



# Martha's Village & Kitchen

FAST FACTS

Martha's Village & Kitchen in Indio, Calif., offers a continuum of care for people to regain their lives. The Village provides emergency and transitional housing for singles and families, addiction counseling, job skills, career counseling, medical care and children's services. Martha's is the largest provider of homeless services in the Coachella Valley.

## Staying healthy at the Medical Clinic

### Smile Factory gives free checkups

By Helen Carlson, Ph.D.

Smile Factory, a nonprofit mobile dental clinic, parked its unit at Martha's Village & Kitchen for four days in December to provide dental care for resident children. This was the first time the mobile unit visited Martha's. The mobile unit, staffed with bilingual dental technicians, a dental hygienist and a dentist, provided dental screening examinations, X-rays, cleaning, fillings, repairs, and treatment at no cost to children between the ages of 3 and 16.

Forty children who might not otherwise have access to dental care visited the Smile Factory. They had their teeth examined and cleaned, cavities filled, root canals performed, and spacers inserted.

Inside the mobile unit, huge brightly-colored pictures of children smiling and cats brushing their teeth welcomed the kids. "The whole clinic has been built and fitted for children. The kids love it. They feel comfortable," says Eve Fromberg, executive director of the Smile Factory Foundation.

The mobile unit will be returning to Martha's every six months to provide dental care for children.

The goal of the Smile Factory is to ensure every underserved elementary school child in the Coachella Valley is screened, diagnosed, and treated by a dental professional. These preventive checkups improve children's overall oral health, and prevent the need later for more expensive care of acute dental problems.

## Eisenhower Express Clinics provide flu shots

Three nurses from Eisenhower Express Clinics supported Martha's Medical Clinic in December by administering free flu shots. When Eisenhower Express Clinics asked if more flu vaccines were needed, we suggested that they make the vaccine available to the many families, elderly and disabled in the community who pick up Christmas food baskets.

On Dec. 22, 2008, Leah Maurine, RN; Marcella Hungerford, LVN; and Elizabeth Montane, RN; made a very real difference in the lives of the many who came to pick up Christmas baskets. The nurses brought the flu vaccine and stood outside for over five hours in the cold with MVK clinic staff Margarita Baylon, MA; and Elizabeth Vargus, MA. They administered flu shots to everyone over the age of 16.

In the past, Eisenhower Express Clinics has donated medications and provided physician coverage during staff vacations. Euthym Kontaxis, MD, medical director of Eisenhower Emergency Services and Express Clinics; and Krish Manchandia, MD, provided physician coverage during those physician vacations. ■

*Helen Carlson, Ph.D., is the Medical Clinic program manager for Martha's Village & Kitchen.*



Children say "ahhh" for healthy teeth.



Children celebrate Read Across America with staff.

## Staff shares stories with little readers

By Trinkka Adkins

In conjunction with the nationwide Read Across America event in March, Children's Services at Martha's Village & Kitchen dedicated the month to spotlighting early literacy.

To start off the celebration, the first week of March was devoted to the great children's author Dr. Seuss. During the week, staff members from other departments at Martha's visited the Preschool Class and read a Dr. Seuss book to the children.

The children had a chance to meet staff members that they do not see on a regular basis. In turn, the staff members received an opportunity to spend some time with the children and share a piece of themselves with our little ones. After reading, the guests received a big round of applause from the children and a framed certificate stating that they did a good deed. In addition to hosting guest readers, the children engaged in many activities related to Dr. Seuss books such as making Oobleck and designing their own "Cat in the Hat" hats.



Reading is fun with food and games.

The week ended with a birthday party for Dr. Seuss, whose birthday is on March 2. The children enjoyed making their own ice cream sundaes and playing games.

The celebration of literacy continued throughout the entire month. The children love these visits and the staff seems to enjoy them as well. ■

*Trinka Adkins is the child development teacher for Martha's Village & Kitchen.*



Flu shots — it only hurts for a second.



**CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** Southwest Community Church presented a check for funds given in their Christmas offering to Martha's Co-founders Gloria Gomez and Claudia Castorena. About 50 church members also spent a Saturday in January working on projects around Martha's.

# Western Roundup

## Mothers tell how Martha's saved, changed their lives

By John Wolohan

Surrounded by their families, the mothers of two resident families and one graduate family spoke to the donors at Martha's 10th Annual Western Roundup gala and dinner on March 5, 2009. Standing tall in the middle of the large crowd, they spoke with dignity and clarity and straight from their hearts.

The mothers told stories of their rise from drug addiction and having their families split up by the intervention of Child Protective Services, to the opportunities they found at Martha's. They detailed their path through courses such as Challenge to Change, GED and Job Seeking Skills. They spoke of having a savings account for the first time, of paying off their debts, of having

jobs, of their hopes for the future and having, some for the first time, goals for their lives.

Held at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort in Indian Wells, the Roundup was attended by approximately 330 people. One of the largest fundraising events of the year for Martha's, the Roundup was a great success despite the troubles with our current economy.

This year's Heart & Spirit Award recipients included Mrs. Jean Benson, Mr. Robert Pond, and Janne & Henry Burdick. Everyone in attendance enjoyed both the silent and live auctions, along with a full-course meal, and entertainment. The night concluded with stories from past and current residents, all of whom expressed their gratitude.

These residents and former



Father Joe Carroll and a posse of philanthropists pose at the party.

residents do Martha's a great favor by being so open about their stories. They personalize Martha's programs and make it possible for our donors to appreciate the good that their generosity is doing ... for homeless families who, after all is said and done, aren't that different from their own families. ■

John Wolohan is vice president of operations for Martha's Village & Kitchen.



Jackie, a former resident who regained her independence through Martha's continuum of care, and her children.

# Annual Polo Classic

## Empty fields, but no empty hearts

An unexpected rain from the night before Martha's Annual Polo Classic on Feb. 7, 2009, caused unstable field conditions which resulted in the cancellation of the match.

But the rain and "unpolo" match couldn't dampen spirits or stop the event from taking place! Faithful supporters who found their way out to Eldorado Polo Club for lunch shared good company.

Father Joe Carroll sparked laughter after his phone conversation with God over a cell phone and the atmosphere became one of "blessings in disguise" and gratitude for life's great gifts. Many were in attendance and made the most of the event.

Would-be tailgaters set up camp just outside the patio seating area and some of their creations were extremely elegant and attracted small crowds of admirers. Craig Michaels, a regular volunteer at Martha's who is also an entertainer, provided entertainment during the lunchtime event at no cost to the organization.

The event that usually leaves the crowd focused on the beautiful horses and the polo match was transformed into an unforgettable afternoon of conversation and appreciation for the beautiful people who support Martha's and the mission it serves. ■



Siemens Water Technologies, Inc., employees unboxed bikes in a hotel parking lot.

## Volunteers make Christmas bright

Nearly 600 employees from Siemens Water Technologies, Inc., spent a rewarding day putting together bicycles and making fleece blankets and holiday cards to be distributed during the Christmas holiday at Martha's Village & Kitchen.

"It was a very rewarding day for our employee teams, and something they will remember for a lifetime," says a Siemens spokesperson.

The team assembled 200 Huffy bikes and 20 tricycles with accompanying safety helmets, and made 200 fleece blankets, as well as 1,100 holiday cards, which were included in holiday food

baskets distributed on Dec. 22, 2008, to neighbors in need in the community.

Employees who attend Siemens Water Technologies, Inc., sales meetings include in their agenda a half-day event that focuses on giving back to the community, which they look forward to at each large meeting.

Because their 2008 meeting was so close to the holiday season, employees wanted to focus on something that would help children have a good holiday while meeting a need that would be relevant to their lives after the season passed. ■

# A fun, sober start to the New Year

By Leticia Flores

Clients attending recovery service classes provided a New Year's Eve Party for all residents at Martha's. Committees were formed to handle the details. It was arranged for children to attend their own party while their parents were busy letting their hair down bringing in the New Year.

The celebration was financed by donations from the recovery service

clients and the community. A local DJ donated his time to provide karaoke for this awesome event. Clients were separated into groups for the scavenger hunt and they scurried around the building looking for clues. The group that found the last clue won prizes.

A dance contest followed along with prizes for the best singer. Some clients found this was the first time they had ever attended a party sober. The clients all toasted

the New Year together with horns and hats.

The final finish was the soul train line as clients danced their way down the aisle. Smiles of pure joy were on everyone's face as they retired for the night before a fresh start in the New Year. ■

Leticia Flores is an executive assistant for Martha's Village & Kitchen.