

2020

# NEWSLETTER

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



SoJo Foundation  
Since 2017



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## 2020: Working During a Pandemic

The pandemic didn't stop us. It made our mission more important. In 2020, we raised \$800 to purchase 80 rotisserie chickens and 30 sweaters. With masks, gloves, and precautions in place, we delivered meals to camps along the Coyote Creek Trail, Roosevelt Park, and St. James Park.



The year was challenging for everyone, but the people we served reminded me of all our resilience and generosity. Despite having so little, some even shared their meals with

others. Moments like these are why we do this.

## SoJo Foundation's 4th Annual Christmas Eve Food Drive

Sophia here, and I am 12 years old, writing about the success of my 4<sup>th</sup> annual food drive for the homeless in San Jose, CA.

Using GoFundme, I raised \$400, and then my mother matched it, for a total of \$800, to help feed and provide warm clothing for those less fortunate than I.

2020 has undoubtedly been a tough year for all of us, given the global pandemic. However, I count my blessings with a



loving family, a roof over my head, and my own rooms to sleep and go to school in.

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Many people have helped me this year. At the same time, a lot of people were out of work, and many living on the street. My food drive is a small effort to share and help those who are in need.

We used the generous funds raised to purchase 80 Rotisserie Chickens and 30 sweaters from Costco. My mom got the sweaters ahead of time, and we pre-ordered the chickens the day before Christmas Eve. On the morning of Christmas eve, my family and I picked up cooked chickens, loaded our car, and set off on our goodwill tour. While in Costco, people were smiling at me, telling me that I am doing a good deed helping others. (In previous years, some people would ask me whether I was having a big party.)

We also took the extra precautions this year due to COVID, wearing our protective masks, rubber gloves, and glasses to protect everyone.

Our first stop was the Coyote Creek Trail, near the Tully Community Branch Library. Driving along the Monterey Highway, we met several people in need and handed out warm food to a few individuals. While at the Coyote Trail area, we handed out about 25 of the chickens to people who needed them. We made them happy.

We visited Roosevelt Park next and then moved over to St. James Park, where many of San Jose's homeless had gathered. My family and I then handed out all the remaining sweaters and chickens at or near St. James Park. One woman was very generous in distributing food on her bike to those who could not easily get up. I saw so many excited faces while holding a fresh cooked, and warm meal.

Honestly, I was worried when people dashed and got too close to us to receive food and clothes,





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but I could not blame them. All we could do is keep to ourselves and do the best we could with the protective equipment we had.

I was moved by how many smiles we put on people's faces and how grateful everyone we met was to us. Every little effort can help. I love being able to do my small part. I thank all those who gave me their support. I am so grateful. I wish all of us a very Merry Christmas, a better and safe New Year in 2021.

Best wishes,

Sophia and the SoJo Foundation.