

## Team Beale hosts “Operation Pencil Box”

Have you ever had an idea come to you at the perfect moment? Well this is how it happened for Ray “Woody” Woodbeck and the Recce Point Club. As Woody was standing in line at Wal-Mart he overheard a conversation with some parents stating how expensive it was to purchase school supplies. This is what started something special and amazing, and the beginning of Recce Point Club’s “Operation Pencil Box”. He drafted a plan with the entire club team and at the “Big 4” meeting (a meeting of representatives from Force Support Squadron, AAFES, Commissary and Sierra Central Credit Union) he laid it all out and it just grew from there. The idea was to get donations from military and civilians around the base and the local community to be able to purchase school supplies for Beale AFB children. The response from the base and local community (Marysville Kiwanis Club) was overwhelming and heartwarming. A total of \$2100.00 was used to purchase supplies and approximately \$2500.00 in supplies was donated by local stores through the US Corp of Chaplains, California Brigade 5<sup>th</sup> Division, 2Lt Dennis Fruzza. A total of 225 backpacks and bags were filled with crayons, pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, glue, calculators and everything else needed for the upcoming school year. Then IBExpress, Industries for the Blind, jumped on board and donated 250 “back to school” bags with supplies. Tom Boyer, Vice President of Operations, said, “When we found out about the program, we wanted to be a part of what was going on. We’ve worked with Beale AFB now for 10 years and they have been such a great partner with us that we wanted to give back to the base community”. In the midst of all this, the entire club staff also planned and organized a Children’s Fashion Show and dinner with AAFES and IBExpress. AAFES was able to work with the 13 models to show their new school fashions, each child getting to wear 3 different outfits. Those children then received a backpack filled with school supplies and also received discounts off on the outfits they modeled from AAFES. Anna Stanton, AAFES Manager, said “We sold over \$1000.00 worth of school clothes for the event”. The fashion show and dinner was attended by approximately 100 adults and children and as a result over 225 children from the Beale community were able to receive much needed school supplies. Woody stated, “I never realized how huge of a success it would be and am looking forward to an even bigger and better event next year”. The outstanding relationship that has developed between 9<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron, AAFES, Commissary and Sierra Central, also known as the “Big 4” has assisted tremendously in improving all of our programs and the “Quality of Life” for airman and their families here at Beale Air Force Base, California.



Gina & Enya walking down the runway



IBExpress - A 10 year Beale Tradition



Everyone wins with this event!



A lot of supplies with a lot of help!



The Stars of the show.



Miss Enya with her new backpack