



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

The Town Council for the Town of Portola Valley will conduct a public hearing to consider an increase to athletic field use fees, together with inclusion of an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment, at its regular meeting on:

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

7:30 p.m.

The Historic Schoolhouse
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA

For more information, please contact Janet McDougall at (650) 851-1700, ext. 218 or through e-mail at jmcdougall@portolavalley.net.

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TOWN OF WOODSIDE

2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural and Site Review Board (ASRB) reviews and makes recommendations to the Director of Planning and Building on residential, site design and commercial applications.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m. Appointment is for a term expiring in February 2013.

Interested residents may request information and applications from the Town Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-12 noon and 1-5:00 PM, Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, by telephone at (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org. Deadline for applications is Monday, January 4, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

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Holiday Fund



About the author: A 2002 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, Mar Y Sol Alvarado is a master's program student at San Jose State University. She is academic director of Saint Francis of Assisi Youth Club, and an intern in both the San Mateo County juvenile probation department and the Santa Clara County adult probation department.

My Christmas story

By Mar Y Sol Alvarado

Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) has always provided a Merry Christmas for me and my family. As a single mom, my mother successfully raised three children, but definitely not on her own. She's been lucky to have the help and support of EHP. Just like a father, EHP has provided food, school supplies, warm clothing, housing items, toys, and a computer when most needed!

As a kid, I don't remember ever being hungry or wanting something I did not have. My brother, sister and I were always aware of how difficult it was for my mother to provide for us with a minimum wage job.

She was never shy about letting us know where the extra food came from every month. When Christmas time came, my mom always made it merry with the help and support of EHP. As the years went on and we grew into teenagers, she worried about being able to provide us with Christmas presents.

My mother talked to Lesia, EHP's executive director, about her economic situation and our academic achievements. We

HOLIDAY FUND

Your donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Ecumenical Hunger Program, which provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, special children's programs, and, sometimes, financial assistance to families in need, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.

were growing up and we needed things other than toys that particular Christmas.

My sister and brother were starting the college application process and I was starting my first year in college. We really needed a laptop, and like other teenagers we wanted electronic devices.

Lesia told my mother that although EHP was unable to provide Christmas presents for teenagers that year they would make a special effort to provide our family with gifts. We made a wish list and turned it into Lesia with high hopes.

Christmas day came and a black bag was delivered to our home. It contained a laptop, a DVD player, a soccer ball, and a CD player as well as our Christmas dinner. Lesia had found an

EHP donor family who shared their generosity with us!

We are all young adults now. My sister and brother are finishing biology degrees, and I'm working on a master's degree in sociology with an emphasis in criminology at San Jose State University.

My mom continues to work at the same place she has worked for more than 13 years, and although we don't need as many things as we needed when we were younger, we continue to get assistance from EHP when we require it.

We are very lucky that programs like EHP exist and bring a light of hope to families like ours. As a member of the East Palo Alto community, I feel very blessed and I look forward to a future when I, too, can contribute to EHP at Christmas time and make a family with teenagers happy and merry!

Go to www.ehpcare.org for more information about the Ecumenical Hunger Program. Mailing address: 2411 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Phone: (650) 323-7781. Fax: (650) 833-0371. E-mail: info@ehpcare.org.

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