

# Celebrating 25 Years Project Self Sufficiency

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: BRIGETTE BEISNER

NOVEMBER 2010 QUARTER 4

## EVENTS BEGIN IN CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN HUNTINGTON BEACH

On October 4th, 2010, in front of a packed City Council chambers, Project Self Sufficiency was given a City Commendation for 25 years of dedicated service to low income single parents in Huntington Beach.



Current and former staff and many participants came to witness this historic moment in PSS history. Presented to PSS Office Staff and Project Self Sufficiency Board Members by Huntington Beach Mayor Cathy Green the Commendation is to "recognize and thank PSS Staff, Foundation and the Huntington Beach Community for their dedicated efforts as professionals, volunteers and visionaries in support of the Project Self Sufficiency Program."

On October 21st, 2010, PSS kicked off it's ongoing celebra-

tion of 25 years with a Wine, Cheese and Chocolate, Please event at the Newland Barn. After raining for about 5 days, the sun came out, the sky was blue, the air was balmy and the lights twinkled at dusk for about 125 people who ate delicious chocolate and sampled



many varieties of wine. Once again, the Huntington Beach community supported our program with many donations of food and wine for our event. The WCCP Event Committee thanks you for your generous

donations.

On October 23rd, 2010 the 56th annual Distance Derby was held and the proceeds support Project Self Sufficiency. For more details about the run please see page 3.

### PSS IS GOING GREEN

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint on the earth and in keeping with cost saving measures, we are moving toward electronic communications. Eventually, you will read our newsletter online, but right now you can keep track of PSS by "friending" us on Face Book and Twitter!

Face Book:

"Project Self Sufficiency Foundation"

Twitter:

HBPSS

Website:

[projectselfsufficiency.com](http://projectselfsufficiency.com)



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## ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR HOLIDAYS UNDER WAY

They come as individuals. They come as groups. Some are young and some are not so young. They are all part of the wonderful community that steps up to support PSS participants during the Holidays.

The Thanksgiving and Holiday Adopt-a-Family events are in full swing now. If you would like to participate for either holiday, please contact PSS at 714-536-5263 or email [acasady@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:acasady@surfcity-hb.org).

PSS staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals, businesses and groups who so generously provide food, gifts and seasonal good cheer for PSS families.



## IN GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SERVICE AND KINDNESS

In keeping with the theme for this month, it is of special importance to take time to thank several groups and individuals who provide the help, the perks, the 'extras' and the genuine compassion that comes from their hearts. Many of those who offer goods and services were single parents themselves and now are experiencing true joy in the ability to give back to the community.

The **Assisteens of Huntington Beach** have provided support throughout the year in countless ways. The success of many of the events which benefit PSS participants would not be possible without the help of this fantastic group of teens who give tirelessly of their time, resources, and compassion. They have had toy drives to provide the toys which help make PSS kids' birthdays a little brighter. They have dressed in black and white to serve the desserts at the annual June Recognition Party, and then have come to the rescue at the last minute to help with clean up after the event. They crawled out of bed at 4:30 am to volunteer their

help at the Distance Derby. They will again provide the gifts and the assistance for the 'Mommy/Daddy Gift Room' at the Holiday Party this December. For all you do, everyone involved with PSS thanks you.

The **Assistance League of Huntington Beach** has assisted families with clothing and has developed a new scholarship opportunity for PSS clients.

The **National Charity League** has donated childcare help, food and needed supplies for the Food Pantry. Thank you, **Linde Sutton** and **Sue Saffarrans**, for making sure the Food Pantry is stocked with great food and other household items.

The **Soroptimist of Huntington Beach** have aided in finding re-

sources for participants moving into new living arrangements and scholarship opportunities for deserving PSS clients.

The congregation of the **First Christian Church of Huntington Beach** provided the terrific school-supply-packed back packs at the annual Back to School BBQ in August. PSS children were able to start school with lots of new school supplies and other gifts thanks to this group.

The **Sunrise Rotary Club of Huntington Beach** provides gas cards each month for participants to be able to get to school and work.

Thank you to members of the **Community of Huntington Beach** who call in with donations of furniture and appliances for our participants. And to those who donate toys, clothing, bikes, and money for the holiday events, our appreciation is heartfelt.

Happy Thanksgiving to these wonderful people, and to all of you who give us reason to say thanks.





## 2010 Huntington Beach Distance Derby - Going the Distance for Families in Need

The early morning drizzles on Saturday October 23 did not dampen the spirits of 710 men, women and children who competed in the 56th annual Distance Derby at Pier Plaza in Huntington Beach. Runners and walkers from 17 different states took part in this annual event which benefits the single parent families in Project Self Sufficiency. Volunteer PSS participants and community groups helped

to make this another successful day. A special thank you to event sponsors including: the Surf City Marathon, Wal\*Mart, Trader Joes, Sam's Club, Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort, Fresh and Easy, Whole Foods, Rainbow Disposal, Snail's Pace Running Shop, and A-Throne for their contributions to this fantastic event!



### Upcoming Events in Huntington Beach

There are many volunteer opportunities in November and December in Huntington Beach. Some include:



**November 27 & December 11:** Beach Clean-up from 8am - 12pm. More information is available at [www.hsbsurfrider.org](http://www.hsbsurfrider.org).

**November 27 & December 11:** Public Service Day at Bolsa Chica Wetlands. 9am - 12pm; 3824 Warner, HB. All ages welcome. For more information, contact Vickie Price, 714-846-1114 or [Vickie@bolsachica.org](mailto:Vickie@bolsachica.org)

**December 4:** Shipley Restoration Days. 17851 Goldenwest, HB. Help weed, water, plant, etc. 9am - noon. More information available at 714-842-4772 or [www.shipleynature.org](http://www.shipleynature.org).



**The HB Senior Center** needs assistance with the Meals on Wheels program. Packers are needed in the mornings (M-F) from 8:00 - 9:30 to pack food into coolers for the delivery drivers. There are also openings for extra

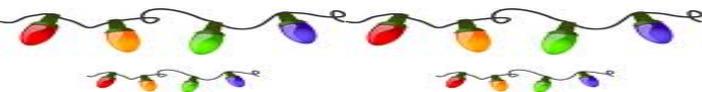
servers for the hot meals at Rodgers Seniors' Center from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Contact Diane Swarts, 714-374-1544, at the Senior Center for more information. On November 18 and December 16, volunteers will be needed to fold the senior's newsletters. If you are interested in helping in any way, please make sure you contact Diane to discuss days and times.



Newsletter

### Welcome to New PSS Families

The PSS family has grown! Welcome to new participants: Janet D. and children; Sarah F. and son; Heather S. and children; Janessa W. and son; and Woranuch Y. and daughter.



### FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY - DECEMBER 5:

Light A Light of Love Pier Lighting Ceremony & Parade. Entertainment, parade and a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus are among some of the fun activities. 4pm - 7pm. For more information, call 714-842-6600 or visit [www.cspinc.org](http://www.cspinc.org).

# Happy New Year



Phone: 714-536-5439 or 714-536-5263  
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www.huntingtonbeachca.gov  
www.projectselfsufficiency.com  
Friend us on facebook—project self sufficiency foundation  
twitter @ HBSS

## WAYS TO HELP PSS FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS



If you have responded to the Adopt-A-Family requests, thank you. If you are interested in adopting a family during this time, please let us know.



In addition, the annual Holiday Party will be held on December 17. The wish list for this event includes: new bicycles, tricycles, wagons and skate boards. They can be purchased and delivered the day of the party or tax deductible contributions can be used to purchase them. We also would appreciate gift cards that can be given to children to purchase helmets



if they win a bike or skate board. All these items are 'free-raffled' to participant children during the party.



We would also like to raffle fresh holiday wreaths for the parents. If you can donate one or a gift card to purchase one, please let us know - 714-536-5263. If you would like to help in other ways, please call PSS (714-536-5263) for other ideas.



Celebrating 25 years of dedicated service to single parent families

It is hard to believe that it is almost Christmas! Where has this last year gone? It was November 11th that I received the call that the job I was hoping for with PSS, City of Huntington Beach, was finally becoming a reality after a year of waiting. From November 11th till December 26th my life was a whirlwind of wrapping up 17 years of life in the Northwest and preparing for the big move to sunny California.

Prior to that phone call, I had found and lost four different houses to purchase. I really started to think the universe was against my ever moving somewhere different than the apartment I had inhabited

for over 6 years. Each time, the house fell through and it was back to searching Tacoma for the "right house."

I finally found that house at the beginning of November, but then I got the call from the City about this job. From that moment, I finally knew the direction I was headed. Thankfully, I was able to get out of the home purchase and tell everyone that I was moving to California. It took everyone by surprise! And suddenly, time was very precious.

The morning that I left, it was the day after Christmas and it was 22 degrees and icy. On the 27th I rolled into Orange County and it was warm and dry. I would spend

the next two months moving in to my apartment and getting grounded.

This whole adventure just goes to show you that there are things bigger than us and that when something is supposed to happen, things will completely line up for you to be successful. The frustrating part is never being sure of what it is that you are supposed to do. There are lots of risks along the way, but if you don't risk, you will never know what could have been. The worst part about taking a risk is that it didn't work out! No problem, you still learned a lot along the way and it's always an exciting journey getting there. Go ahead, take a risk!