

## West Valley Division 8 Employees Take Their Daughters to Work

By AMY HOWELL

(May 1, 2002) Quite a few West Valley Division 8 employees showed up to work, Friday, with their daughters. About 30, in fact.

The employees and the youngsters were participating in the agency-wide "Take Your Daughters to Work Day" festivities.

"We have a very successful event every year," said Division 8 Stenographer Karen Pedini, who has participated since joining the MTA three years ago. Although she did not join the girls and their parents for their bus ride to the Gateway building this year, she did experience the Division 8 leg of the day.

"They were very well-behaved," said Pedini, of the girls. "They seemed to have a really great time."

"There were more participants this year," Pedini said. The girls ranged in age from 8 to 16 and, "there were plenty of kids at each age group. There was a great match for each age."

### An activity-packed day

After gathering at 7 a.m. for a breakfast of muffins, fresh fruit and juice, the girls and their parents boarded a bus driven by Division 8 Operator Patricia DeArmond, and headed to the Gateway Headquarters building.

There, they convened in the Board room to listen to a panel of speakers, which included DeArmond, as well as Division 8 Acting Division Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds and Division 8 Service Attendant Gwen Henry. The girls and their parents also took pictures on the Plaza level.

After their visit to Headquarters, they took the Metro Red Line from Union Station to Universal



West Valley Division Service Attendant and doll collector **Gwen Henry** was popular panelist at 'Take Your Daughter to Work Day' program.

Although her own three children are in their thirties and forties, Division 8 Service Attendant Gwen Henry still saw it fit to participate in "Take Your Daughters to Work Day."

Henry wasn't just part of the crowd, however. She was one of the panelists who spoke to the daughters in attendance during the Gateway building leg of the festivities, describing her job duties and answering questions.

A few girls asked if it was hard to keep the buses clean. "I told them, 'It's like keeping my house clean...like keeping your car clean,'" she said.

"We're very blessed," said Henry, of Division 8's service attendants. "Our buses are the cleanest. They give you everything to work with."

During the panel session, the girls gave Henry the unofficial title of "The Doll Lady", because of the Barbie Doll she brought with her, one of many in her extensive collection of dolls, which also includes Ebony Vision and Precious Moments.

"I started 17 years ago and my biggest collection is Precious Moments. I love Precious Moments," she said. Her Precious Moments collection is estimated at 350, but Henry said she's "probably got more than that."

A self-proclaimed evangelist who says, "God has been good to me," Henry also speaks at women's advances and retreats through her church. "At my church, I'm always running my mouth," she joked. She also does volunteer work that centers on underprivileged children. -- AMY HOWELL

City. At the station, they re-boarded the bus and DeArmond drove them back to Division 8, where they had a pizza party lunch.

After lunch, they boarded the bus yet again, this time to take a tour of the division, which included being shown the procedure that buses regularly go through, such as fueling and cleaning.

After the division tour, they took a play break at Mason Park, and then reconvened at the division for popcorn and *Cinderella II*, while waiting for their parents to take them home.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)



Morning panel of speakers featuring "Women of the MTA" included Metro Bus Operator Pat DeArmond, above, right with panelist Gwen Henry, and below, panelist and Acting West Valley Division Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds, at left. PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON

