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MISSION TEA PARTY

Residents of Seasons Senior Apartments in San Juan Capistrano have been volunteering their time since April to help Mission San Juan Capistrano put together its "Passport Explorer," a children's educational tour booklet produced by Alphabet House Publications. It features a walking map, interesting historical facts, and games that teach about Mission history.

Carole Ettlin, Community Manager for the senior affordable building, is a member of the Mission's Women's Guild, and it was at one of their meetings when it was announced that one way to get involved was to help assemble the Passports. Carole thought this was great idea and brought the idea to her tenants. Today the volunteers put together well over 2,000 Passports weekly.

Every week volunteer Ed Masten drives to the Mission and drops off the completed Passports and picks up more to be assembled. The unassembled Passports are placed in the apartment's clubhouse, where residents can leisurely help to assemble them. "This really brings people together and creates a social time," said volunteer Dorothy Preston. "This gets us out of our apartments; we talk with the other people and get to give back to the Mission."

"There are two residents that have Muscular Degeneration and have no peripheral vision" Ettlin said. "The Passports are easy enough for them to do and it's great because it enables our residents to give back and be contributing members while at the same time helping the Mission."

Thirteen volunteers attended the Mission's Volunteer Appreciation Tea on Tuesday, June 30. Volunteers were given a complimentary tour of the Mission grounds and were greeted by Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director of

Mission San Juan Capistrano who expressed her appreciation, answered questions, and briefly spoke about all the preservation work that has taken place and is continuing.

"I am so grateful for your time and help", Lawrence-Adams lauded. "Taking care of the Mission is a lifetime job, and the Passport Explorers are one way the Mission is able to engage youth in the history of the Mission."

On the front cover of the Passport is "Harry the Historian." The Passport is honoring the memory of Harry Francisco, the Mission's volunteer Director of Archeology who died in 2006. Harry participated in many excavations on the Mission grounds, which revealed much about its early structures.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Located in Orange County, Calif., Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange. Founded November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra, the Mission was the seventh mission in the chain of the twenty-one California missions, which were established by Spain. Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," it provides an inspirational learning experience about the past each year to over 53,000 fourth grade students as part of their California history studies. A place of inspiration, education, and preservation, the Mission is Orange County's only mission and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders. For more information please visit www.missionsjc.com.

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Photos Attached