

2017

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter, information and events for
SoJo Foundation in San Jose, CA



SoJo Foundation
Since 2017



www.sojofoundation.org

Intro: That first Christmas Eve, my family and I raised \$200 to buy 40 rotisserie chickens from Costco. We loaded the warm meals into our car and drove along Monterey Highway, handing them out to people living on the streets and in homeless camps. At one stop, a man in a wheelchair almost cried when he received his meal. Another person exclaimed, "My God, it's warm!"

It was an eye-opening experience for me. The camps were cold, dirty, and unlike anything I had imagined, but the gratitude on people's faces was unforgettable. That night, I learned the power of small acts of kindness and decided this would be a tradition.

My Christmas Eve!

During my Christmas Eve, me and my family brought a meal to 40 homeless and poor. I was astonished of how hard their life is.

We thought of the idea at Thanksgiving, while talking of how wonderful our meal was, and how less fortunate weren't able to have such wonderful meal. We wanted to share our Christmas spirit with some of them. So we decided that we would raise \$200 before Christmas Eve (\$200 could buy 40 rotisserie chicken at Costco), buy 40 rotisserie chicken at Costco, and give them to the homeless. So we sent a fund raise message to friends and relatives, that we could use some help raising \$200, and asked if they would donate. I got some very heartfelt help. Thank you! Fast forward a month, we achieved our goal, raised \$200.



Christmas meal for the homeless

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I'm SoJo. I'm 9 years old, living in San Jose, CA. I am aware there are a lot of homeless tents showing up along the highways and around certain parts of the city. Some of them refuse to go to shelters. My goal is to bring a piece of caring and warmth to them in this holiday season: I want to raise \$200, so on Christmas eve, I can get 40 rotisserie chickens from Costco, and send to those who spend night on the street. So please help me. Thank You. Have a wonderful Christmas. Sincerely SoJo

On Christmas Eve morning, we went to Costco, bought 40 rotisserie chicken with our donated money, loaded the chicken in the car, and searched for homeless and poor on the road.



We drove along the Monetary Expressway. Along the road, we found several homeless on the road and sidewalk, and one behind a gas station. The person behind the gas station was in a wheelchair and was very emotional when we handed him the chicken. He almost cried. We found a few more people to brighten their hopes with a Christmas Eve chicken. All of them were grateful and unbelievable.



Then we found that finding homeless wasn't the easiest thing to do in the cold cloudy winter. But then we remembered there were many homeless in the "jungle", underneath highway 101 and 280.

We weren't sure how to get in there, but knew how to do a quarter mile walk on foot from a certain angle. So my dad, as usual, was our test subject bravely walked to the homeless camp, with two chicken in hands. When my dad disappeared on the seemly endless narrow jungle pass, I was very worried about him. He's gone to somewhere unknown. Finally, after nearly 10 minuets, he texted us on where the camp was and how to get there, me and my mom drove. I was glad to see my dad. I was astonished about how terrible the jungle camp was. It was filthy, dirty and it was a little scary for me. Still, I felt sorry for the people who had to live in these conditions. Still, we had to pace out the chicken to everyone. The camp was wide, and we tried to cover as much ground as possible, going back and forth from the car. People were very grateful for the chicken. Besides Thank You, God Bless, the other thing I heard was "My God, it is warm!" It shook my heart.



Once all the chicken was paced out, and we were going to leave, we bumped into a man named Pastor Scott who had a society and came to the camp often to hand out blankets. We even, later on saw him on TV! Pastor Scott did inform us that the TV crew was on the way, asked us to stay. But as my parents said that we did this for our heart, not for the fame. In all, I was very grateful we did it!