



Hi-Desert Star

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Holiday party, toy drive succeed in new location

December 21, 2011 By Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star

LANDERS — The Homestead Valley Community Council Christmas party and toy drive took place in a new location this year. Any concerns that the Belfield Hall might not be large enough were unfounded. There was plenty of room and the hall had plenty of parking.

A large pile of presents accumulated on the stage as attendees brought their offerings.

The spread was similar to last year's event with a large selection of chili dishes, meatballs, appetizers, desserts, coffee, tea and a full bar.

Council President Jim Harvey manned the door, welcoming and greeting guests as they arrived. After allowing guests a chance to finish dining, he took the stage to thank everyone and to introduce Mara Cantelo, the director of Tender Loving Cause. Cantelo made a short heartfelt speech thanking all the guests on behalf of the Tender Loving Christmas event, which is the beneficiary of the toy drive.

Neil Derry, 3rd District county supervisor, was back, too, for a performance of swinging tunes. He began his vocal set with "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," continued with "I'll Have a Blue Christmas Without You," dedicated "Come Fly With Me" to Santa Claus and after several more numbers concluded with a rendition of "New York, New York." The crowd cheered after every number.



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Party patrons enjoy a bountiful buffet, below photo, including various chili dishes, meatballs, desserts, coffee, tea and a full bar.



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Nearly 200 toys pile up at the Homestead Valley Community Council's annual Christmas' party and toy drive Saturday. The toy drive benefits the Tender Loving Cause Christmas Day event held at the Yucca Valley Community Center.