

Avenal High School – Positive Impact Scholarship: Each year, the Avenal State Prison EAC provides financial scholarships to students graduating from Avenal High School, to help contribute to their future success. Interested students are required to submit an application answering a few questions about how they help their community, i.e., what extracurricular activities they are involved in, and what career path they would like to pursue as adults. Students are also required to submit a personal essay. A special committee on the EAC selects finalists; of these finalists, two of are selected based on the amount of service the applicants offer to the community and are each awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Remember the Troops – Care Package Drive: This last year, Avenal State Prison began a care package drive to support the 101st Airborne Division (AA) 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry 75th Regiment, while they were deployed in Iraq. Through generous donations from organizers ASP was able to send 80 care packages. On March 16, US Army Specialist Brenden Ursenbach presented ASP and its staff with a plaque as a token of gratitude. Army Specialist Brenden Ursenbach said that the care packages sent by ASP helped his unit through difficult times when their supplies were delayed during conflict and strengthened their morale.

<http://www.insidecdcr.ca.gov/2017/03/army-thanks-avenal-sp-for-supporting-troops/>

Chapel Grace: This last year, PIA donated three (3) desks to Chapel Grace Church in Coalinga California. These desks were desperately needed as they were replacing desks that were over 30 years old. The desk allowed the church to have improved the functionality, organization, esthetics and comfort in their church office.

<http://www.chapelgrace.com/>

Fresno Rescue Mission: This last year, PIA donated 105 dozen eggs to the Fresno Rescue Mission. The Fresno Rescue Mission endeavors to glorify God by meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the least, the last and the lost in their community. The Fresno Rescue Mission was founded in 1949 as a non-profit, Christ-centered, evangelical charitable organization with the purpose of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of their area's destitute. <http://fresnorm.org/>

Holiday Basket Auction: Every holiday season, staff at Avenal State Prison organize an auction involving different areas of operation at ASP who donate "baskets" to auction off for the ASP Employee Action Committee to benefit the local community. The Holiday Basket Auction earnings contribute to four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to two high school seniors – see Positive Impact Scholarship, and two members of the local community who are in need. The Holiday Basket Auction also helps to provide numerous Holiday Miracles for members in the local community.

Coalinga High School Band – This last year, PIA has become a proud sponsor to the Coalinga High School Band. PIA has been a supporter of their program which teaches High School students how to play a musical instrument. Music educators feel, and have observed, that student involvement in school music has a positive impact on other areas of their lives. These educators will tell you that musical involvement improves a student's self-discipline, dexterity, coordinator, self-esteem, thinking skills, listening skills, creative abilities and personal expression.

Angel Tree Donations: Each year, staff at Avenal State Prison and Reef-Sunset Unified School District organize a Christmas gift drive for children of needy families in Avenal and Kettleman City. The gift drive has been a collaborative effort between the Kings County Sheriff's Department, the Kings County Probation Department, Avenal State Prison and Kings County Fire Department's Avenal and Kettleman City fire stations. An angel tree is set up in the Avenal State Prison administration building. Participating staff select paper ornaments with the child's name, age and present desired. Presents, which include bicycles, dolls, action figures and other toys, are delivered to homes in Avenal and Kettleman City by prison and school district staff dressed in Santa costume, with delivery assistance from Sheriff and fire department personnel. Recipients of gifts are chosen upon referrals of school district teachers and counselors and referrals provided through Kings County Sheriff's and Probation Department personnel. To learn more about the Angel Tree, organized by the Salvation Army, please visit <http://www.salvationarmy-socal.org/southern-california/angel-tree>

Coats for Kids Drive: Each year, staff at Avenal State Prison organize a coat drive to donate new coats to benefit Coats for Kids and Operation Warm. Founded on similar principles, both organizations have made it their mission to provide new winter coats to children in need. This shared vision of ensuring every child wearing a new winter coat is healthy, able to attend school regularly and has a strong self-esteem is why Coats For Kids Foundation and Operation Warm, Inc. have united with a goal of serving at-risk children throughout the United States. To learn more about the Coats for Kids organization, please visit their website at <http://www.coats-for-kids.org/>