

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor; Photos by Arlene Herrero and Tiffany Sy, Club Counselors

FIRE, POLICE DEPTS. — On March 21, the LAFD and LAPD again joined together to produce another successful St. Baldrick's fundraiser to find a cure for childhood cancer. More than 200 heads were shaved and \$45,000 was raised thus far.

Worldwide, more than 160,000 kids are diagnosed with cancer every year and many of them lose their hair during treatment. Like this year's participants, Fire Station 81 organizers LAFD Firefighter Danny Wu and LAPD Lieutenant Greg Doyle, and Fire Station 112 organizer Engineer Sean Kennedy shaved their heads to support kids with a similar "baldness" in exchange for pledges from family and friends. In the process of losing their hair along with other "shavees," they help find a cure for a disease that sadly takes the lives of more U.S. children than any other illness.

This year's event was special in the fact that in addition to the Fire Station 81 Valley location (regular host Fire Station 89 is undergoing construction), Sean Kennedy also organized a second site at Fire Station 112 in San Pedro. At Fire Station 81, Ryan Compton was there with his LAPD family even while undergoing treatment, and Lt. Doyle's son and cancer survivor, William, was present to spread his energized charm. At Fire Station 112, Michael and Veronica Escobar supported the event in memory of their son, Rocco David Escobar, who passed away just under the age of two in January 2008. Also at FS 81, the LAPD took time to remember fallen Officer Spree DeSha, who tragically passed away in the Metrolink accident and had shaved for St. Baldrick's before in 2006, and planned to shave again this year.

Between the two sites, Councilmembers Dennis Zine, Wendy Greuel and Janice Hahn, Club Member, arrived to support the cause and enjoy the free pancake and sausage breakfast provided by the International House of Pancakes and Starbucks. St. Baldrick's Foundation Executive Director Kathleen Ruddy attended FS 81's event and remained on-site all day to greet participants and assist her crew in handling registration and donations, which again included a generous \$5,000 check from Jay Leno. LAFD and LAPD staged their apparatus for the children to visit, and this year SWAT also provided an interactive display of their equipment. The Fire Boat 2 crew stopped by, much to the delight of the crowd at FS 112, and even took some lucky passengers on a ride! Giddy children with free face paintings and twisted balloons were given backpacks donated by the Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union. And the talented Magic Castle magicians amazed (and frustrated) everyone with their skills!

The amazing chore of cooking endless pancakes and sausages was effortlessly handled by Task Forces 89 and 14, LAFD Explorer Posts 89 and 38, and the LAPD Harbor Division Explorers. The Banning High School Fire Academy volunteered with enthusiasm at any job handed to them. More money was raised by Fire Station 36's efforts at securing items for the silent auction.

Thanks to all who participated and supported the annual LAFD/LAPD St. Baldrick's Fundraiser. You can still donate online at www.stbaldricks.org and help find a cure for childhood cancer.

Congratulations to all who participated, and thanks to Lt. Greg Doyle, Club Member, and Firefighter Danny Wu for the information.



PSR II and Club Member Martha Ulloa shaves the head of her brother, Joe Delgado, as PSR II and Club Member Deby Herdrich guides the sheers.



From left: Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor, with Will, 10, son of Lt. Greg Doyle. Will has been a cancer survivor for the past six years and counting.



From left: Firefighter Danny Wu, LAFD, and co-organizer Lt. Greg Doyle, Club Member, thank everyone for participating.



A father and son affair, Eloy Bugarin, 39B with his son, Leonardo, 1.



Joanne Diede, first-year volunteer, with Chad Swanson, Engineer, 58C.



Dane Bulmer, Firefighter 81C, a first-time shavee.



From left: Samar Issa, D1, LAPD Mission, a second-time shavee, with Nancy Robinson.

The Bald and



From left: Susan Rorke, Sr. Clerk Typist, Club Member, Housing, is a first-year shavee, after reading about the event in *Alive!* She is joined by Club's CEO John Hawkins.



From left: Nina, 15-year-old daughter; and Kris and Lt. Grey Doyle, Event Coordinator, Club Member.



Nish Arzouman, Firefighter 89C, shaves Gabe Olmedo, Engineer 89C.



Allison Yoshinaga, PSR II, Club Member, holds up her hair to donate to Locks of Love.



From left: Cody Vlach, Explorer 89; and Jose Avendano, Explorer 89.



Darlene Richarte, Reseda resident, is having her hair prepared as she donates 10 inches to Locks of Love.



Firefighter Danny Wu, shavee and organizer, raised \$3,445.



Mike Wetzel, Engineer 75A, second-time shavee.



From left: Lt. Greg Doyle, Club Member; and Shawnie Livera, PSR III, Club Member.



Shawnie Livera, PSR II, Club Member, before her head shave, raising \$969.



Dustin Bulmer, Firefighter 89A, with Joanne Diede.



Ariana Ulloa, daughter of PSR II and Club Member Martha Ulloa, at the Club Booth.



Rick Garcia, Firefighter 89C, first-time shavee.



Sgt. Megan Glaister had her hair shaved in honor of the late LAPD Officer Spree DeSha. Megan raised \$936.



Sgt. Megan Glaister looks impressed with the cutting of her ponytail.



Is that a look of relief on Sgt. Megan Glaister's face?



Haley, 8, daughter of Club Counselor Tiffany Sy, with Will, 10.



George Romero, Apparatus Operator 39A, first-time shavee.

the Beautiful



Together they shaved their heads to honor the late LAPD Officer Spree DeSha, from left: Sgt. Megan Glaister; Justice, 9, son of Det. Linda Pearce; and Officer Laura Gerritsen.



Laura Gerritsen, P2 +2 Valley Traffic Division, a first-year participant and life partner of the late LAPD Officer Spree DeSha. Officer Gerritsen raised more than \$2,100



Kathy Lazier with Paul Mitchell cuts Officer Laura Gerritsen's hair.



Through her tears, she honored the late Officer Spree DeSha while Carla Steinhauer, cancer survivor, holds her hand in support.



Deby Herdrich, PSR II, Club Member, shaves the head of John Phillips, Sr. PSR II, Club Member.



Tim Rockey, Firefighter 39A, third-year participant.



Deby Herdrich, PSR II, Club Member, helps four-year old Caitlyn shave her brother Brenden's hair.



From left: Suzanne Piniarski, IHOP of North Hollywood; Lee Hazelquist, AO 89C; and Roger Vasquez, IHOP of North Hollywood.



BEFORE

Lt. Doyle helps shed some of Emily's braids.



Steve Hissong, Captain II, 98C.



Anthony, 4, the son of Gabe Olmedo, Engineer 81C.



From left: Mike Baker, P3+1; Mike Peters, K9, P3; and Rich Alba, SWAT.



And still has a smile on her face after her head is shaved.

Emily Zavala, PSR II, Club Member, and first-time participant, raised \$1,195.

AFTER