

SANTEE SANTAS FOUNDATION **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Santee Santas Foundation is celebrating our 67th year of bringing holiday cheer to Santee families and seniors and completing another successful program year. This past holiday season, *Santee Santas* served 158 families including 365 children, touching the lives of more than 670 individuals. In addition, 200 poinsettia plants were distributed to many isolated seniors at mobile home parks and senior living residences throughout the community. Assisted by grant funding from the City of Santee we also delivered boxes of fresh and non-perishable groceries and needed sundries to 35 Santee seniors.

Santee Santas is a big part of Santee and it is only with the support and involvement we get from our community that we are able to accomplish our Mission. Although we were not able to hold our customary annual food and toy drives this year, the entire community turned out in record number and stepped up their support to help us meet our goals. Many of our longstanding supporters increased their donations as they were able, and we had an amazing number of first-time supporters participate. Despite the difficulties of a world-wide pandemic, and under imposed constraints and limitations, Santee Santas was able to meet our goal to bring the spirit of the holiday to the Santee community.

There are many wonderful businesses, organizations, and individuals responsible for making this year's Holiday Program a success. The community of Santee always amazes us with their support and this year even more than ever.

Here are some noteworthy businesses and organizations who provided their support:

- **Santee School District.** In lieu of our annual school site food drives, Principal Ted Hooks coordinated a districtwide gift card drive. The gift cards were provided to families to purchase fresh food items.
- **American Eagle Storage:** Year-round, American Eagle Storage donates storage space for our supplies and supports us with a generous monetary donation.
- **Reliable Property Management:** Donated the use of vacant store fronts in Town Center for storage and packing of food and gifts for families.
- **Pacific Green Landscape:** Donated 200 poinsettias for seniors in mobile home parks and senior living residences and a generous monetary donation.
- **Valley Box Company:** Hundreds of boxes and miles of tape were donated for packaging and distributing food and gift boxes to families and seniors.
- **Santee Fire Department:** Fire Department crews coordinated and loaded family food and gift boxes into vehicles on delivery day.
- **Waste Management:** Waste and recycle bins were provided at our program facility and a generous monetary donation was provided for our Holiday Program.
- **Whissel Realty:** Kyle Whissel provided a truck and a large crew of employees to deliver food boxes to seniors.
- **Barnes & Noble Bookstore:** A book drive was hosted by the Santee store and enough books were donated to provide two age-appropriate books for each of our 365 children.
- **Santee Chick-Fil-A:** Chick-Fil-A donated six hundred free meal coupons for the families.
- **Eccentric International Chefs and Raising Canes:** These local vendors provided food for firefighters and volunteers on delivery day.
- **Santee/Lakeside Rotary Club:** Hundreds of food and gift boxes were assembled by their members.
- **Santee Walmart:** A collection box was displayed where customers could easily leave donations.
- **Girl Scout Troops 5205 and 5027:** These kindhearted girls donated troop funds from their cookie sales and other fundraising events to help provide food and gifts for families and their children.

- **Santee Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 397:** This local service organization held a fundraiser to support our program with a generous donation.
- **Sonrise Community Church:** Their member fundraising drive, coordinated by Darby, resulted in a very large monetary donation toward the purchase of food for families and gifts for children.

We greatly missed working alongside our volunteers this year, as limitations to gatherings prevented the community from providing their usual many hours of volunteer time. We look forward to next year, when hopefully we can all come together again to pick up toy and food donations, sort food, pack boxes, sort, select, and wrap toys, and help with delivery day operations.

There are so many wonderful people, businesses, and organizations that are responsible for making our 2020 Holiday Program a success. We wish we could mention them all. We hope the community will take note of the businesses and organizations that supported us this year and consider saying thank you by patronizing their business or supporting their organizations as opportunities arise. We look forward to working together again in 2021 for our 68th season.

We can only accomplish our Mission with support, involvement, and enthusiasm of our community. Thanks to all of them for being a part of our success.

Sincerely,

Santee Santas Foundation Board of Directors

Sharon Bullard
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