

2021

# NEWSLETTER

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



SoJo Foundation

Since 2017



[www.sojofoundation.org](http://www.sojofoundation.org)

## 2021: Persevering Through Challenges

A sprained ankle and pouring rain delayed our annual Chicken Run to December 30, but we made it happen. With 120 chickens and 75 flannel shirts, we visited camps along Monterey Highway and into the Tully community.

Even in difficult conditions, people were kind, and grateful. One man offered me a brand-new tent to give to someone else, while another woman shared rice lunches she had cooked on her food truck. These acts from those with so little humbled me.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2022



2021 has been a challenging year for everyone. I am thankful for all the help, support, and blessing I got to help me go through the year, including my SoJo Foundation's annual Chicken Run for the homeless.

This was my fifth annual Chicken Run, which was a success.

Thank you to all the people who donated, helped, and paid attention to it. We raised a total of \$400 in 3 weeks leading to Christmas. As promised, my mom matched the total donation amount. 2021 SoJo Foundation Chicken Run got \$800 for the homeless.



Since the rain poured down on San Jose on Christmas Eve and my unfortunate slip right before Christmas Eve, we postponed the chicken run to Dec 30<sup>th</sup>. We ordered 80 rotisserie chickens from Costco the night before and purchased 40 sweaters/flannel shirts. I thank the Costco at Great Oak, who prepared and boxed every chicken, and had them ready to go for us once we arrived. My mom also did some amazing thrift shopping, doubling the

number of flannel shirts with the same amount of money.

Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was a Thursday before New Year's Eve. It was the first day that I saw a ray of sunshine after nearly ten days of rain. However, it was still chilly cold at 10 in the morning, but thus our delivery journey started.



As usual, we started at the Monetary highway, to St. James Park downtown San Jose, and ended at Tully community park/coyote park. Unlike the previous years, this year, we found that most homeless people gathered and grouped in camps along the highway, under the overpass, or any open space. This made our delivery a little easier with fewer on and off stops. But the pouring rain we had mudded most places, and we are in the peak of Omicron.

With N95 masks and gloves on, we would stop at the roadside. My job was to hand the chickens and shirts through the window (since I am a "cripple" with a sprained ankle), while my dad would carry a box of chickens to the homeless camp, tent by tent. My mom was the dedicated driver, searching for those who needed help. Do I have a great team?!

Nearly everyone thanked us, appreciated our effort, especially when they had fresh warm food in their hands. It made me smile to see some people put the shirt on immediately, one more layer against the chill and windy weather. At one off-ramp camp, a lady thanked us for the chicken and told us that she's better off than the rest of the group since she has an old van and will cook a big lunch for the rest of the group. Coupled with those who had bikes, word spread to the others, and they would help us deliver the goods to those who couldn't move. One gentleman insisted on giving a brand new gift back, still in the box tent. He said, "I have a tent. This is for you, or you can give those who need it." At the Tully/Coyote camp, a woman stopped by, giving away ten rice lunch boxes. She told me that she owns a food truck; sometimes, she would cook extra rice and then give it to the homeless. She said that it was not that much, not that fancy, but anything helps.



I am humbled and deeply moved by all these good deeds. On the surface, it seemed that we send blessings to those less fortunate. In reality, it is they who showed me true humanity. They are the sparkle even when down.

We saw one tent "fenced" with some junk furniture, had made a doorstep with an old runner, lined with flowerpots, and flowers! The owner was gone for their daily activities, but seeing the flowers, real flowers, was inspirational even at a desperate time to keep their spirits high and hope alive.

We wish everyone a healthy, happy, and blessed 2022.