



NEWS



News Headlines 12/10/2020

- Local firefighters collect donations for Spark of Love
- IE hospital overwhelmed by COVID surge forced to treat patients in parking lot tents

Local firefighters collect donations for Spark of Love

Staff Writer, Highland Community News

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Norton Air Force Base Museum President Bob Edwards presents a donation from the museum to **San Bernardino County Fire** crew Kenny White, Tim Schons and Scott Leidner for the annual Sparks of Love toy drive on Thursday, Dec. 10.

On Thursday, Dec. 10, Norton Air Force Base Museum presented a check to a County Fire crew from Station 224 in San Bernardino to help the firefighters in their annual Spark of Love toy drive to provide Christmas gifts for children in need and support for other local nonprofits.

According to Norton AFB Museum President Bob Edwards, the museum has assisted in the firefighters' annual effort for the past five years.

Spark of Love is a regional toy drive that has taken place annually for the past 28 years to provide toys for children all over Southern California.

The museum was able to make the donation in spite of the museum being closed due to the coronavirus pandemic since March since the museum board budgets the Spark of Love donation and a donation to Mary's Mercy Center, a San Bernardino homeless shelter, every year. (The museum presented its donation to Mary's Mercy Center later the same day.

Due to coronavirus concerns, the museum gave a monetary donation rather than shop for toys to donate, Edwards said.

According to Cal Fire Engineer Kenny White, who is also a Spark of Love coordinator, the museum's donation will be for toys for about 50 local children sponsored by the American Legion.

White also said monetary donations have become more common during the pandemic. To add to the Spark of Love effort, the firefighters are set for the annual Fill the Boot drive scheduled Friday, Dec. 11. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday firefighters will be at the San Bernardino Costco, 1099 E. Hospitality Lane, collecting donations in their boots. In addition to cash donations, residents will be able to give through Venmo and Cash App using QR and barcodes presented by the firefighters.

https://www.highlandnews.net/community/local-firefighters-collect-donations-for-spark-of-love/article_08f9e3ca-3b3b-11eb-b33e-bb5bf884f75a.html

IE hospital overwhelmed by COVID surge forced to treat patients in parking lot tents

Staff Writer, abc7 News

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With many intensive care units already at maximum capacity in the Inland Empire, doctors are warning that an increase in cases after Christmas and New Year's could be catastrophic.

COLTON, Calif. (KABC) -- With many intensive care units already at maximum capacity in the Inland Empire, doctors are warning that an increase in cases after Christmas and New Year's could be catastrophic.

At Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, tents are lined up in the parking lot as the hospital deals with a surge of coronavirus patients.

"We have more patients hospitalized than we had in April and July combined," said Dr. Troy Pennington, Arrowhead ER doctor.

Doctors say the emergency department and ICU have been operating at peak capacity for the past several days.

"It's already not sustainable. We're already running out of emergency room beds, we're running out of ICU beds, we're running out of PPE," said Dr. Sarkis Arabian, ICU medical director at Arrowhead.

Doctors say the shortage of beds is also affecting non-coronavirus emergency calls.

The **San Bernardino County** fire chief says when patients arrive at the hospital, they're forced to wait on gurneys with firefighters and paramedics by their side.

"Our firefighters and paramedics are remaining on scenes at the home waiting for an ambulance. Sometimes it could be up to an hour or more to get an ambulance to the scene," said Chief Dan Munsey.

One doctor, who worked 11 days straight, told Eyewitness News that the pandemic is taking a physical and emotional toll on healthcare workers.

"Every day there's a number of COVID patients that we see, and a number of family members -- we have to tell them your loved one is dying and yet they cannot even see their loved ones in the hospital," Dr. Arabian added.

That doctor is pleading with people to take the virus seriously. He says the way you can help is by being safe: wash your hands, wear a mask, practice physical distancing and get vaccinated once doses are available.

<https://abc7.com/covid-surge-coronavirus-covid19-inland-empire/8661159/>