

Christian motorcyclists and mudders bring Christmas cheer in Beaumont

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Kristin
Bumbera,
20, who
finished
the season
second in
points,
racing ASA
Late
Models at
Houston
Motor
Sports
Park, visits
the
Children's
Village
with
younger
brother
Boyd, 9,
who also
races.

Christian motorcyclists and mudders bring Christmas cheer in Beaumont

By Analiz González

Buckner International

EAUMONT—Santa Claus on a fire truck led a parade of bikers, 4X4s and hot rods to a crowd of waiting children in front of Buckner Children's Village.

The crowd from the residential children's home and the Buckner foster care program rode the vehicles, voted for their favorites and then went mudding on Buckner property hosed down by the fire department with 30,000 gallons of water.



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It's an experience Rhonda O'Neill, community affairs coordinator for Buckner in Beaumont, called unforgettable.

"The kids look forward to this event the entire year," O'Neill said. "They start talking about it in August. And when a new child arrives, they'll tell them all about it, saying: 'Just wait 'til Christmastime. You'll think it's amazing.'"

And the day wasn't over until the toys were handed out. Each resident at Buckner Children's Village received a special gift from Santa.

Donations for the 17th annual party were put together by a number of individuals and organizations.



A Christian biker takes a Buckner child for a ride past the inflatable Christmas decorations.

"They come to our campus and provide an amazing Christmas party for our kids," said Greg Eubanks, director of Buckner Children and Family Services of Southeast Texas.

"Their compassion is evident in all they do. It wouldn't be Christmas at Buckner Children's Village without the Toy Run. I'm so thankful for the generosity of these groups."

In addition to the gifts for the children, the groups presented the residential facility with four 32-inch TVs for each of its houses, new plush towels and funding toward technology needs.



Santa readies himself to pas out toys at
Buckner Children's Village.

Mary Young from the Trinity Travelers Chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association has been involved in the Toy Run since it was initiated 17 years ago.

“We let the children give us a list of things they want, and we select something—or some things—that are within the price range,” Young said.

“We just love the kids and enjoy doing it. We have as much fun as the children do.”

Young’s organization also hosted a present-wrapping party to get the gifts ready for the children before the event.

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