



SoJo Foundation's 3rd Annual Christmas Eve Chicken Run 2019



This year I made my 3rd Annual Chicken Run happen.

In 2019, homelessness in San Jose expanded further. An overwhelming majority of individuals we encountered didn't even have a roof over their heads, only tents or sleeping on the street. That saddened me a bit, and it reminded me why Chicken Run is so important.

I raised about \$300 in donations from friends and family, and my mom matched it so we could have a combined total of \$600. We bought 75 rotisserie chickens from Costco along with sweaters to give out and keep people warm. At Costco, others stared in amazement at our giant carts of chickens, and some even asked if we were having a really big party. When we explained to others it would be given out to the homeless, they only smiled and wished us good luck.

Christmas Eve morning, my family and I loaded up the car and traveled along Monterey Highway and through San Jose downtown. We could see tents and people sitting along the road wherever we went. We stopped to distribute chickens and sweaters. One guy nearly broke down and said this would be his only hot meal of the day. Another woman immediately put on her new sweater as it was so chilly. The hardest part was to look and see how many were struggling. Camps were under highway bridges and along creeks, and it looked like wherever we would look, someone was there that was hungry. But best of all was to look and see people giving their chickens to neighbors and friends. Even when they themselves didn't have much to give, they looked out for each other anyway. That taught me what kindness is.

The Chicken Run taught me that no matter how young I am at just 11 years old, whatever small efforts matter. I appreciate all those people responsible for pulling through this year's run. We all made Christmas a bit special to many San Jose residents.

We wish you all a healthy, happy, and blessed 2020!

Love, Sophia & the SoJo Foundation