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FOOTHILLS READER

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SHOPPING

Holiday cheer, gifts at the Colonies

MESSAGE OF GIVING, WITH AN ASSIST FROM STORES AND SPORTS LEGENDS

UPLAND – Nearly 200 disadvantaged and at-risk children received \$200 shopping sprees at the fifth annual Holiday Miracles event at the Colonies Crossroads shopping center on Dec. 15.

The event, hosted by Colonies Partners and supported by Kohl's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Albertsons and other merchants at the center, benefits children from families struggling to make ends meet. In addition to the shopping for participating children, each family received a turkey



Colonies Partner Jeff Burum and wife Kellie

dinner and messages of giving from sports legends James Worthy, Eric Dickerson and Marshall Faulk, and U.S. Rep. Gary Miller, R-Calif.

"I believe in this event," said Faulk, an NFL Hall-of-Fame running back with



PHOTOS BY JAMIE DICKERSON

Kristan Compean, left, chaperoned Marissa Nila on her \$200 shopping day at Kohl's.

the Rams and Colts. "The best gift you can give anyone is to teach them how to give."

Among this year's recipients was Raylene Enriquez,

8, who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.

"It's been really tough because of everything

See COLONIES, page 4



Colonies Partners' Jeff Burum, left, NFL Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk, NBA Hall of Famer James Worthy, Mark Christopher auto dealership co-owner Chris Leggio and NFL Hall of Famer Eric Dickerson.



PHOTOS BY JAMIE DICKERSON

Gina Miranda, left, and her shopping chaperone Nicole Moreno.

COLONIES from page 1

we've been going through so this means a lot," her father, Johnny Enriquez, said after a smiling Raylene emerged from Dick's with a pair of new pink roller skates.

Holiday Miracles

The 189 children and families were selected based on need from National Community Renaissance properties and a number of nonprofit organizations, including Upland USD's Healthy Start Program, Children's Fund, Pacific Lifeline, House of Ruth, Foothill Family Shelter, OPARC,

Children's Hope, and the Upland Housing Authority.

Colonies partner Jeff Burum said the Holiday Miracles program is "an opportunity for business leaders to come together to bring the community together. This is not just about shopping and giving gifts. It's the community service aspect of giving back."

Miller, whose Congressional district includes Upland, spoke of a little girl who emerged from her shopping spree with \$200 worth of clothes and toys – all for other members of her family.

"This is an amazing event," he said. "We need to be thankful that we're so blessed. It takes re-

ally good people like Jeff and the Colonies and the businesses here to reach out and do something this good for the community."

First, Give Back

Worthy, an NBA Hall-of-Famer with the Lakers, said the Holiday Miracles event offered lessons to last a lifetime.

"Whatever your success is, your No. 1 responsibility is to give back," he said.

"'Holiday' is every day. Doing something kind is every day. Helping your neighbor is every day."

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