

Nevada County Newcomers Club

January 2021

*“What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.”
~ Vern McLellan*

President’s Message

I would like to start by wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year. Last year was a challenging time for all of us. Now that we have a vaccine to combat this devastating virus we can, hopefully, look forward to seeing the end of the pandemic and the beginning of some normalcy in our lives.

With all the doom and gloom that was part of 2020 there is nearly always a positive that can be found. The bright spot for the Newcomers Club of Nevada County was that we were able to continue with our Christmas Families Project, which I always think of as the ‘heart’ of our club. Started many years ago by one of our members, it is now under the leadership of a wonderful committee. Of course, they couldn’t possibly complete the task without the help of so many of you who have been willing to shop for and wrap the gifts and others who have helped in many other ways. I would like to thank you all for being part of such a worthwhile project. I am sure they will share more details in her report, which you will find later in this newsletter.

As always, my wish for you is to stay safe and well. I hope that 2021 will be a good year for all and that we will eventually no longer have to worry about catching the COVID-19 virus.

January Program

Since the Alta Sierra Country Club is closed until further notice due to the latest shutdown orders, we have no plans for luncheon programs until conditions improve.

Christmas Families Project Report

What a season it has been for the Christmas Families Project! We started in late October with a planning meeting and immediately made several changes to the program. We created a sliding scale for reimbursement for our shoppers based upon the child’s age. We had to find a location for wrapping gifts and we were able to do so at the Emanuel Episcopal Church building. We pared down our wrapping schedule from six wrappers per day to three, and we offered our shoppers the option to wrap their own gifts from home. For those of you who chose that option, you did a phenomenal job – your gifts were wrapped beautifully. Last, but by no means least, we asked you, our members, to contribute cash donations to what would normally have been our annual “pass the basket” at our luncheon. We received a total of \$3,593! Thank you – we are humbled by your generosity!

We were able to support 44 families and 101 children this year – quite an amazing feat considering the unprecedented year we have all experienced! Our volunteer shoppers and wrappers have been incredible, and we certainly couldn't do this without you. The hats and scarfs provided by the knitting group last year were carried over to this year, so we were able to provide some gifts to the parents of our families.

Our earliest “story” this year was about a young woman who requested a bicycle. Upon further inquiries to Chelsey at The Friendship Club, it was determined that she wanted to join the Mountain Bike Team at Nevada Union High School but she did not have a bicycle. We started looking into purchasing a mountain bike for her. Chelsey then reached out to our team asking if we could make this happen prior to Christmas, as the need was dire. We made contact with the Bicycle Recycle Project at Seven Hills Middle School and Ben Preston, who runs the program, was able to donate a bicycle for her, complete with a helmet! We delivered it to The Friendship Club for this young woman. That was just the start of the season.

We thought, when we started out, that we would not be able to cover any “special requests” this year, but thanks to your generous donations we were able to fulfill many wishes and at very reasonable costs. Some of those items were a used guitar for a young boy, a refurbished laptop from Quietech (50% of the normal price), a car seat and stroller for a struggling new mom, and a toddler bed for a child who is living with the family in a mobile home with limited space.

Please remember to support those businesses that have given us discounts or donated some of their products to our program. This year we would like to recognize JCPenney and Quietech Associates, Inc. for their support of our Christmas Families Project.

We want to thank our fantastic committee members for their tireless dedication to this project. It is nice to know that even during a pandemic we can pull this program together and make it happen pretty smoothly and still have some fun doing it.

Thank you everyone! This program means so much to the children, their families and the agencies as evidenced by the thank you cards we receive. We are grateful and honored to be a part of CFP!

As always if you have any extra shirt boxes, gift bags or wrapping paper left over this year, we would love to have them for next year. Also, we had a last-minute request for the donation of a space heater. If you have one that you would like to donate, please call either of the CFP Chairs for pick up.

Activities

Zoom has arrived! Activity chairs have been asked to let me know if their group is interested in having Zoom available for their meetings. I will pass on the information to our wonderful member who is currently facilitating establishment of a separate link for each group. Chairwomen who are not comfortable with the technology can ask someone else in their group to be the Zoom facilitator. Because of other commitments, she will be stepping down as Membership chair, so please contact the Activities Chair first to eliminate confusion during the transition.

Although she is stepping down, our Membership Chair for the past 10 months has been extremely helpful in getting the Zoom project started, but she is unable to devote her time much longer. All the groups join me in saying THANK YOU!

Our prior Membership Chair has graciously accepted the position of Membership chair once again. Welcome back! She has also taken over as the chair of the Garden Group.

Please note: Flyers for each group will be available at the monthly luncheons once they resume. These provide more detailed information about the groups including when they meet and all contact information.

If you have any questions, ideas or are interested in forming a new group, please contact the Activities Chair.

Sunshine

If you know of anyone needing some support, comfort or encouragement from our club, please contact our Sunshine Chair.

Membership

E-Mail Changes, Membership Questions: If you know someone who would be interested in joining Newcomers, contact our Membership chair or direct her to our website, NewcomersNC.org, where she can find and print a Membership application.