



Dear Bus Coordinators:

Welcome to **the Coordinator Connection!**

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THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

Well, it sure has been an interesting couple of weeks! It seems real strange to talk about Mother's Day happening so late in June, but we are all still so glad we were able to reschedule! With just a couple of weeks to go, please make sure that you have your T's crossed and your I's dotted! It is ideal to evaluate now, so that if you need assistance finishing up last minute details- Get On The Bus can support you. We are all so excited about this month's events coming that we are practically jumping out of our skin! In the wise words of Laila, age 7 from CMC09, " I wish every day was Get On The Bus Day!" We look forward to working with all of you very soon!

GET ON THE BUS WISHLIST! PLEASE SEE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PITCH IN!

There are a few outstanding things that we need help with at Get On The Bus! If you are available to pitch in- simply click the link!

******Outreach Volunteers needed at Twenty Second Annual Assembly of the Southwest California Synod June 5-7 2009. Get On The Bus will have a table at this exciting event and as an added treat; Sister Suzanne Jabro will be a featured speaker. The theme of the conference is " I was in prison and you visited me". We would love to have volunteers help out at the Get On The Bus booth for a few hours to help share the mission of Get On The Bus.

If you are available Friday June 5th anytime between 1pm and 8pm please [click here to email Karen](#) your availability.

If you are available Saturday June 6th anytime between 9am and 8pm please [click here to email Karen](#) your availability.

****** A Notary/Home visit is needed desperately in the city of Rialto. This is for the family we highlighted last newsletter with the two sons whose mom recently passed away from cancer. Please [email Karen](#) if you are able to help make this happen!

****** Snacks and drinks are needed for CTF-05 for Father's Day. Please [email Karen](#) if you have extra.

****** Still looking for a few passionate and kind volunteers to assist with the hospitality team at CIW prison in Corona for Mother's Day June 26th. If you are interested in helping welcome families to the prison, just [email me!](#)

TRIBUTE CARDS ARE IN!

Need a good gift idea for your Dad, or that special person in your life? We here at Get On The Bus have just the solution! We invite you to unite children with their fathers for this Father's Day by sending a Get On The Bus Father's Day tribute card! For all donations of \$25 and above, Get On The Bus will mail out this special card to the person of your choice. What a wonderful way to support a worthy cause and celebrate the Father's Day holiday!

To order your tribute card, please [click here!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! JUNE 28TH IS OUR BUS COORDINATOR EVALUATION AND THANK YOU WRAP UP!

This year we will be doing our wrap up and evaluation for Southern California Mother's Day and Father's Day together!

The event will take place Sunday June 28th from 11am-2pm

We are pleased to announce that the evaluation will be held at The Villa, The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Retreat Center! The address is 1119 Westchester Place, Los Angeles, California 90019

For a map and directions, click [HERE](#)

Lunch will be provided.

No 106 forms necessary for admittance! Everyone is approved!

Guests may wear denim, open toed shoes, underwire bras and any other thing that feels comfortable!



BUS SPOTLIGHT ON CMC-02

Our fearless Program Director, Maria Palmer, shares a story

Not your traditional fundraising dinner...

When I received the invitation to attend a dinner this past Saturday honoring the CMC-02 families, I expected just another fundraising evening. I sent in my RSVP and marked it in my calendar as a GOTB event and went about my business.

My husband, Joe and I entered the St. Margaret Mary Hall on Saturday night after a pretty intensive day. Our dog, GOTB mascot, Maya was attacked by another dog in a local dog park and Joe now had the remnants of this event

etched in his right leg as the dog then attacked him. He was needless to say, not in a great mood and probably would have rather been icing his leg at the moment. But as usual, his mean wife made him come to this event!

Laura, CMC-02 bus coordinator, greeted us outside. We came inside got our nametags and walked around only to find four 12 foot tables filled with everything one would want to fill a travel bag with. There were coloring books, activity books, origami starter kits, 5 different types of markers, basically a child's early Christmas.

Joe and I then got a little nervous because since they didn't ask us to pay at the door, we figured that we misread the invitation and part of our payment for dinner would be to bring a travel bag item. Then we further looked around and I saw some faces that I have seen before. There were families everywhere and then I put the pieces together and finally got it. Laura wasn't kidding, she really did put together a dinner to honor the families.

Joe and I sat at a table with 2 kids: Nyla, who was 9 and her brother Aldred, who was 11. I asked the kids if they had ever been on the bus and they looked at me like there was something wrong. "Of course, we go on that bus every year. It is a lot of fun. Don't you go every year to see your dad too?" Nyla said.

After we shared a meal, the kids got to go back one by one and pick out everything they wanted in their travel bags. It was really a sight to see. They were so excited. Nyla by this time was attached to my hip and insisted that I help her make the travel bag. (I do have to say, it was really like Christmas for me too. I had a great time flipping through all the princess books.)

Laura then gave everyone details of the trip and went over once again the dress code requirements and departure times. Everyone now knew how to get to the location because they would be meeting at the same place we were.

We then played an icebreaker game where everyone got to move around the room and introduce themselves by name and city. It was great for all the families to come together and the kids to know that they are not alone.

Then we ended the night the best way possible, with a raffle where everyone won and got to take something home that night! I was especially pleased as I got the travel wine tote.

With such a fabulous evening, I do have to share my most exciting part! Before this night, Joe wasn't very excited about accompanying me to CMC as he is going to Chowchilla with his own bus that very next weekend. However, by the end of

the night his new buddy Aldred said, "Mr. Joe are you going to be there for Father's Day?" Joe's response, "I can't wait."

JUNE'S GRAND FINALE OF FUNDRAISING:

June is finally here! With Mother's Day moved until June, we now have two back to back events and two great reasons to keep those funds coming in!

Here are a few ideas for the grand finale FUNDRAISING!

1. Send out a Father's Day letter or email to those that are close to you. Tell them that "this year your heart is dedicated to the families of Get On The Bus" and you'd like to invite them to donate or participate by volunteering with you! Purchase a tribute card for someone close to you or simply send an email promoting the Father's Day Tribute Cards to friends and family!
2. Invite your family and friends to a benefit concert June 7th at the Cobalt Café in Canoga Park. Concert is at 6pm. This is an alcohol free event. (meaning there will be no alcohol, as opposed to free alcohol!!)
3. Most of you have reached your commitment goal for the season already! It has been so exciting to watch the money grow each week and we are so delighted at how far you have come! We do, however, have a few busses that are really struggling to get to their goal! Why not let folks that are still planning to donate know about these "little busses that could" and see if they'd like to help out a bus that really needs a boost!

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO:

In just a couple of weeks, we will finally be able to reunite these families with one another! This sure has been a long journey to get here. We had training, we formed our teams, we climbed MOUNTAINS of paperwork, we met families, we sent in MOUNTAINS of paperwork, and now we get to see the fruits of our labor. And luckily there will be almost no more paperwork! I have learned so much from all of you this season and often times have felt so humbled to be a part of such an incredible organization. Our organization is all about the people that are sharing the work, and it's been amazing to share this work with you. Thank you all so very much for making this dream a reality for so many of these families.

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