



**James Parsons of Laguna Niguel**

James Parsons is a Sea Scout from Mariner's Ship 936 and on a path to becoming a Quartermaster, the highest level Sea Scout.

Requirement #5 (of more than 16) involves a community project:

*While an Able Sea Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community. The project idea must be approved by your Skipper and ship committee and approved by the council or district before you start. This service project should involve your ship and at least one other group.*

James began working on his project in the summer of 2008 and chose the Shea Center as the beneficiary. After extensive research and planning he received approval from youth leaders in charge of the program.

James wrote, "Getting the approval completed usually involves writing a lot and going over specific details with other youth managers. The approval process was completed in November, 2008. After this, I then assembled a team and gathered the required materials. Rancho Sierra Vista and local gardeners donated logs and other required materials. The team I gathered consisted of other Sea Scouts from Mariners Ship 936. I had a total of eight team members that donated several hours of time towards my project. Each team member was assigned a specific task to complete the project. The overall construction took about six weeks usually with one meeting a week and sometimes two. The team concluded the project on February 7, 2009 after two months of work. The final step of the project consists of finishing up the completion paper work. Once this step is completed, I should have finished all of the required work to become a Quartermaster."

Looking forward to completion of the Shea Center's construction, James and his shipmates created uniquely designed outdoor seats made of tree trunks and antique tractor seats to be located in the center's future therapeutic gardens and delivered them to the center in February, 2009.



Everyone at the Shea Center, clients, families, board, volunteers and staff send the largest "THANK YOU" to James Parsons and his team of Sea Scouts from Mariner's Ship 936 for their generosity, hard work and creativity.

**Note:** Mariners is a Sea Scout group that was started over 30 years ago by Jim Wehan, currently skipper of the 'Spirit of Dana Point.' It is a co-ed boating program for young people ages 14 through 18 and the Mariner Junior program is for those 12-14. Both are designed to allow young people an opportunity to have fun with their friends in sailboats of all sizes at a very low cost. Through a carefully developed program, participants progress from what knowledge they have about boating upon joining the program (sometimes knowing nothing) to being competent in handling sailboats of all sizes. The Mariner Program is fun, exciting and competitive. It allows for an independent choice of activities and it is flexible so that a young person can join and still have time for school, job and/or sports and other school related activities. Classroom instruction, Catalina and Channel Island trips, mariner competitions with other Sea Scout groups, sailboat racing, maintenance instruction and free sailing are some of the opportunities that members can take part in.