

Group donates Christmas stockings to Vets



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS — Kelly Hall, President, Celebrity Scholarships, Inc.; Mark Chapa, Outreach Coordinator, Veteran's Administration Community-Based Outpatient Clinic; Dick Rutan; Shara Chandler, Secretary/Treasurer, Celebrity Scholarships, Inc. at the Veteran's Clinic in Lancaster. Celebrity Scholarships, Inc., donated 100 filled Christmas stockings to Southern California Veterans.

Dick Rutan addresses Vets

SPECIAL TO THE DESERT NEWS

LANCASTER — Celebrity Scholarships, Inc., donated 100 filled Christmas stockings to Southern California Veterans last Thursday at the Veteran's Clinic in Lancaster.

Dick Rutan, who flew Voyager around the world unrefueled with Jeana Yeager 22 years ago, was on hand to help with the donation.

"We came up with the idea for the stockings on December

1st, asked for approval from the Veterans Administration on December 2nd, received that on December 3rd and immediately began gathering sponsorships," said Kelly Hall, CSI President. "Our goal was 100 sponsored stockings, and a week ago, we got an email from a benefactor who said if we didn't hit that 100 mark, that they would step in and sponsor the remainder so we would have the 100 to donate," she added.

Fortunately, sponsorships have poured in from across the United States and include sponsorships from a former Prisoner of War,

a Colonel from the USAF, Rutan aircraft pilots, Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles, and more. "The outpouring of generosity has warmed our hearts this winter," Hall said.

Celebrity Scholarships, Inc. received its tax exempt status from the IRS in August 2008. Thus far, they have sponsored a classroom in Mojave, with the Mojave Desert News Newspapers In Education program, and will be adopting a kindergarten classroom in Lancaster, providing cases of copy paper, dry erase markers and craft projects.