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Matt Raymond, Chief Communications Officer, welcomes everyone to the second annual Metro Employee Day.



Photos by Bill Heard

Employee Day at Disneyland was a Hit with Kids and Adults, Alike

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(April 11, 2006) Celeste Aguilar, 5, had her picture taken with Mickey Mouse. "He signed his name," she said, and that was OK, but her real favorite is Minnie Mouse.

Mickey Mouse was much in evidence, of course, during last Saturday's Metro Employee Day at Disneyland. It was the second annual event and it drew some 1,500 employees, family members and friends to a day of fun in the sun.



Some 1,500 employees, family members and friends started their day in Frontierland with a huge picnic breakfast.

Celeste – who also likes the roller coaster – was there with her dad, Fernando, a Mechanic “A” at the Regional Rebuild Center, her mother, uncle and aunt and cousins, and her sister, Giselle, 2. The family lives in West Covina.

The Employee Day began at 8 a.m. with a huge breakfast of scrambled eggs and all the fixin’s, served to an enthusiastic crowd in Frontierland.



There was plenty for everyone – scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, fresh fruit, pastries and juice – during the picnic breakfast in Frontierland.

“Breakfast was wonderful,” said Transit Security Sgt. Ty Henderson, who brought his wife, Andrea, his father, Larry, son Todd, 13, and daughter Tara, 12. “I’ve got some energy now to stand in those long lines!”



The Martinez family – from left, Emeteria, Abraham, 16; Israel, 14; and Frank, a bus operator at Division 3 – were at Universal City for last year’s Employee Day and had so much fun, they were back this year at Disneyland.

Photo with Disney characters

Ruben Chuayiuso, a Revenue Collection vault truck driver, shepherded his family up for a photo with the Disney characters. With him were his wife, Maria, kids Calvin and Chloe – all from Roland Heights.

“We’re going to walk around now and take the kids on some of the rides,” Chuayiuso said after breakfast.



The guy with the big ears is Mickey Mouse and he rounded up Division 3 Operator Marco Contreras, far right, and his family for a photo. From left are mom Bernadette, niece Desiree, 3; Marco Jr., 4; Isabella, 7; and Manuel, 1, in Dad's arms.



Minnie Mouse just had to have her photo taken with the Mendoza family. From left are David, 8; Kathrine, 10; mom, Karri; Krystal, 7; and dad, Steve, an assistant manager in Metro Rail Wayside Systems.

Danielle Boutier, director of Communication Services and event coordinator, was pleased with the turnout. "Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves with their families and friends."

Noting that last year's Metro Employee Day was at Universal City, Boutier expects next year's event will be held at a different area theme park.

She's also planning another private employee party, later this year, at Six Flags Magic Mountain. It's scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18 from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. Tickets go on sale in the fall. Last year, 1,330 tickets were sold for the employee party.

In a heroic moment during Metro Employee Day, Mickey Mouse plants a 50th Anniversary Disneyland flag atop the Matterhorn. Against all odds, he had struggled up the mountainside while Minnie and Goofy cheered him on.

