

# FOOTHILLS READER

Sunday, December 15, 2013

## Upland group celebrates another miracle

More than 200 disadvantaged children will receive \$200 shopping sprees this month as the Colonies Crossroads' Holiday Miracles program celebrates its sixth year in Upland.

Children and families are selected for the program – the largest of its kind in the Inland Empire – based on need, and will be treated to chaperoned shopping sprees at Kohl's Department Store and Dick's Sporting Goods. A number of other merchants at the center are donating discount coupons, gift bags or other items.

"This is our biggest Miracles event yet, and we're so grateful for the support we get from the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The annual Holiday Miracles shopping spree for disadvantaged children continues this month.

business community, our volunteers and participating stores," said Colonies partner Jeff Burum. "That's the beauty of this event. It's about giving and making a difference in the lives of others."

As in past years, fam-

ilies are being referred by National Community Renaissance and its Hope through Housing Foundation, along with several other nonprofit organizations such as the Upland Unified School District's Healthy Start Program,

Children's Fund, Pacific Lifeline, House of Ruth, Foothill Family Shelter, OPARC, Children's Hope and the Upland Housing Authority.

Each selected participant gets a \$200 gift card, donated by Colonies Partners. Kohl's and Dick's also offer deep discounts to make the \$200 last longer.

The shopping sprees are chaperoned by volunteers, as well as Upland police officers and firefighters.

"Every child here discovers just how much the community cares about him," said Burum. "It makes their Christmas a little merrier, but it also teaches a valuable life lesson on what it means to give back."