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Families Are 'Extra Arm' for Metro Employees at Outreach Events

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 9, 2004) Many Division Ambassador Council (DAC) members have an "extra arm" to help them when they promote ridership on Metro Bus and Metro Rail during community outreach activities.

"Meet my family," said DAC member Nicole Hall as she stood behind a Metro information table with her family during the recent Family Health and Safety Fair at the Nakaoka Community Center in Gardena.

Hall introduced her husband, Johnavah Sr., her two daughters, Janae and Janaeja, and son, Johnavah. Almost forgetting the smallest member of her group, she smiled and said, "And this is my five-year-old niece, Kaira. "



From left, Nicole Hall and daughters Janaeja and Janae, with niece Kaira in front.

To increase awareness of public transit services, DAC members come from the ranks of the bus operators, mechanics and service attendants who volunteer their personal time to talk to Los Angeles families about Metro.

Families help out

"Talking about our Metro jobs and services on the weekends or when we are off can still be fun, especially when we have our families with us," said Hall. DAC staff also encourages students not to tag or vandalize Metro vehicles and property.

Throughout the day Janae, a seventh grader, and Janaeja, a fifth grader, helped their mom pass out bus and rail safety checklist pamphlets to Gardena residents. Also doing his share for Metro, third-grader Johnavah delighted visitors to the table as he passed out Metro bags.

"I'm glad I came," said Janae, who later visited the information tables of various health care services at the Nakaoka Community Center.

"She wants to be a pediatrician," explained Hall, who along with another Metro Bus operator, Kathleen Martin, spent most of their time answering questions on bus schedules, routes and Metro destinations.

PHOTOS: RICH MORALLO

Labor Day volunteer

The next weekend Martin volunteered to work at the



Kathleen and Steve Martin

Labor Day Health Festival held on Compton Boulevard, a half block away from the Compton Metro Blue Line Station.

Husband Steve came along and helped put up the 10-foot tent that would shelter the Metro volunteers from the sun as they talked about safety near buses and passed out pop-up

trains and pencils stenciled with "Safety Begins With Me."

"People ask me how they can get to where they need to go and what Metro service is close to where they live," said Martin.

As she listened to the questions from the Metro booth visitors and passed out bus schedules, Steve Martin blew up colorful Safety's First balloons to decorate the booth.

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