



Santa Barbara County  
Probation Department

# Probation Today

## DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE PRESENTATION AT SANTA MARIA JUVENILE HALL

On Friday, January 9, Josie Slonski, an Intake & Court Liaison with the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), provided 20 detainees as well as medical, mental health and institution staff at Santa Maria Juvenile Hall with an overview of incarceration in a DJJ facility. Two sessions included a PowerPoint slide show detailing the intake and classification process, as well as information about educational, medical and mental health services and employment opportunities. She also answered many questions posed by the detainees and staff, and dispelled some myths about what to expect at DJJ.

Several of the detainees commented that they found the presentation very informative and it relieved some of the anxiety about their potential confinement at DJJ. Of interest to the detainees was the information regarding education and employment, including fire camps. It also confirmed that their behavior while in local custody will follow them to DJJ and could impact their classification status. While staff have consistently communicated that message, detainees mentioned that hearing it from someone from DJJ made it "real" for them. Ms. Slonski will continue to make similar presentations to new groups of detainees as the need arises and will also be a presenter at an upcoming facility staff meeting.

*Submitted by Probation Manager Wendy Stanley*

## ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT FOR DUI OFFENDERS

Due to the Probation Department's success with the first round, a second cycle of grant funding has been awarded to target offenders convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or a controlled substance. This grant is administered by the Office of Traffic Safety and will run through September 30, 2010. The main objective of the program is to reduce the number of active DUI warrants by having probation officers countywide work with local law enforcement agencies, assist with sobriety checkpoints, and conduct surveillance and home visits to monitor compliance with "no drinking" terms and conditions of probation. The first grant cycle was so successful that the Probation Department saw a 23% (115) reduction in the number of active DUI warrants. The target areas for the new award include monitoring low and medium risk DUI offenders through random home and field contacts, group reporting, searches, testing and verification of attendance at treatment. There will also be a continued focus on reducing the number of outstanding warrants. The Probation Department, together with various law enforcement agencies, will continue to work to keep our communities safe from drunk drivers.

*Submitted by Probation Manager Tanja Heitman*



*l to r: DPO Rebecca Mitchell, SPO Carolyn Diaz, Rotary Club member Mike Gibson, and Parole Agent Rick Diaz.*

## HOLIDAY SEASON MARKS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TOY DRIVE

On December 18, 2008, the Santa Maria Rotary Club welcomed Probation and Parole staff to

their annual Christmas breakfast to collect their donations of toys and gift cards for the Proposition 36 and Substance Abuse Treatment Court programs.

This is the third year donations have been collected to benefit families of clients enrolled in both drug programs who are succeeding in maintaining a clean and sober lifestyle, but who are unable to provide gifts for their children due to financial hardship. The toy drive was initiated by Supervising Probation Officer Carolyn Diaz, who formally supervised a Prop 36 caseload. Her commitment to the mission of Prop 36 inspired her to be an integral part of this year's efforts.

During the breakfast, Mike Gibson of the Rotary Club presented Supervising Probation Officer Diaz and Deputy Probation Officer Rebecca Mitchell with gifts and several hundred dollars worth of Toys R Us gift cards. Parole Agent Rick Diaz also collected gifts that were donated to the cause. Donations totaling over \$1,000 in value were delivered to Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center and Santa Maria Center for Change for distribution to the families.

The Probation Department is grateful to all of the sponsors who made it a happier holiday season for our clients and their families during these difficult financial times.

*Submitted by Deputy Probation Officer Rebecca Mitchell*