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LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Dottie Fredericks will be honored as Leisure Worlorder of the Month for May on Wednesday, May 7 in Clubhouse 6.

News photo by Rod Veal

Reaching out to the needy

Dottie Fredericks gets May's Leisure World honor

By Cheryl Walker
The News

There's an old saying that goes: "If you want something done, give it to a busy person."

Dottie Fredericks is that busy person.

Breathlessly running from one enterprise to another, there is rarely a moment when she sits still long enough to talk to you.

But, Dottie Fredericks' heart goes out to people less fortunate than she and she takes great pains to find ways to help them.

Her efforts, particularly on behalf of Saddleback Community Outreach, which provides emergency food, shelter, job counseling, clothing, medi-

cal/dental care, utility payments, referrals and more to those seeking assistance, are tireless.

SCO Executive Director John Rooney says he could write a book about Fredericks' accomplishments.

"She's SCO's spokesperson in Laguna Woods; ... conducts food drives; works in the (SCO) pantry packaging food for needy families; and recruits many senior citizens to share their time and talent by volunteering to help. She is a wonderful example to us all."

But Fredericks usually doesn't wait to be asked to help.

When she recently read about a woman collecting Easter baskets for the children of service people deployed to

Iraq from Camp Pendleton, she joined the effort, imploring her friends and neighbors to come up with baskets, candy and funds. She was going to make sure not one child was left out.

Charlotte Brant, Ebell president, says when you call on

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Ceremony facts

Who: Dottie Fredericks

What: Leisure Worlorder of the Month for May

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 7

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

REACHING

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Fredericks “your know its going to be done, when in doubt you call on Dottie; her contributions to the community are enormous.”

Leisure World’s Historical Society thinks so too, and selected Fredericks as its Leisure Worlder of the Month for May.

SCO isn’t Fredericks only outlet. She has volunteered for Saddleback Hospital, the American Red Cross, Angels in Tennis Shoes (tutoring school children), Meals on Wheels, Children’s Hospital Guild, the Long Beach Veterans Hospital and Afghan Relief.

In Leisure World, she’s contributed her talents to Ebell, the Duplicate Bridge Club, Women Empowered, the Philharmonic Society, Lawn Bowling, Women’s Classified Service Club, Historical Society, Keyboard Club, World on Film, Community Concerts, the Earthquake and Disaster Preparedness Task Force, the Golden Rain Community Activities clubhouse advisory group and United Mutual nominating committee (where she serves as chairperson).

Fredericks says she “treasures” the fact that she’s been selected “for this great honor.”

And says that, although she always seems involved to the point of breathlessness, she wouldn’t have it any other way.

Background: Fredericks is a native of Canada and although she came from a musical family didn’t pursue a career on the concert stage.

Instead, she plunged into working in a variety of industries – travel, insurance, tours,

and advertising – where, along the way, she won numerous awards for sales, business, leadership, teamwork, work skills, even for being “employee of the year.”

She came to Leisure World 12 years ago, after retiring from the Long Beach Press Telegram, but found, like so many of her predecessors that this gated community inspires anything but rest.

“Leisure World living is a dream come true: the world’s largest smorgasboard, a kaleidoscope of good times, fun and entertainment.

It was at a water aerobics class that she was first asked by a friend to help out at SCO. The rest, as they say, is history.

Fredericks says although she is involved in a lot of activities she tries not to take on more than she can handle.

And she considers herself a good team player who doesn’t have to be “the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral.”

But, she adds, she does feel a responsibility to do what she can to help those who either can’t help themselves or just need temporary assistance to get back on their feet.

“Those of us who can have to be an advocate to make people aware of the needs out there.

“And people are good, people are generous,” she says noting how contributions small and large make SCO’s outreach activities possible, from the food bagged and handed out, to the Leisure World Library donating children’s books for kids waiting while their parents sign up for SCO’s assistance programs.

Fredericks plans to continue doing what she’s been doing for as long as she is able as pay

back for the “rich life” she’s had and continues to enjoy.

“There have been bumps along the way, no doubt about it, but I have wonderful friends, at times the work is very rewarding and living in Leisure World is a real pleasure ... this is the greatest place on earth to turn lemons into lemonade.”