



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the City Manager

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***City of Saratoga To Host Annual Food and Toy Drive
Beginning on November 4, 2013***

Saratoga, CA. In honor of the season of giving the City of Saratoga is proud to announce that it will be hosting its annual Food and Toy Drive beginning on November 4, 2013.

“We hope that our Saratoga residents will come out as they do every year and give generously to those in need,” said Mayor Jill Hunter. “Saratoga residents have always participated in the traditional spirit of giving and I believe that this year will be the same.”

The Food Drive began in 2007 when Office Specialist Lynette Elliott joined the Recreation and Facilities Department. The City donates the food it collects to the Second Harvest Food Bank and each year has successfully increased its donations, collecting 1,409 pounds of food last year.

The most needed items include canned tuna, peanut butter, baked beans, canned nuts, powdered milk, 100% juice in boxes or cans, and canned vegetables and fruits. Other requested food items include boxed pasta, rice, cereal, and canned soups and stews.

“We consistently exceed Second Harvest’s expectations and have been recognized by them for the last four years,” Elliott said. “The food drive has become somewhat of a personal project for me. I enjoy interacting with the citizens as they come by to drop off their donations and I also like working with my colleagues on expanding the drive every year. It’s a holiday tradition here at the Joan Pisani Community Center.”

The Toy Drive began in 2008 soon after Deputy City Clerk Debbie Bretschneider joined the City Manager’s Office. The Toy Drive began with City employee donations until 2010 when it expanded to include community contributions. The toys collected are given to Sacred Heart Community Service.

Sacred Heart provides toys to approximately 5,000 children who participate in its programs. It is requesting non-violent toys for infants up to teenagers.

“Every year we fill up a minivan with new, unwrapped toys to take to Sacred Heart Community Center,” Bretschneider said. “I had been donating to Sacred Heart for several years and when I started working at City Hall, I just expanded the giving!”

Both food and toys can be dropped off at the Joan Pisani Community Center, 19655 Allendale Avenue; or the City Manager’s Office, 13777 Fruitvale Avenue. Additional drop off locations for food include the Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue; and Saratoga Prospect Center, 19848 Prospect Road. Toys will also be accepted at the Saratoga Historical Museum, 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. The Toy Drive ends December 12, 2013 and the Food Drive will end on December 20, 2013.

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