

SUBJECT: Local Children Need Our Help More Than Ever This Year

Those of you who are long-time members have heard me say this before; “The need is greater than ever.”

As we close in on the holiday season and continue to deal with COVID-19 related issues within our community, now more than ever local children need our help.

We are fortunate to work in the financial services industry and luckily have not been hard hit. Many of our businesses are thriving, while few suffer. This is not the case for our community at large. Those who were already on the brink of financial uncertainty have been hardest hit. These are good people who have not had the same opportunities as you or I.

I know many of you support other organizations and I love you for your generosity. My hope is that you can find a few more dollars to support our long-time organization of choice The Salvation Army. This year, our local Salvation Army will be supporting 550 families.

Following COVID-19 requirements changes the dynamics of our toy drive. No longer will I get to see the gifts that you thoughtfully selected for the children. For those of you who have volunteered onsite in the past, we won't have the opportunity to work side by side. This is heartbreaking to me as I so look forward to interacting with you on a personal level.

Here's what supporting The Salvation Army on behalf of FPA of the East Bay looks like this year.

Option #1: Go online, select a child or children to sponsor. Order gifts and have them delivered directly to the Concord Salvation Army location. The online link and address is noted below.

Option #2: Go online, select a child or children to sponsor. Order or purchase gifts and personally deliver them yourself by selecting a day and time for your delivery.

Option #3: Go online and make a monetary donation which will be put to good use.

Option #4: Mail a check to Krysta, made payable to FPA of the East Bay and I will be sure that money sponsors as many children as possible. If you haven't gone shopping with me, you may not know I am a wizard at stretching a dollar!

If you choose to sponsor a child, please bring your patience and persistence with you. The Salvation Army has partnered with an outside vendor for online selection of sponsorship and monetary donations.

As is often the case, the technology has some limitations. For example, you are not able to search for a child who is looking for a particular gift, such as a soccer ball or Legos. If you want to match up a child with a particular gift, the Major and I can work with you on an individual basis. Yes George, you can still get soccer balls into the hands of children who have requested them!

When you select a child, make sure you note their name and ID in the notes section of the order or as part of the shipping address:

The Salvation Army

Child's Name & ID

3950 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521

If you plan to send a check to Krysta, please make it payable to FPA of the East Bay, note toy drive on the memo line and mail it to:

FPA of the East Bay
P.O. Box 948
Clayton, CA 94517

Here's the link where you can select a child to sponsor or to make a direct monetary donation:

<https://www.tsamm.org/angeltree/?c=A5B1D7E217AA227D5B2B8A84920780CF637960E2#home>

Since everything is taking longer these days, please make your best effort to get items delivered by December 4th.

In an effort to keep track of the children we are sponsoring, please email me the name and ID of your child(ren).

Due to the pandemic, kettle agreements (bell ringers) are down more than 50 percent. The loss of these cash donations will impact the community. Please help where you can.

I thank you for your past support and hope to count on you this year as well. Let's make it a great year of giving!

Wishing you all the best this holiday season.

Teresa Riccobuono
Public Relations Chair