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Community Relations Officer
Vicky Woods, left, and her
best friend, Division 18
Operator Meka Stokes, are
reunited as Metro employees.

A Metro Reunion 14 Years in the Making

By RICH MORALLO

(Aug. 24, 2004) Meka Stokes and Vicky Woods had a reunion, recently, although they never really strayed apart.

"Meka, my best friend since third grade, just started with Metro as a bus operator at Carson Division 18," says Woods, a community relations officer. It was a Metro reunion that was 14 years in the making.

"I tried to get Meka to join the agency in 1990 when I started here," says Woods, who works on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project.

Met in the third grade

But Stokes was happy with her job in Rancho Dominguez and stayed put. "We were seven years old in the third grade at Miramonte Elementary when we first met," she says.

The two grew up in the same South Central neighborhood, and went to Edison Junior High and Fremont High School together.

Recalls Woods, "We lived one block from each other for years, walked to school and caught the same bus to Fremont High. We even had a favorite bus operator on San Pedro Line 48, named Eric, so actually Metro has been in our lives even before we knew we would land jobs here."

Stokes and Woods had their children around the same time, and Stokes is the godmother of Woods's younger son.

'Remained really close'

"We have always remained really close, celebrating birthdays, baby showers and holidays together," Woods says. Stokes, who decided to

join Metro for a better and more reliable career and has just finished bus operator training, agrees.

Years ago, when she was really young, her grandmother told her that Woods was her only real close friend. "I was too young to understand then, but today I completely appreciate my grandmother's words," Stokes says.

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