

A DAY AT THE LAZY J RANCH

The day started with a tour of the Elfin Forest Fire Department where the children received a tour of the fire station, donned fireman's attire, explored the fire engines and even played water games with the engine's water hoses. Just down the road was the Lazy J Ranch where the kids enjoyed horseback riding, nature hikes, arts and crafts and numerous other fun activities hosted by the SD-AALNC. Lots of watermelon and a wonderful BBQ dinner were provided to complete the fun-filled day. It was a nourishing day for the body, mind and spirit. A true celebration of friendship and family....

Children of Chernobyl Foundation, San Diego, is committed to helping the young victims who continue to suffer from the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident. Each year between 8,000-10,000 children from the Chernobyl region are removed from their environment to spend part of their summer abroad. Although the Chernobyl disaster does not currently occupy the headlines as it did when the nuclear reactor exploded in the Soviet Ukraine on April 26, 1986, the aftermath of this catastrophe continues to have devastating effects on the people living in Ukraine and Belarus. Contaminated soil and waterways have contributed to poor nutrition and weakened immune systems in people living in the areas around Chernobyl, especially the children. One of the most predominant physical effects of the Chernobyl radiation on children is the profound increase (over 100%) in Thyroid Cancer, a disease rarely found amongst children elsewhere in the world. The corrupt political regime, poor economy, and compromised state of medical and dental facilities add to feelings of depression and despair amongst the people living in this region. The current economic situation of the region makes it nearly impossible for these people to relocate.

The AALNC - San Diego Chapter philanthropy project was devoted to assisting The Children of Chernobyl Foundation in providing special activities, financial support to assist in airfare expenses, and the donation of clothing, suitcases and personal care products for the children receiving respite care in San Diego this summer.

*"That within all life there is an endowment of love that can be lost if not given away.
This inner philanthropy is, I believe, the deepest motivation for our living."*

Rob Lehman The Fetzer Foundation