



MEDIA ALERT

GENTLE BARN'S HOLIDAY SPIRIT BRINGS SUPPORT & LOVE

Gentle Barn and LAPD PAL Program to host 7th annual holiday giving event for local community

Santa Clarita, CA (December, 2017) – 'Tis the season to celebrate the spirit of giving. While many of us share this holiday season with loved-ones, **The Gentle Barn** has organized a special event in collaboration with the LAPD Southeast PAL Program that brings joy to more than 1800 at-risk youth and their families from the South Los Angeles community. Major toy donations have been provided by **A Chance for Children** and the **Menasha Foundation**, but more are needed.

On Tuesday, **December 19th**, The Gentle Barn and the LAPD PAL Program will be hosting their 7th annual Christmas holiday event at the **Community Police Station, at 145 W 108th St Los Angeles 90061** from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Representatives from The Gentle Barn and officers and cadets of Los Angeles Police Department, along with Gentle Barn volunteers and sponsors 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 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 event or to sponsor a group to come to The Gentle Barn, please visit: www.gentlebarn.org/children/at-risk-youth.html.

"This is the seventh 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 and non-profits like A Chance for Children and Menasha Foundation have really stepped up to help make this holiday event leave a positive impact on the community of South Los Angeles. Coming together with The Gentle Barn every year 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 to give out about 1800."

In addition to enjoying tasty plant-based holiday treats and beverages, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there, bounce houses, and live music performed by local favorite **Apollo Bebop**. Children will also enjoy face painting, arts and crafts, and of course, gifts donated by local companies and individuals from all over the country.



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 joy of giving to others in need. To become a corporate sponsor of the event, please visit: <http://www.gentlebarn.org>

Event details are as follows:

What: The Gentle Barn & LAPD PAL Holiday Event

When: Tuesday, December 19, 2017
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: LAPD SE Division Community Station at 145 W
90061

108th St, Los Angeles, CA

Who: Gentle Barn Founders Ellie Laks and Jay Weiner will be available for interviews, as well as Officer Derek Kosloski of the LAPD SE Division. Please send requests to TGBoutreach@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE GENTLE BARN | www.gentlebarn.org

The Gentle Barn 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 fifty 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 supported by Celebrities such as Ellen Degeneres, Kelly & David Backes, Daisy Fuentes & Richard Marx, Jenna & Channing Tatum, Steve-O, Rikki Rockett of Poison, Pamela Anderson and Hilary Swank.

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