

Sunshine Acres Christmas Toy Run



Our destination for Saturday December 10 was the Sunshine Acres Christmas Toy Run. Riders signed in at The Monastery at 4810 E McKellips Rd in Mesa; with donations of toys and gift cards being collected. The group rolled out parade style from the Monastery to Sunshine Acres Children's Home on Higley Road.

Time spent at Sunshine Acres is good for the Spirit. It is an extraordinary place where more than 1600 children have been cared for and nurtured in the 57 years that it has been operating. There is a positive energy that can just wash over you; even more so as you become familiar with the story of this 'Miracle in the Desert'. As your time allows, we encourage you to do so at <http://sunshineacres.org/>.

You couldn't have asked for a prettier day. And it was a perfect day to be on a bike. After the motorcyclists arrived, escorting a trailer of donated toys & goods; it was time to go for a ride. But not the type of ride you may suspect. Bikers were lined up to give Sunshine kids

rides around the grounds of the property. The kids and the pilots all look forward to this, and everyone has a good time.

Organizer Susan Kipp estimates about 100 bikes came out. She figures about 160 people attended, between those at Sunshine Acres and the after party at What The Hell throughout the day. Organizations there in support included ABATE, ALR, BACA, CMA, Desert Eagles, HOG, MMA, STAR, and Victory Riders.

What The Hell Bar and Grill, at 10262 E. Apache Trail, Apache Junction hosted the end party. This watering hole is a local favorite for riders on the Trail. Scooter folk of all ages were out and in the Holiday Spirit. You could hear the place going 'Hawg Wild' all the way out to the street! This classic rock n roll band not only did a great job of rocking the place for 5 hours, but donated their time to the cause. Major kudos to you guys ~ You are awesome!

Raffle prizes were wrapped in Christmas cheer. Silent Auction items included an autographed Cardinals football, an autographed Coyotes puck, and several gift baskets. Donors included Superstition H-D, Philosophy Upscale Cosmetics & Skin Care, Monastery Restaurant, Uncle Bear's B&G, Village Inn, Phoenix Suns, Hot Rod Tattoo, Massage by Sonja, Arizona Cardinals, and Phoenix Coyotes. All proceeds from the raffle/auction

were also donated to SACH.

Susan feels so strongly about this event, she calls it her Christmas present to herself. "There are so many Toy Runs, but this one is so very special to me. One because I personally know children who live there and two because we are able to give the kids rides on the bikes, which they just love and look forward to! I guess that's what I want people to know. That this was not so much a ride to raise money but to give the kids a chance to ride and meet some amazing bikers who keep them in their hearts! Thanks to all the folks at Sunshine Acres for opening their minds and their hearts to the biker community and allowing us to do this event!!!" She thanks everyone who participated, the Monastery, Henry & Betty at What The Hell, and Rikki Finn & Hawg Wild for all the support in bringing this event together.

The date has already been set for next year's run, so mark your calendars for December 15, 2012. When you are searching through all of the Christmas benefits and trying to decide which to attend, this one should be at the top of your list. Sunshine Acres is a solid, positive asset to AZ's community. Any opportunity to show them support is time or money well placed. We hope to see you there next year.

Bruce & Betsy