

St. Jude's Ranch for Children- Holiday Fun

As part of our 10 year anniversary this year, we decided to celebrate by giving back to the community. In November we volunteered at St. Jude's Ranch for Children by helping them decorate for the holidays. St. Jude's Ranch is a campus for children who have been displaced from their families. Each year volunteers can adopt a home for a day at the facility in Boulder City and share a little holiday cheer with the children. We chose the St. Clair house with a sibling family of 3 boys and 2 girls ranging from 1 year old to 10 years old.

In coordinating with the foster parents, we determined that they were missing a Christmas tree, lights, and extension cords. We brought the few decorations they needed and spent the evening hanging lights on the exterior, setting up a Christmas Village, putting together a wreath, trimming the tree, and placing decorations throughout the house. The family provided us with a nice BBQ dinner as well. We had a great time working together with the children in making their home fun and festive.

After getting to know the family we decided we wanted to do a little more to make their Christmas special. We decided to forgo our company holiday dinner and use the budgeted money to buy gifts for the children from "Santa". The foster mom gave us their wish list and we piled our shopping carts full of baby dolls, Barbies, action figures, dress-up clothes, DVD's, and games. We truly felt the Christmas spirit by giving to these little ones. It was a wonderful way to forget the economic doldrums, celebrate our 10 year anniversary and enjoy the holiday season.



"True courage is like a kite; a contrary wind raises it higher." -John Petit-Senn, French-Swiss poet

FAVORITE FLORA: EUCALYPTUS MICROTHECA - COOLIBAH TREE



Eucalyptus make up a large family of trees and shrubs originating from Australia and very adaptive to our desert climate. The Coolibah Tree is very picturesque with a leaning trunk and contorted branches growing 35' to 40' tall and wide. Give this tree plenty of room to develop its unique branching form. The slender 8" long leaves are generally silver gray. The young bark is smooth and light colored turning thicker and darker as the tree matures. The Coolibah is easy to grow in all types of soil and moisture conditions. It can tolerate our heat and drought once established. This is a tree that deserves more attention in our desert landscapes.

Photo of the Month



Green & Blue Paradise
Oahu, Hawaii
Joe Heeb