

Indian River Chapter of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society

Second Quarter Report

The November meeting was held at the Indian River Community College to host the Seminar "Surveying Railroad Right-of-Way Corridors", (Course #7365, 2 Hours, General) by Mr. Leslie Odom. Approximately 37 were in attendance and the seminar was a great success.

The Indian River Chapter, local surveyors and firms once again participated in a holiday community service initiative. This year the chapter donated \$400 and individual members contributed \$265. Two families were adopted from the Indian Town Area (Martin County). Both families were single parents, one having five children and the other one.

Michael O'Brien coordinated with the United Way and each family. A wish list of toys and household items were supplied from the mothers. With the help of Michael's wife and daughter (Shannon) almost all of the items requested were purchased and wrapped for delivery. The family with five children ages ranged from 13 to 2. The mother mentioned the children's education and recreation would benefit enormously from a computer, which they could never afford. The budget couldn't cover a computer; with the help of member Ted Phillips and Boyle Engineering in Palm City, a complete computer package (a high end one at that) was put together, wrapped and donated to the family. *Thanks to Ted and Boyle Engineering.*

The gifts were delivered by a "full" SUV in two separate trips to the families. They were overjoyed and appreciated all that was done by our group and 'blessed' us all! *Just the big smile on the kids says it all!* Many local surveyors participate in their own way, either through group efforts or on an individual basis. One to mention is Chris Demeter (past chapter president); Chris and his family adopted a family in Indian River County. A family in need to say the least! The mother has 2 children of her own; one of the children has Downs Syndrome. A friend of hers who had five children passed away. The mother has added the five children to her family and has chosen to raise them. There are seven children living in the house, three boys in one room and the four girls in another room. The Demeter family delivered a single bed with headboard and footboard, linens, a ham, a few 12 packs of sodas, milk, and presents for each of the children. While at the house they cleaned up the boy's room and set up the bed for them.

Being involved on a hands-on basis offers an intimate experience that stays with you for ever. Having the joy of helping is rewarding; additionally your children are instilled with a lasting impression while enjoying coordinating the efforts. Discussions:

The chapter's intent to perform a series of surveys on an historic cemetery at the intersection of Kanner highway and Monterey in Stuart.

Mr. John Wilson PSM is moving to the Gainesville area and the February chapter meeting will be hosted in Okeechobee to honor him.

Sincerely

Howard Ehmke, President
Indian River Florida Chapter