



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the City Manager

MEDIA CONTACT:

Brian Babcock, Administrative Analyst I
(408) 868-1275 *Direct Line*
(408) 868-1216 *Office Line*
bbabcock@saratoga.ca.us

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2014

***City of Saratoga To Host Annual Food and Toy Drive
Beginning on November 3, 2014***

In an effort to help families in need this holiday season, the City of Saratoga is proud to announce that it will be hosting its annual Food and Toy Drive beginning on November 3, 2014.

“Saratoga is a caring community that is generous and charitable,” said Mayor Emily Lo. “We ask the community to help us continue this wonderful tradition of giving by donating to our Food and Toy Drive.”

The Food and Toy Drive began soon after staff members Lynette Elliot and Debbie Bretschneider joined the City of Saratoga. The City collects food for Second Harvest Food Bank and has successfully increased its donations each year. The City collected 1,768 pounds of food last year, which is more than 300 pounds from the previous year. 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.

Food items in demand 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.

“The City was recognized by Second Harvest for its efforts this past year, earning a Blue Diamond award, which is given to groups that collect more than 1,600 pounds of food,” Elliot said. “It’s the highest honor the City has received from Second Harvest.”

This year, Sacred Heart Community Service’s goal is to provide 16,500 toys, bicycles, and books to children in need. It is requesting non-violent toys for infants up to teenagers. Toys should be new and unwrapped.

“Each year, more of the Saratoga community has been contributing toys and soon we’ll need a bigger truck to take everything to Sacred Heart!” Bretschneider said. “I’m always

happy to see the smiling faces of Sacred Heart's volunteers when we show up with all the toys."

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 Senior Center, 19655 Allendale Avenue. Toys will also be accepted at the Saratoga Historical Museum, 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. The Toy Drive ends December 17, 2014 and the Food Drive will end on December 19, 2014.

-END-

Give back to those in need this holiday!

Nov 3 - Dec 17



Toy Drive

**SACRED HEART
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Drop-off Locations

JOAN PISANI COMMUNITY CENTER
1965 ALLENDALE AVE

HISTORICAL MUSEUM
20450 SARATOGA LOS GATOS RD

SARATOGA CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
13777 FRUITVALE AVE

Toys should be new and unwrapped

Nov 3 - Dec 19



Food Drive

**SECOND HARVEST
FOOD BANK**

Drop-off Locations

JOAN PISANI COMMUNITY CENTER
1965 ALLENDALE AVE

SARATOGA SENIOR CENTER
1965 ALLENDALE AVE

SARATOGA LIBRARY
13650 SARATOGA AVE