

1st Annual
Mikey Terrones Memorial
(Scroll down for the story behind Mikey's Memorial)



Holiday Toy Drive 2007



Join Mike & Lupe for a special reception to kick off our 1st annual holiday toy drive in memory of "**MIKEY**". His goals for 2007 were to graduate, go on to college, be successful and share his success with his family and those in need. We will be collecting toys to distribute to needy children during the holiday season. You may bring unwrapped toys in their original packaging to the reception.




Location: 2008 Conception Drive (Briar Creek Homes) Lompoc
When: Saturday, December 8, 2007
Time: 6:00 pm
Hosted By: Mike & Lupe Terrones and Family
Telephone: 805.975.5080 or 805.588.8098



But JESUS called the children to him and said,
"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the
kingdom of GOD belongs to such as these."

LUKE 18:16



*All toys will go to , Trinity Church of the Nazarene and the Santa Maria Salvation Army for distribution to the children of our communities who would otherwise be without this holiday season. Thank you for your compassion and giving hearts, Merry Christmas, the *Terrones'* & Family.

ARTICLE FROM THE LOMPOC RECORD:

Dead son's letter inspires parents' tribute

By Bo Poertner/Managing Editor

The letter appeared one day last April in Mary Anne Rios' mailbox at Lompoc High School with a note asking her to deliver it to Michael Terrones.

Rios, a guidance counselor, didn't know what was in the sealed envelope, but she knew that Terrones' 16-year-old son, Mikey, had been killed in a car accident on Halloween in 2005.

When Terrones arrived to pick up the letter, he recognized the handwriting on the envelope.

"My heart dropped," said Terrones, who works at the Celite mine in Lompoc. "I couldn't believe it. It was my son's writing. It had our address on it."

At home he opened the letter. It was dated May 14, 2003. Mikey had written it when he was in the eighth grade at Lompoc Valley Middle School, two years before he died.

It was entitled "My hopes and goals 2007."

About six months later, when Michael and his wife Lupe Terrones began talking about making Christmastime plans, the letter and its contents came up for discussion. The letter, part of a middle school assignment for Mikey, had been held by his teacher and was sent to the high school because a graduation memorial was being planned for him.

Mikey's goals had included graduating from high school, going to Fresno State University and becoming successful, perhaps as a professional football player. The money that would accompany his success, Mikey wrote, would be shared with schools, hospitals and the homeless. He wanted to help the needy. "I want my name to be remembered," he wrote.

"It inspired us, because my husband and I were trying to figure out what to do for the holidays," said Lupe Terrones, who is director of Marian Medical Center's Community Clinics.

As a tribute to their son, they have created the Mikey Terrones Memorial Holiday Toy Drive to collect toys for the annual Toys for Tots program and Trinity Church of the Nazarene for distribution to the community's children.

The first of what they intend to be an annual campaign will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at

their home, 2008 Conception Drive, in the new Briar Creek subdivision off West Central Avenue in Lompoc.

A reception will be held and participants are encouraged to bring new toys, unwrapped and in the original packaging.

“What better way to celebrate the holidays than to help out families in need, to put a smile on a child's face,” Michael Terrones said. “Outside of that, it was one of my son's goals.”

Mikey Terrones and a teammate on the Braves' football team, Brice Fabing, 17, were killed in the Halloween accident at North A Street and East Central Avenue. Fellow teammate Darrell Solorio was the only survivor.

“In the beginning, it was hard,” Michael Terrones said of the family's struggle to cope with their tragic loss.

“My son would want us to be happy. I know where he is at. He's in heaven. He was a believer. He was a Christian,” he continued. “Don't get me wrong, I think about my son every day.”

Mary Anne Rios said she didn't know Mikey Terrones, although she had helped coordinate the school's memorial for him and Fabing.

She didn't know about the Mikey Terrones Memorial Holiday Toy Drive until her son, a sophomore at Lompoc High, told her Wednesday night.

“He came home, he said, ‘Mom, they're doing a toy drive for Mikey Terrones. We have to get some toys to participate.’”

And she didn't know what was in the letter until a reporter called Thursday.

“That's wonderful. That's beautiful,” she said “That will make Christmas even more special this year.”