



COURTESY PHOTO

Shamika Lawrence, second from left, former wife of actor/comedian Martin Lawrence, put in a special celebrity guest appearance at the Boys and Girls Club of San Bernardino on Friday, December 17 and donated about 60 gifts for the club's toy giveaway.

Club cont. from front

Florida teenager who was shot and killed in 2012.

This year's event also drew a very special celebrity guest, Ms. Shamika Lawrence, former wife of comedian Martin Lawrence. Ms. Lawrence, apart from donating about 60 gifts of her own, also performed a song on stage. Entertainment also included a special comedy presentation by another comedian.

With the help of numerous community volunteers, including a large group from Ross Dress For Less stores, representing almost every store in the Inland Empire, kids participated in an enjoyable afternoon of holiday spirit and walked out with a gift too. The Ross volunteers, apart from volunteering their time, also brought their own personally purchased gifts to donate. City Clerk Gigi Hanna also got in on the action by supporting the event by raising funds with a homemade treat bake sale earlier at City Hall. Kids in the Boys and Girls Club music program also put on a special performance for all to enjoy.

The event drew about 700 kids to the Boys and Girls Club.

And like this event, the Boys and Girls Club of San Bernardino hosts ongoing events and activities throughout the year to support not just youth but their families and community as a whole as well.

The club boasts several very low cost or free programs that allow



COURTESY PHOTO

Shamika Lawrence, right, performing a song at the Boys and Girls Club during the club's annual Christmas toy giveaway on Friday, December 17.

youth opportunities to learn music playing and production, and support them in their education, with programs such as after-school tutoring. For the community, the club boasts a community garden, which not only allows kids to learn valuable skills and healthy eating, but also supplies fresh produce for them and their families and other community members.

But at Thanksgiving and Christmas the spirit of service and giv-

ing really come to life with food and toy giveaways, such as they did this year and provides for families who may not otherwise have had the means to do so.

For more information on these and other events and programs at the Boys and Girls Club of San Bernardino, call (909) 888-6751. The club is located at 1180 W. 9th Street.

and gave Santa a letter from his son that read, "To Santa Claus, from Sonny." And like this family, many others came out to see Santa, including kids with special needs. Families lined the sidewalks yelling "Merry Christmas and thank you for doing this for our kids."

"We the participants were the ones that received a special gift in return, the one of joy and special memories," said one of several organizers, Frank Guzman, admitting also that the sights and sounds of gratitude and Christmas joy brought a few tears to the eyes of organizers. "The smiles that were created during the three nights of the parade will last in our memories for years to come but more importantly motivated all of us to do this again next year."

The event was made possible by many people working together, including elected officials, commu-

nity members, neighborhood associations, businesses and car clubs, some of whom wish to remain anonymous at least by name, but organizers wish to extend a special thank you to the following groups for making this possible: JS Platinum Insurance, Block Captains Association of San Bernardino, Neighborhood Association Council, Mt. View Mortuary & Cemetery, Over the Hill Gang Car Club, E Street Cruisers Car Club, The Old Farts Car Club, Inland Empire Military Museum, The Elks Lodge #836, Public Services, Inland Empire 66ers, Juan Pollo, OnLine LED Store, Shab El Awar, The Fun Corner, Jean & John Branton, Peggy & Gene Cranford and Clair Smith.

"Without the support of so many organizations and car clubs this annual parade different from the rest, it would have never come to fruition," Guzman said.

City Hall Information

300 North "D" St., San Bernardino, CA 92418. Main telephone number (909) 384-5211. Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Closed Fridays. Mayor's Office and Water Department open until 4:30 p.m. 2nd floor access.

Water Department after hours service (909) 384-5141.

City Manager's Office (909) 384-5122

City Council Office (909) 384-5188

Council meetings first and third Monday of each month, 3 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

Carolyn Tillman and Santa Claus ham it up for the camera during the Boys and Girls Club Christmas toy giveaway on Friday, December 17. Can we guess who's who?



Parade cont. from front

moved back one day.

Because it was a community focused and titled parade, it was important to organizers to ensure that the parade hit as many wards as possible in the city and as such, the route was carefully planned to make sure that as many people as possible had the opportunity to see Santa. Santa greeted kids and adults alike as he made his way through the streets of San Bernardino.

Sources associated with the organizers later confirmed that Santa was very pleased to see all the kids that came out to see him and his "cast of characters" and that Santa's cheeks were very sore the next day from so much smiling and laughter.

At one point in the parade, around Lytle Creek Park, a young man approached Santa's vehicle