

Santee Santas Foundation **2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT**



The Santee Santas Foundation is celebrating our 72nd year of bringing holiday cheer to Santee low-income families and seniors and completing another successful program year. This past holiday season **Santee Santas** served **214 qualifying families**, touching the lives of over **726 individuals**. Toys and/or gift cards, and age-appropriate books, were delivered to homes for **348 children**. In addition, **250 poinsettia plants** were distributed to many senior residents throughout the community.

Santee Santas is a Santee institution, established in 1953 by the Santee School District and Santee Fire Department. To this day both remain very involved. As an original partner, Santee School District schools continue to support the distribution of food by holding a drive collecting grocery gift cards and/or funds to purchase grocery gift cards from local stores. Families we served received gift cards to purchase fresh food items along with a generous assortment of pantry food items.

It is only with the support and involvement from our community that we can provide food and toys for qualifying low-income families for the holidays. Many community businesses hosted collection boxes for the donation of toys and gifts for children. More than 150 volunteers came together to build hundreds of boxes; distribute and collect toy boxes throughout the community; sort food and pack food boxes; sort, select, wrap and package toys; and deliver food and toy packages to recipient families. Delivery day culminated with the Santee Fire Department on hand to load the drivers' cars and trucks for delivery of the boxes of food, wrapped toys and about 30 brand new bikes and scooters. Local businesses, their employees and customers, as well as countless Santee residents, donated the funds needed to fulfill the Mission of Santee Santas: *To deliver the holiday spirit throughout the Santee community.*

THE COMMUNITY OF SANTEE ALWAYS AMAZES US WITH THEIR SUPPORT!

There are also many wonderful businesses and organizations that help us in ways other than, or in addition to, financial contributions. We would like to acknowledge a few of these local businesses and organizations for their ongoing support of Santee Santas:

- **Santee School District: Chet F. Harritt** Principal Ted Hooks coordinated a districtwide drive culminating in us being able to provide each family with \$50-\$100 in grocery store gift cards to purchase fresh food items to supplement the non-perishable foods they received.
- **American Eagle Self Storage:** Donates storage space annually for our supplies.
- **Judge Ryan of Davisson Enterprises, Inc. and Priest Development Corp.:** Donated the use of vacant properties for storage, packing, and distribution of food and gifts for families.
- **Pacific Green Landscape:** Donated 250 poinsettias plants that were delivered to seniors in mobile home parks and senior living residences.
- **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.
- **ServPro:** Provided a truck and a large crew of employees to deliver pallets of food to our facility.
- **Barnes & Noble Bookstore (Santee) and Lakeside Friends of the Library:** Hosted book drives which provided age-appropriate books for each child.
- **Eccentric International Chef, Giant Pizza King, and Chick-fil-A:** Provided food for volunteers on delivery day.
- **Santee/Lakeside Rotary Club:** Assembled hundreds of food and toy boxes for our families.

Additionally, over 150 individuals and businesses provided financial contributions that were used to fulfill the need for food, toys, teen gift cards and operating expenses.

There is not enough space to mention by name all the many wonderful people, businesses, and organizations that are responsible for making our 2025 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 to them by patronizing their businesses or supporting their organizations as opportunities may arise. We look forward to working together again in 2026 for our 73rd Holiday Season.

We encourage you to check out our website at www.santeesantas.org and LIKE us on Facebook at [Santee Santas Foundation](#).

We can only accomplish our Mission with the support, involvement, and enthusiasm of our community. Thanks to all for contributing to the success of our program.

Sincerely,

Santee Santas Foundation Board of Directors

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