MEDIA ALERT

A GENTLE CHRISTMAS BRINGS HOPE TO SOUTH LOS ANGELES

The Gentle Barn and LAPD PAL Program to host annual holiday event for local community

Santa Clarita, CA (December 2016) – Christmas is the time of year to celebrate the spirit of giving. While many of us share this holiday with loved-ones, The Gentle Barn has organized a special event in collaboration with the LAPD Southeast Division PAL Program that brings Christmas joy to hundreds of at-risk youth and their families from the South Los Angeles community.

On Tuesday, December 20th, The Gentle Barn and the LAPD PAL Program will be hosting their 6th annual Christmas holiday event at the Community Police Station, at 145 W 108th St Los Angeles 90061 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Representatives from The Gentle Barn and officers and cadets of Los Angeles Police Department, along with Gentle Barn supporters and vendors will distribute donated gifts to children who have participated in The Gentle Barn’s Peace Enhancement program and/or the LAPD PAL program in addition to other impoverished families in the South Central community.

“We started this tradition when we discovered that the kids, who were attending The Gentle Barn’s program from the inner-city through the LAPD PAL program, told us that they didn’t receive presents for the holidays.” Says Ellie Laks, Founder of The Gentle Barn, “Giving a gift to a child that wouldn’t otherwise get one on Christmas and seeing the smile on their face is truly beautiful.”

The Gentle Barn’s Peace Enhancement program is a ten-month program that helps guide children in at-risk situations to find peace and hope for the future through the stories of rescued animals. For more information about this program or to sponsor a group to come to The Gentle Barn, please visit: www.gentlebarn.org/children/at-risk-youth.html.
“This is the sixth year of our Christmas holiday celebration with The Gentle Barn and the most important yet,” says Officer Derek Kosloski of the LAPD Southeast Division. “The network of local businesses, schools, social services, youth programs and the LAPD are committed to building strong relationships within the community of South Los Angeles. Christmas with The Gentle Barn is an opportunity to celebrate our efforts towards that goal. The first year we gave away gifts to about 200 children and this year we expect there could be more than 1500 children.”

In addition to enjoying tasty holiday treats and beverages, there is Santa and Mrs. Claus, bounce houses, face painting, arts and crafts, and of course, presents donated by local companies and individuals from all over the country. This year The Gentle Barn is excited to give a pair of shoes to each of the 1500 children attending. For those who would like to donate gifts to the event, please visit: https://amzn.com/w/8J99H1FAOSV4

The Gentle Barn is reaching out to local business leaders and philanthropists to donate gifts or gift cards, toys, clothes, book bags, back packs, home goods and experience the gift of giving to others in need. To become a corporate sponsor of the event, please visit: http://www.gentlebarn.org or contact Michelle Scott at (661) 252-2440.

Event details are as follows:

What: The Gentle Barn & LAPD PAL Christmas Holiday Event
When: Tuesday, December 20, 2016
      11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Where: LAPD SE Division Community Station at 145 W 108th St, Los Angeles, CA 90061

Media Availability: Gentle Barn Founders Ellie Laks and Jay Weiner will be available for interviews, as well as Officer Derek Kosloski of the LAPD SE Division.

ABOUT THE GENTLE BARN
The Gentle Barn (www.gentlebarn.org) is a national nonprofit organization, founded in 1999 as a safe haven and place of recovery for severely abused animals. The Gentle Barn offers their unique philosophy of rehabilitating animals and connecting their stories of survival and healing to the personal experiences of inner city, at-risk and special needs children who have suffered physical, mental or emotional trauma. By interacting with The Gentle Barn’s approximate one hundred and eighty animals and taking a hands-on role in their welfare, those who participate in the programs at The Gentle Barn learn empathy, trust and forgiveness. The Gentle Barn is run by Founder Ellie Laks and her husband and Co-founder Jay Weiner, both of whom were healed and supported by animals as children. The Gentle Barn’s mission is simple: “Teaching People Kindness and Compassion to Animals, Each Other and Our Planet.”

Follow us! www.facebook.com/TheGentleBarn and Twitter @GentleBarn