

# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

If you come by on a Saturday or Tuesday afternoon, you will be greeted with the kind-hearted friendliness of Linda Knowlton, education volunteer. "It is hard not to smile when you see Linda. She has the sweetest demeanor that adds a calmness to everything around her, despite how chaotic things can become around here," says Beaté Litz, Education Director.

Since November of 2001, Linda has driven 90 miles roundtrip to our Center each week. We are very thankful for the trek she makes! Linda has assisted greatly with improvements on our current educational presentation and our new Marine Life Badge Program for Junior Girl Scouts. Even though she is a computer programmer by trade, her passion is the ocean.

Linda demonstrates her personal commitment to the marine environment not just with FSL Marine Mammal Center and its mission, but also through various avenues outside of our Center. Linda strives to increase public awareness of human impact on the sea and inspires others to be stewards of the marine environment. She is an active member of the American Cetacean Society participating in the annual gray whale census in Palos Verdes and serves as a naturalist on whale watching tours. Linda has also participated in Spinner dolphin research at Midway Island.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and marine mammal patients we would like to thank Linda for her passion and dedication. She gives a voice to our flippers friends who cannot speak for themselves in making the ocean a healthier environment for all its inhabitants.



## PROJECT SEAL UPDATE by Beaté Litz

With assistance from **PADI Project AWARE Foundation** and the **Times Mirror Foundation**, FSL Marine Mammal Center was able to pilot its new education program entitled **Project SEAL (Students Excited About Learning)**. Project SEAL provides funding for bus transportation and program fees to fourth grade students from low-income Title I schools. During the 2002/2003 school year, Project SEAL served fourth grade students from Woodcrest, Pacific Drive and Valencia Park Elementary Schools of Fullerton Unified School District, as well as Davis Elementary School of Santa Ana Unified School District. The response from teachers and students was overwhelmingly positive.

"I couldn't believe what an impact the experience had on my students," reports Marilyn White, the Principal of Valencia Park Elementary School. "I had one student that I could not get motivated. He never turned in his homework, he didn't want to read or do math. It seemed like nothing interested him. After the Project SEAL fieldtrip, I saw a dramatic change in this student. All of a sudden, he was at the library reading all about seals and sea lions. Now, he wants to be a 'mammal veterinarian' when he grows up."

We feel this young boy is the embodiment of Project SEAL and its goal to get underserved, inland students connected to the ocean and, most importantly, excited about learning.

## WISH LIST

- **36 inch portable pet fences available at Pet Co or Petsmart**
- **Gift certificate to Office Max or Staples**
- **Large Dog Kennels**
- **Dawn Dishwashing Soap**
- **Laudry Detergent and Liquid Bleach**

