and Sam Buenrostro the CNUSD Superintendent also gave remarks.



After the ceremony, those in attendance mingled with each other, took pictures, and enjoyed "green" apple-themed refreshments. Mary Ybarra a CNUSD School Board Member in attendance said "This is my very favorite awards ceremony; I love coming to this every year!"

"This is my very favorite awards ceremony; I love coming to this every year!"

MARY YBARRA A
CNUSD SCHOOL
BOARD MEMBER

PICTURE:

Back row from left:
Rob Ibbetson, Gavin Chambers, Kenny Torres, Alexis Barile,
Middle row: Isabella Piquet, Hannah Finger, Ryan Lay, Isabela Sandberg, Daniel Frumusanu, Kimberly Skaggs
Front row: David Ganahl, Abel, Gonzalez, Paul Lorkowski, Rikki Watson (not pictured)



STAKE YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT BUTTERFIELD PARK, CORONA

A large group of youth from the Corona Stake volunteered to cleanup and do repair work at Butterfield Dog Park in Corona on Saturday February 26th organized by Chris Thompson, the Stake Young Men's Second Counselor and the City of Corona. Young men and women met at 8 am that Saturday morning ready to work hard. After checking in, the youth were assigned into 4 different groups. Groups were given their assignments which consisted of picking up trash, painting over graffiti, filling in holes in the dog park, and spreading mulch. The youth had a great time volunteering, enjoying time with their

friend's and even having wheel barrow races as they shoveled mulch from the piles and ran to the location of where the mulch was to be spread. This service project was one of four stake youth service projects that will be held this year. #JustServe
Top Picture: Corona Stake youth and leaders
Bottom Left Picture: Melia Gunnell, Matt Hill, Lucas Hunt
Bottom Right Picture: Everett Terry, Carter Ward, Dylan Crowder, Jonathan Crowder, Noah Lay



Each resident chose a blanket that spoke to their heart



Top picture back row from left- Elizabeth Hayden, BJ Walker, Kristin Weaver, Kumari Bowry, Fauzia Rizvi, Shabana Haxton, Marge Betitti, Sunny Richins, Karen Spiegel. Front row from left- Debbie Jordan, SueAnn Hathaway Savannah Hathaway, Anita Hathaway, Leslie Guthrie, Sally Frey, Shellie Hunt, Susy Ferreira, Kim Lay, Julie Frumusanu

Middle Right Picture: Donnette Wheat and other volunteers sing to residents before gifting blankets

Bottom Right Picture: Donnette Wheat with Corona Post-Acute Skilled Nursing Rehabilitation resident/ blanket recipient.

Blankets of Love

BY DONNETTE WHEAT AND BJ WALKER

Blankets of Love JustServe project was inspired by a visit to the Corona Post-Acute Skilled Nursing Rehabilitation Center by a group of Christmas carolers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Auburndale Ward in December of 2021. Cards were made and delivered to each of the residents at Christmas time with a few donated handmade lap blankets. After singing to the residents safely outside, Donnette Wheat asked the assistant activities director if there were any needs for the center and the reply was, “Blankets, 150 of them.” This grew into “Blankets of Love” project. The project was posted on JustServe.org in January and the sewing, quilting, crocheting, and tying of blankets began as the Stake Relief Society presidency from the Corona Stake sponsored the project. With the help of a multitude of volunteers, including McKinley Elementary School families, youth groups and interfaith and community friends, with individuals from at least 7 different faiths all worked together to make and/or donate almost 200 blankets. One example was a donation by Betty Waggoner of New Mexico, mother to BJ Walker in the Corona Stake. Mrs. Waggoner, who is 88, has been in a wheelchair for over 30 years due to MS and decided to donate one of her beautiful handmade lap blankets to the project, knowing it would benefit someone else. On March 6th, it was like Christmas again as a group of volunteers gathered to sing to the residents, but this time patriotic songs and songs of love. Following the singing, each of the residents went to the activity room to look through the blankets and choose the blanket that spoke to their heart. There were some sweet and tender moments and tears shed as residents shared their stories with the volunteers. The residents were so grateful for the gift of a new blanket to wrap up in and feel the love shared with them that day.



Norconian Road Repair

BY BJ WALKER

Norconian Drive in Norco is being repaved in preparation for reopening the street for public use in early April! Members of the Auburndale Ward couldn't be more excited for the beautiful newly repaved road to be opened, which has been in poor condition and closed for more than 5 years.

Norconian Drive leads to the LDS church building in Norco, CA. Donnette Wheat, past Corona Stake Communication Council Director, is thrilled as she has worked closely with Norco City Council members over the past 5 years to help encourage the city to repair and reopen the road.

Members and the community are grateful for the support of the Norco City Council, with the help of past Mayor Kevin Bash and Councilmember Katherine Aleman for making the improvements.

Bash said "We are renovating more streets and roads than at any time in our history. This road is particularly important to hundreds of residents needing this alternative route and for getting to three places of worship." Thank you to the City of Norco!

Thank you City of Norco!

