

## **SANTEE SANTAS FOUNDATION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



The Santee Santas Foundation is celebrating our 68th year of bringing holiday cheer to Santee families and seniors and completing another successful program year. This past holiday season *Santee Santas* served 166 families, including 332 children, touching the lives of 640 individuals. In addition, 200 poinsettia plants were distributed to many isolated seniors living in mobile home parks and senior residences throughout the community. Assisted by grant funding from the City of Santee, Santee Santas was able to deliver monthly boxes of assorted fresh and non-perishable groceries and needed sundries to 35 seniors throughout the community from January through May of 2021.

*Santee Santas* is a big part of Santee, and it is only with the support and involvement 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 again this year, the entire community, both residents and businesses, stepped up 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 new supporters. Despite the difficulties of a world-wide pandemic, and under imposed constraints and limitations, Santee Santas was able to deliver the spirit of the holiday to the Santee community.

This year Santee Santas assisted four families whose homes were destroyed by fire with \$500 gift cards.

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 more than ever.

Here are some noteworthy businesses and organizations who continue to support Santee Santas:

- **Santee School District.** In lieu of our annual school site food drives, Principal Ted Hooks coordinated a districtwide grocery store gift card drive. The students and staff donated a total of over \$12,000 in gift cards donations. The gift cards were provided directly to families for their purchases.
- **American Eagle Storage:** Year-round, American Eagle Storage donates storage space for our supplies and supports us with a generous monetary donation.
- **Reliable and Kimco Property Management Companies:** Donated the use of vacant properties 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 provided a generous monetary donation for our Holiday Program.
- **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:** A truck and a crew of employees were provided 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 three age-appropriate books for each child.
- **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 Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 397:** This local service organization held a fundraiser to support our program with a generous donation.

We greatly missed working alongside our volunteers again 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 collect toy and food donations, sort food, pack boxes, sort, select, and wrap toys, and help with delivery day operations.

We wish we could mention all the many wonderful people, businesses, and organizations that are responsible for making our 2021 Holiday Program successful. 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 2022 for our 69<sup>th</sup> 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

Channing Dawson  
Terry Johnson  
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