

2018

# NEWSLETTER

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



SoJo Foundation

Since 2017



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## 2018: Building Momentum

By the following year, I had grown more ambitious. With the help of friends and family, we raised enough money to purchase 50 rotisserie chickens. On Christmas Eve, we distributed meals along the same route, meeting people living in tents and temporary shelters. We partnered with another family who distributed blankets and clothing to make a bigger impact, providing not just warm food, but for the body.

## 2018:

This year marked my second annual Chicken Run, a tradition that started as an idea I shared with my parents about how we could help the homeless in San Jose, California. I'm only ten years old, but I believe that even the smallest act of kindness can make a big difference. With the help of my parents, I reached out to family and friends, asking for donations to buy warm food for the homeless. The response was very supportive, and I am very grateful to all of those who contributed.

The morning of Christmas Eve arrived, and with the funds from the GoFundMe, we headed to Costco to purchase 50 rotisserie chickens. As we stacked chicken after chicken, filling the large flat cart, I noticed the people around us curiously staring at what we were doing. They looked at us with curiosity, probably thinking we were preparing to host a huge Christmas party. When we explained that the chickens were for the homeless, their faces changed to warm smiles, and many of them wished us well. It made me feel proud to be doing something good.

Once our car was loaded with the hot meals, my mom drove us along Monterrey Highway, a stop-light road, lined with homeless on the sidewalks and curbs. As we approached each person, I handed them a hot meal and offered a handshake. The reactions were

heartwarming. Every single person was polite and grateful, not just because they were receiving food, but because they were being acknowledged. I realized that sometimes, people just want to be seen and heard. We even met another family that was also helping the homeless, giving out clothes and blankets. We decided to team up for a while, offering both chickens and warm clothing to those we encountered.

Throughout the day, I experienced and witness so many different emotions. Walking up to tents and temporary shelters can be intimidating because you never know how someone might react. But theres also so much hope and joy in providing a hot, healthy meal to someone who needs it. The smiles we received in return were so wide and genuine, and sometimes, there were even tears. I had conversations with people about the holidays, and some even gave us gifts in return. One man handed us a Christmas card, and another, who was so proud, insisted that we take his gift of small, clear-cut glass "diamonds" before he would accept our meal. These moments touched my heart deeply.

What impressed me the most was the generosity of the people we met, even though they had so little. Even though they were struggling, they were still willing to share what they had. I realized that true kindness comes from the heart, and it doesn't matter how much or how little you have. The people we helped might not have had much in terms of material possessions, but they were rich in kindness and gratitude.

Reflecting on this year's Chicken Run, I feel grateful for the experience. It's easy to take things for granted, especially during the holidays, but this tradition has taught me the importance of giving and the joy that comes from helping others. I am excited for next year, and I hope to expand my charity, allowing me to make an impact on more people in need.