Yule Be Glad You Gave

When Christmas decorations fill store windows, Christmas carols fill the radio waves and Christmas parties fill the calendar, the heart too fills with Christmas spirit. This holiday season, employees and students have created opportunities for the campus community to share the holiday feeling with others by volunteering at a soup kitchen, participating in a toy drive, contributing food or clothing, purchasing gifts for a needy family or making a monetary contribution.

"People are more than generous at USD, and we're always getting students, staff and alumni asking how they can help," says Scott Drain, associate university minister, who is coordinating some of the events. "There are so many ways people can help out."

University Ministry is sponsoring six needy families—two from the United States and four from Tijuana, Mexico—that have children ranging in age from 1 to 12 years old. The families, Drain says, need gift certificates to grocery stores as well as non-perishable foods, new toys and clothing, especially canned goods and other donations for the food locker at the Marine Corps Air Station.

For information on holiday charity events, call Scott Drain at ext. 4897; SEA representative Yolanda Castro at ext. 4520; Associated Students at ext. 4987; or Olivia Gil-Guevara at ext. 4819.

A Coca-Cola Collection That's 100 Percent Pepsi-Free

The classic advertisement encouraged people to buy the world a Coke, but Julie Tahapary's Coca-Cola compulsion makes her wish it could be the other way around.

Tahapary, an administrative assistant in campus diversity development, has compiled such a huge assortment of Coca-Cola memorabilia that her home is a miniature soda pop museum. The Coke collection—which she started in 1994 after a trip around the world convinced her the product was more than just an American favorite—includes classic bottles, cans of all shapes and sizes and a band of the infamous polar bear mascots.

"I was surprised to see Coca-Cola in every country I went to," Tahapary says. "I went into a township in South America where Coca-Cola was on the welcome sign, and a sign in an airport in Japan showed a woman drinking a Coke. The product is only 115 years old, but it already has one of the most recognized symbols in the world."

Since it was invented in Atlanta, Ga., in 1886, Coca-Cola has grown to include more than 232 Coca-Cola company brands sold in nearly 200 countries around the world. The product's popularity spread with catchy slogans such as "Have a Coke and a Smile" and television advertising favorites including a 1971 spot featuring an international group of youngsters singing "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke," and the 1979 commercial with the phrase "I'd Like to Buy the World a Pepsi."

Julie Tahapary has a Coke and a smile.
Security Tightened on Campus

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., public safety officials have hired additional staff, increased the presence of public safety officers and added new procedures to make campus more secure.

The Public Safety Department has placed officers at campus entrances and is staffing the entrance kiosks around the clock. Video cameras installed at the kiosks several months ago are monitored 24 hours a day.

“There’s no reason to believe that USD is a potential target or at risk,” says Larry Barnett, director of public safety. “At the same time, it’s prudent to put these additional security measures in place.”

To prevent a breach of security, Barnett cannot discuss the specific measures that have been adopted, but says he has evaluated the entire campus in terms of possible threats and tailored responses to individual areas.

Visitors entering campus during the day are now verified with the person with whom they are meeting on campus. Those who come to campus after 10 p.m. without a USD parking permit or identification card are logged in, and copies of their driver’s licenses are recorded.

The Jenny Craig Pavilion now prohibits coolers, backpacks, briefcases and large bags in the arena. Purses and diaper bags are subject to search, and patrons are encouraged to arrive early and allow for possible delays when entering the venue.

Discussions have been held with students living in residence halls about how to stay safe, and officers have increased their presence in those areas.

In the wake of recent anthrax scares, Barnett researched the issue with the Centers for Disease Control, the United States Postal Service and his contacts in law enforcement to create procedures for handling mail. The guidelines, sent to all faculty and staff via e-mail, warn people to be wary of mail that feels heavy, contains what might feel like a powdery substance, arrives without return addresses or with excessive postage, contains poorly handwritten or typed addresses with common words misspelled, or has restrictive markings such as “confidential” or “personal.”

Employees who receive suspicious mail should not ignore the threat. Call public safety at ext. 2222 and make sure others do not go near the mail.

“All situations are treated as if they are real anthrax threats until they are properly evaluated,” Barnett says, adding that the stiffer security measures will continue as long as necessary.

“When we increase security, it’s done at the cost of some personal freedoms,” Barnett says. “It’s a trade-off, but there’s a balance. The measures we’ve put in place make the entire campus in terms of possible threats and tailored responses to individual areas.

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Shooting Hoops for Charity

Fans from all over campus watched students face off against faculty and staff in a friendly, fund-raising basketball game that netted more than $750 for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The game, organized by Mary Johnson, director of summer sports camps, was played Oct. 4 in the Jenny Craig Pavilion and won by the students, 67-64.

The faculty/staff team was composed of more than 20 participants from campus departments, including facilities management, athletics, the School of Business Administration and University Ministry.

Coca-Cola Collection
(Continued from page 1)

starring Pittsburgh Steelers defensive tackle “Mean” Joe Greene.

Tahapary loves the soda not just for the sugary taste, but for the sweet feeling the company has created over the years.

“Coca-Cola brings together family and friends,” she says. “It gives people a feeling of nostalgia.”

Utensils, cheese spreaders and an ice cream scoop with Coca-Cola-bottle handles cram Tahapary’s kitchen. The theme carries through to plates, drinking glasses, salt and pepper shakers, napkin holders and a toothpick dispenser that looks like an ice chest filled with the soda. A 6-foot glass bottle, which her mother bought at a gas station, doubles as a huge drink cooler during parties.

Tahapary even has a “Coke Room,” where cabinets and shelves overflow with bottles, cans, paintings, advertisements, promotional materials and statuettes. When friends call, a telephone shaped like the well-known red disk symbol plays the company’s jingle while a neon logo flashes.

The collection, which Tahapary one day plans to catalog and appraise, explodes at Christmas. From the day after Thanksgiving until the day after the Jan. 6 Epiphany, Tahapary’s home fizzes with even more Coca-Cola commotion. Her tree is decorated with Coca-Cola ornaments, lights in the shapes of bottles and bears and a Coke-bottle tree topper. Of course, Coca-Cola wrapping paper adorns the gifts.

“Christmas at my house is like a little kid’s dream,” Tahapary says. “It’s like a museum I wish I could enjoy year-round.”

Holiday Giving
(Continued from page 1)

Miramar, and new or gently used clothing for House of Rachel, a transitional residence for homeless women in San Diego County. Donations should be brought to the SEA Christmas party, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 6, in the Hahn University Center, Forum B.

The Associated Students, in conjunction with other student organizations, is sponsoring a program to benefit several charities: The Bridge and The Gate House, two temporary residential shelters in downtown San Diego for young people; the UCSD Mother, Child and Adolescent HIV Program; and Becky’s House, which offers counseling, job assistance and other services to victims of domestic violence.

The student program, called the “giving tree,” begins with a kickoff event at noon, Dec. 4, outside the University Center. Participants are encouraged to donate clothing, toys, blankets, shoes, non-perishable food and toiletries. Donations can be dropped off at the Palomar Lounge in the Vistas, the resident advisers’ offices in Maher Hall or Camino-Founders, the foyer in the University Center, or the Associated Students office, U.C., Room 161.

“There are so many people in need this time of year, and to see our campus come together is a beautiful thing,” says Sara Kwolek, Associated Students’ graduate assistant. “I hope everyone gets involved.”

As part of this year’s Alumni Mass, the Student Alumni Association will sponsor a toy drive. Employees are invited to bring a new, unwrapped children’s toy to the alumni relations office in Guadalupe Hall, or place it beneath the Christmas tree in the foyer of Founders Hall prior to the Dec. 8 Mass.

“The SAA club offers so many social and networking opportunities, and we wanted to make sure the USD commitment to community service is passed on as well,” says Olivia Gil-Guevara, assistant director of alumni relations. “It’s good for the students to reach beyond USD into the community.”

Christmas at the Casa

Campus employees and their families are invited to join President Alice B. Hayes for her annual Christmas celebration, 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 13, at the Casa de Alcala. This year’s theme is “Peace on Earth.” Music by the Founders Chapel choir and USD Symphony will put guests in the holiday spirit, and light refreshments will be served. To R.S.V.P. call ext. 7861 or e-mail Yolanda Castro at castro@sandiego.edu by Dec. 7. In the event of rain, the celebration will be moved to the Hahn University Center, Forum.

It’s a Date!

Christmas at the Casa

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Dear H.R.,
I'm a new employee and have heard about tuition remission. I'd like to pursue a graduate degree at USD, can you tell me more about this benefit?

— Wishin' for Tuition Remission

Dear Wishin',

Tuition remission is one of the university's greatest perks. When I was a boy, my master plan in life called for me to major in aerospace engineering and minor in culinary arts because my dream job was to grill steaks at an international space station. If the university ever offered graduate degrees in either of those fields I'd be all over tuition remission.

Alas, back to Earth and tuition remission. The benefit is available to eligible employees who have gone through the regular application process and have been accepted into a program. They must have completed one year of employment in a full-time regular position. Benefits may begin in the fall or spring semester closest to an employee's one-year anniversary. To begin classes during the fall semester, an employee's anniversary must land between June 1 and Nov. 30. The anniversary must fall between Dec. 1 and May 31 to begin classes in the spring semester. Employees may use tuition remission for up to a maximum of 18 credits per academic year or 22 credits per academic year for School of Law students. By the way, you may want to check with the person who prepares your taxes to find out how this benefit might affect your taxes. Now I'm off to barbecue some spareribs in my Maj. Anthony Nelson space helmet while "I Dream of Jeannie."

H.R. is here to answer your human resources questions, and will respond to as many queries as possible in each issue. He cannot, however, analyze individual cases. Send your questions to askhr@sandiego.edu.

Alumni Mass
The Alumni Mass is scheduled for 5 p.m., Dec. 8, in Founders Chapel. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
The Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be 12:10 p.m., Dec. 12, in Founders Chapel. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

Graduation Mass
The campus community is invited to celebrate the mid-year graduation Mass at 3 p.m., Dec. 19, in Founders Chapel.

Milestones
DEATHS
Josephine Vitrano, grandmother of Josie Vella, executive assistant in the Center for Christian Spirituality, on Nov. 2.