

“1,000 Points of Light”

“... [we are] a nation of community; of thousands and tens of thousands of ethnic, religious, social, business, labor union, neighborhood, regional and other organizations, all of them varied, voluntary and unique.

“This is America: the Knights of Columbus, the Grange, Hadassah, the Disabled American Veterans, the Order of Ahepa, the Business and Professional Women of America, the union hall, the Bible study group, LULAC, “Holy Name” -- a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky.

“Does government have a place? Yes. Government is part of the nation of communities -- not the whole, just a part.”

George H.W. Bush in his 1988 acceptance speech at the Republican Convention

Big Hearts in Orangevale

By Sharon Bridgeman

Picture yourself driving all the way from Oregon to Cameron Park with your 12 year old son on the weekend and your radiator starts overheating. What would you do if you didn't have the resources, family or a cell phone? This is a story that happened over the weekend to a girl. This is her story. This could be your daughter.

Larry, hard at work managing Brake Masters, saw a smoking car drive up to the shop. After greeting Julia, he said he would take a look at her car. It needed a radiator and, with the car being so old, it would need a new one as no used ones could be found for that make and model. Upon hearing that, Julia excused herself to go to the bathroom, but she didn't make it too far before bursting into tears. She hadn't meant to do that. She could not afford a new radiator. What would she do next, how would she get home?

Well, I'll tell you what Larry did...He called his District Manager,

next he called his wife Pam, and she happened to be having coffee with her friend Karen. They both raced down to Brake Masters to talk with Julia to see how they could help. After talking with her they knew what they had to do. They started calling around to local churches and shelters, to figure out where she could stay until her car was fixed. Being a parishioner at New Life church, Pam called the emergency church line, and relayed the story. New Life Church stepped up and gave her the money to pay for the new radiator! This was wonderful news. But Larry still had some concerns about her car. Would she be able to make it all the way home with her son or will something else break down?

He gave it a complete vehicle inspection. Through Brake Masters getting parts for cost, and not charging for the extra labor involved (approved by his District Manager); The New Life Church picking up the expenses, Julia was sent on her way back to Oregon safely.

Writing this article on a personally busy, crazy almost complaining day is nothing compared to what others face who don't have family or resources. Talk about perspective! Sometimes people just need a little extra in times like this. So I challenge you, when you see someone in need what will you do? Try lending a hand and pay it forward like these lovely selfless human beings did. Go ahead... I dare you!

We will continue to write more on this topic (“10,000 Points of Light”) in upcoming issues, and sharing this kind of stealth philanthropy.

If you know of any events in our local community—involving unusual situations and events where private efforts have provided extraordinary solutions—please e-mail me editor@orangevalejournal.com. Nominations for Points of Light recognition should be provided by third parties, individuals not directly involved in providing the service, so we can provide unsolicited recognition.



Life Jackets – Now It's the Law

On June 11th, the County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt a new regulation which requires children ages 12 and under to wear a life jacket in any county controlled body of water. This would include the rivers and lakes in the Sacramento area.

The parents of children caught without a life jacket will face up to six months in jail and a \$500.00 fine.

This is not just the law, it is a good idea and a great way to save lives. Life jackets DO save lives. But it is important that the life jacket be the correct size for the wearer. A life jacket is not something that you buy large and let the child 'grow into'. Life jackets must be the proper size for the child NOW. A life jacket that is too large can slip off of the child and leave them unprotected. A life jacket that is too small may not be able to be buckled properly.

And “floatees”, inner tubes, and inflatable toys are NOT life jackets.

So now there is a new law and you do not have life jackets and they are not in the budget for now...what do you do?

The county has stations along the rivers where life jackets can be borrowed for the day free of charge. During the major holiday weekends of the summer, Metro Fire in conjunction with our C.E.R.T. (Citizens Emergency Response Team) volunteers, man life jacket loan out stations at the river.

You can also go to one of the fire stations listed below, where you can borrow life jackets for the family for free. The stations have several different sizes available, ranging from infants to adults sizes to loan out, but the numbers are limited, so plan ahead. Life jackets can be borrowed for the day or for a weekend.

Life jackets can be borrowed from the following Metro Fire Stations:

Station 31 – 7950 California Avenue, Fair Oaks



Picture (L-R) Ron Fitzhugh, Lois Fitzhugh (Club President), Pat Ryan, Carol Taylor, Gail Remington

- Station 32 – 8890 Roediger Lane, Fair Oaks (faces Hazel Avenue)
- Station 59 – 7210 Murieta Drive, Rancho Murieta
- Station 61 – 10595 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova
- Station 63 – 12395 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova
- Station 110 – 1432 Eastern Avenue, Sacramento

For addition locations where you can borrow life jackets, go to the California Department of Boating and Waterways website at: www.dbw.ca.gov or call Sacramento Metro Fire District at 566-4000 for more information.

In addition to the above, Orangevale's own JoAnn Swars, President of the Sutter District General Federation of Women's Clubs is proud to announce that Placer Foothills Women's Club has completed a community project in South Placer County to provide life jackets for loan at Lake Clementine and the Confluence of the American River, both popular swimming locations.

Eric Allen Werve, Jr. 1980-2008

On June 5th, 2008, Eric Allen Werve, Jr. (EJ) passed away unexpectedly at the age of 27, in Delano, CA. Eric was born in Northridge, CA on September 5th, 1980. Eric is survived by his father Eric A. Werve, Sr., step-mother, Carri Werve and brother Brian of Lincoln, brother Justin of Portsmouth, VA, brother Cory of Sacramento, brother Joshua of Portland, OR, sister Heather of Roseville, mother Patti Elsner of Shattuck, OK, grandparents Don and Estelle Werve of Citrus Heights, grandmother Diana Creamer of Lincoln and grandmother Carol Willoughby of N. Las Vegas, NV. A private family memorial service will be held in Lincoln.

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