

APCUG COMPUTER CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE (con't)

Long Beach IBM Users Group, Long Beach, California

In 2005, after giving up the room where we refurbished computers, we decided to do other things to meet our community service obligations. During the summer months we raised money and were able to "Send a Kid to Camp", a drive sponsored by the Press Telegram our local community newspaper. After the hurricane devastation back east we held a fund raiser and were able to contribute \$675.00 dollars to the American Red Cross to be used for hurricane Katrina victims.

Usually at the last meeting of the year we hold a social event where the club presented gifts to each member in attendance. This year, in keeping with our community service efforts, we opted to support "The Spark of Love" toy drive. This is a toy drive held by our local fire department to benefit some very needy children. To encourage our members to participate fully in the toy drive the club purchased a new 19' LCD flat panel monitor which was raffled off the evening of the toy drive. Instead of purchasing tickets for the monitor members would be issued one free ticket for each unwrapped toy worth ten dollars or more that a member brought in.

We advertised the toy drive to our members for several months prior to the meeting. We also had members who volunteered to collect toys from those members who would not be able to attend the meeting. On the night of the meeting we had a local fireman come who discussed the "Spark of Love" program and did a presentation on fire safety and extra precautions to be taken during the holiday season. It was a fun and festive evening. Members brought food for the pot luck, while others decorated the meeting room. The best part was just after the meeting when we all tried to fit the fireman into his loaded sleigh (Ford Explorer).

The Long Beach IBM Users Group is proud to play an important role in helping to build communities, and is honored to help support schools, libraries, hospitals and religious institutions with computer donations and technical expertise. We have a long tradition, and we will continue to lend our assistance whenever it is needed to improve the quality of life for these institutions and our community.

SURF 'N STUFF 'N TIPS

HEALTH HELP

There are a lot of health sites on the net. One of my favorites is **MDchoice.com**. It provides plenty of information, written in clear English. The site is broken down into two categories: consumers and health-care professionals. Some features are available on both.

For consumers, illnesses and diseases can be browsed alphabetically. Each one has answers to frequently asked questions. More detailed information is found for selected topics. Cancer, AIDS and children's health are just some.

The professional half provides access to medical databases. Online textbooks and full-text journals make research a snap. Interactive simulators keep your skills sharp. Whether pro or worried mother, this site covers all of your health bases.

TO VISIT THIS SITE, GO HERE:

www.mdchoice.com