

# Cops for Tots Car Show Raises Record Amount for Youth Charity

■ **Event raised more than \$42,000 for Children's Hospital Bone Marrow Unit.**

The LAPD Central Traffic Division's (CTD) annual Cops for Tots event, held Nov. 2, raised \$42,308, according to Sgt. Tom Tavares of the LAPD CTD. That's the most money the event has ever raised, he said.

More than 384 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles were on display at the event, held at the Elysian Park Police Academy.

"I want to thank all the people who volunteered, plus the Club, which co-sponsored the event. The money raised will provide a great Christmas party for the Children's Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant unit in Los Angeles. The party will be held Dec. 15."

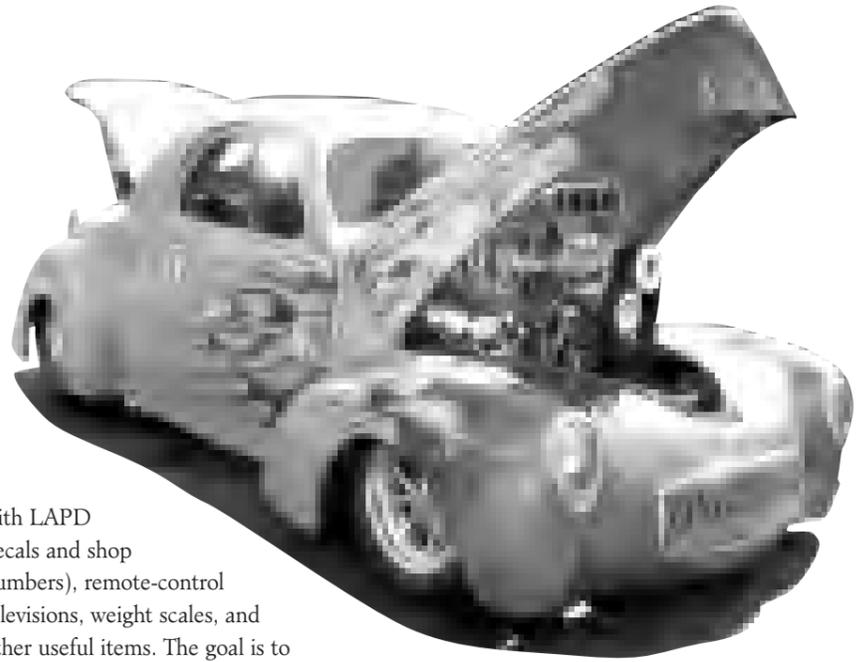
The event began in 1994, when LAPD CTD officers approached their commanding officer and requested they be allowed to adopt a charitable organization. The officers felt this would be a good way of reaching out to the commu-

nity in which they served and to show another side of law enforcement.

CTD adopted the Los Angeles Children's Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant unit (BMT). The first two years the officers donated money, which was placed in a large water bottle. Several of the officers, who were classic car owners, thought that if CTD could sponsor a car show, more money could be raised for the BMT. So, eight years ago the "Cops for Tots" car show was inaugurated.

Each year dozens of CTD officers volunteer their time and effort for the love of the children. The event has raised more than \$167,000 for the BMT. The funds are used to grant the "wish list" of each child patient who is in the hospital during the holiday season.

An annual holiday party is held at the hospital, where officers deliver toys to each of the patients, their siblings, and grocery certificates for their parents. Any leftover funds are used to purchase much-needed equipment that the hospital cannot budget for. This has included portable exercise bikes (complete



with LAPD decals and shop numbers), remote-control televisions, weight scales, and other useful items. The goal is to lighten the physical and emotional trauma during the trying time of dealing with a catastrophic illness.

The Club congratulates everyone involved!

**Here are some photos of the event.**

**Wanna be heard?** Did you attend the excellent Cops for Tots car show? Tell us what you think about it: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



LAPD Central Employees and volunteers at the raffle desk.



Sgt. Doug Abney, LAPD Air Support.



Representing SWAT were Officers Thomas and Dobine.



Central Traffic Division's Sgt. Tom Tavares, the next person in the dunk tank.



Traffic Officer Sara Lopez at the dunk tank.



The California Highway Patrol participated, too.



The City of Montebello lent its support.



Justin Vasquez with Jessica Rey as "Alyssa, the White Power Ranger."



Christine Quinn of the Central Traffic Division with actor Erik Estrada, who was a special guest at the event.



Bill Beck and Cher Patrick represent the LAFD store.

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**The Club**  
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Officers from the Central Police Station acting as the cooking detail.



Officer Kim Ellis, Dept. of Transportation.



The Vasquez family: Justin Vasquez had the pleasure of dunking his dad, Traffic Officer John Vasquez.



Officer Brennan Booth tries to dunk Traffic Officer Sara Lopez at the dunk tank.



The 1958 Chevy Bel Air "Old Patrol Car," according to Joel Montsdeoca, who often accompanies the vehicle.



Some of the cars at the event.



Special guest actor Erik Estrada with Club Counselor Arlene Herrero.



This was the destroyed car that the Lakers paid for as promised. The Lakers presented a \$42,893 check to the LA Police Commissioner to replace the second of two squad cars destroyed by rampaging fans after the team won the NBA championship.



Traffic Officer John Vasquez was the first to volunteer in the dunk tank.



Erick Meraz and his father, Central Traffic Division Captain Richard Meraz.



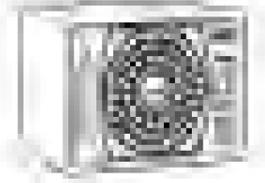
LAPD Air Support Division's Aerospatiale helicopter. Cops for Tots was more than just cars!

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## Throwing a Party for the Holidays? Let Us Know!

Is your department or facility planning a holiday party?

Let us know! The Club wants to celebrate with you—we want to publish photos of your party in *Alive!*

We'll print photos from as many holiday parties as we can. But you need to let us know as soon as you know the date and place, or send us your photos.

Invite the Club to your holiday party. Let's celebrate together.

Contact us at: [alive@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:alive@cityemployeesclub.com) or (213) 620-0388

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