

2022 NEWSLETTER

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



SoJo Foundation
Since 2017



www.sojofoundation.org

SoJo Foundation 6th Annual Chicken Run (2022)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hi, this is Sophia, and now I am 14 years old. This year it was already the 6th Annual

SoJo Foundation Chicken Run. San Jose homelessness in 2022 remained devastating. Nearly three-fourths of them were unsheltered and camping out in tents, in cars, or along sidewalks. By foot and vehicle through downtown and along Monterey Highway and through "jungle" camps, I could see firsthand just what those numbers represented—real human beings barely holding on to keep warm and nourished right in our own community.

Thanks to contributions from family and friends and supporters, we managed again to raise a sum of \$1,200. We bought 100 Costco rotisserie chickens and scores of jackets, flannel shirts, and sweaters. As in years past, others at Costco gawked as we rolled out the mountainous giant orange carts filled to their capacity with chickens. Some thought we were having the biggest Christmas party of all time but upon hearing that it is to give away to the



Because it rained so heavily that December, camps were soggy and muddy, but people smiled and thanked us. One guy explained this was the only hot meal he'd experienced in days. A woman immediately donned her new coat and explained that it was the warmest item she possessed. Another guy offered to split his chicken with a buddy of his still snoring away in a tent. Even though they didn't have much to offer, they consistently demonstrated what true generosity is. It is the interaction and connections with people that always touches my heart.



The most difficult part is seeing how many people work, in some cases holding two or three jobs, yet are unable to afford buying a house in San Jose. Housing prices are so high and it makes the crisis seem insoluble. The San Jose Mayor, Matt Mahon, has been doing great work trying to bring affordable housing to San Jose, and it is growing. But the best of the Chicken Run is that even if we can't do it all, we can provide people with a hot meal and a sense that they're counted and that they're noticed.



My 6th Annual Chicken Run experience taught me that kindness is actually contagious. We do not distribute only clothes and food, we distribute hope, and humans propagate it among themselves.

A special thank you to all those responsible for helping make 2022's Chicken Run a success. We all put a smile and cheer on so many faces on Christmas Eve.

With love,
Sophia & the SoJo Foundation

