

Boys & Girls Club, Kiwanis have 'Day for Kids'

By CHRISTEE LEMONS, Staff Writer
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Mike Reynolds, Noon Kiwanis Club member, hands Alicia Garcia, 9, her flower plant after topping it off with topsoil. (Christee Lemons)

REDLANDS - Children and parents came out to the Dennis Hansberger Clubhouse in full force Saturday for an afternoon full of free fun on the Boys & Girls Clubs' Day for Kids.

This national event is hosted by various Boys & Girls Clubs to acknowledge a children's day, said P.T. McEwen, chief executive officer.

There are days for mothers, fathers and even groundhogs, but "well there's no day for kids," he said.

This year's event was hosted with the Kiwanis Club of Redlands and it took six months to plan, McEwen said.

From noon to 4 p.m., attendees ate free food from vendors like Panda Express and Mi Tortilla, bounced around on inflatables and decorated cakes.

Parents like Rosalyn Mcgee brought out her two sons - William, 10, and Jeremiah, 9.

"I think it's a good idea to have this for kids," she said. "It keeps them out of trouble I think."

Community groups and businesses set up tables and booths with activities and games for children of all ages.

The Kiwanis Club table had small flower plants and guests personalized terra cotta pots to place them in.

The group gives grants to schools to cultivate plants, said Lynnette Johnson, chairperson of Kiwanis Club's school of gardens committee.

"Give a kid some dirt and they're happy," she said.

Not all booths were for fun and games. Parents also had access to free dental and vision testing and flu shot sign-up lists.

The Fire Department came out to teach children about fire safety in an interactive trailer set up like a small apartment. Participants went through three rooms where Inland Empire Fire Explorers gave individual safety lessons.

In the kitchen, explorers challenged children to tell them what was hazardous. Explorer Austin Rhodes told them not to microwave metals, foil and plastics.

They also warned children about leaving handles over a flame and touching wall sockets.

"I don't want to see you licking an electrical circuit," Explorer Matt Ambriz said. "Keep you tongue out of there."

Day for Kids was originally co-sponsored with other organizations, but has since been adopted by the Boys & Girls Club, McEwen said.

"The whole point is to spend quality time together," he said.

E-mail Staff Writer Christee Lemons at clemons@redlandsdailyfacts.com