

2015/2016 Community Outreach and Engagement

Avenal High School – Positive Impact Scholarship: Each year, the Avenal State Prison EAC provides financial scholarships to students graduating from Avenal High School, to help contribute to their future success. Interested students are required to submit an application answering a few questions about how they help their community, i.e., what extracurricular activities they are involved in, and what career path they would like to pursue as adults. Students are also required to submit a personal essay. A special committee on the EAC selects finalists; of these finalists, two of are selected based on the amount of service the applicants offer to the community and are each awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Coats for Kids Drive: Each year, staff at Avenal State Prison organize a coat drive to donate new coats to benefit Coats for Kids and Operation Warm. Founded on similar principles, both organizations have made it their mission to provide new winter coats to children in need. This shared vision of ensuring every child wearing a new winter coat is healthy, able to attend school regularly and has a strong self-esteem is why Coats For Kids Foundation and Operation Warm, Inc. have united with a goal of serving at-risk children throughout the United States. To learn more about the Coats for Kids organization, please visit their website at <http://www.coats-for-kids.org/>

Angel Tree Donations: Each year, staff at Avenal State Prison and Reef-Sunset Unified School District organize a Christmas gift drive for children of needy families in Avenal and Kettleman City. The gift drive has been a collaborative effort between the Kings County Sheriff's Department, the Kings County Probation Department, Avenal State Prison and Kings County Fire Department's Avenal and Kettleman City fire stations. An angel tree is set up in the Avenal State Prison administration building. Participating staff select paper ornaments with the child's name, age and present desired. Presents, which include bicycles, dolls, action figures and other toys, are delivered to homes in Avenal and Kettleman City by prison and school district staff dressed in Santa costume, with delivery assistance from Sheriff and fire department personnel. Recipients of gifts are chosen upon referrals of school district teachers and counselors and referrals provided through Kings County Sheriff's and Probation Department personnel. To learn more about the Angel Tree, organized by the Salvation Army, please visit <http://www.salvationarmy-socal.org/southern-california/angel-tree>

Holiday Basket Auction: Every holiday season, staff at Avenal State Prison organize an auction involving different areas of operation at ASP who donate "baskets" to auction off for the ASP Employee Action Committee to benefit the local community. The Holiday Basket Auction earnings contribute to four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to two high school seniors – see Positive Impact Scholarship, and two members of the local community who are in need. The Holiday Basket Auction also helps to provide numerous Holiday Miracles for members in the local community.