



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2009

Contact: Mark Lawrence
City Manager's Office
714-647-6900

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Early this morning a fire destroyed the Annie Mae Tripp Southwest Community Center in Santa Ana, including food and gifts that were intended to be given away to more than 1,000 needy families and children at their annual Christmas party. In addition to hosting the annual Christmas Toy-Give-Away, the Center provides approximately 100 breakfast and lunch meals daily plus a dinner each Saturday evening.

At the request of the Santa Ana Mayor and City Council, the City Manager directed staff this morning to provide the Southwest Community Center with assistance to help them rebound from the fire which caused significant damage to their operations. The City contacted the Center's director Connie Jones and informed her that the City will assist her obtaining an event and street closure permit to allow the Christmas party to be held on the street directly in front of the Southwest Community Center.

In addition, the City has made arrangements with Waste Management to provide the Center with large storage containers to assist them in storing their belongings. City employees were contacted regarding the fire and have been encouraged to contribute toys, food or cash donations. Home Depot and Hyundai as well as other businesses and individuals have stepped forward to donate equipment, food, cash and other supplies to the Center.

Mayor Pulido and the City Council encourage all community members to donate to the Southwest Community Center during this holiday season. Donations can be mailed to SMEDA at 1601 W. Second Street Santa Ana, CA 92703 or can be made online through the United Way of Orange County at <http://www.unitedwayoc.org>.

###