



Contact: Rebecca Kleinsmith, PR Specialist
Direct: (650) 523-0820
Rebecca@samaritanhousesanmateo.org

Contact 2: Mary Dunbar, Director of Development
Direct: (650) 523-0825
Mary@samaritanhousesanmateo.org

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Press Release for Immediate Release

Toys Wanted for Families in Need

Samaritan House, San Mateo, CA: During the holidays, Samaritan House mobilizes a network of volunteers and corporate, community and faith-based groups for one common goal. They help us provide food, coats, toys and gifts for low-income families throughout San Mateo County in order to make their holidays a little brighter. The holidays have begun and we are looking for donations in order to continue providing for those in need. We need new toys for over 1500 children. All donations can be brought directly to our headquarters at 4031 Pacific Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94403.

We also invite you to cover our Holiday Program events which will be quite a spectacle. You can expect to see neighbors literally helping neighbors, thankful families and most importantly, hundreds of little smiling faces. These are great photo opportunities.

Toy Distribution Dates: Over 1500 children will need/receive toys.

- **Thursday, December 18th from 4pm – 7pm.** San Mateo Event Center(Redwood Hall), 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, CA 94401
- **Friday, December 19 from 3pm – 7pm.** San Mateo Event Center(Redwood Hall), 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, CA 94401
- **Saturday, December 20th from 9am – 2pm.** San Mateo Event Center(Redwood Hall), 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, CA 94401

Food Distribution Dates: We expect to serve over 800 families.

- **Saturday, December 13th at 9am.** Food distribution at Parkside Elementary School, 1685 Eisenhower St, San Mateo, CA 94403.
- **Saturday, December 20th at 9am.** Food distribution at College Park Elementary School, 714 Indian Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401.

As part of our Holiday Program, our kitchen prepares and serves Thanksgiving dinner to more than 450 community members. We also distribute holiday food baskets to over 800 mailies before Thanksgiving.

In December, we provide toys and gifts to children and teens and our warm coat drive provides coats to our clients, from infants through adults. We also have a **Family and Senior Sharing Program** where client households can be sponsored by donors who deliver food and gifts to their homes in late December.

With our community's help, last year we were able to provide:

- Tens of thousands of pounds of food to more than 1,000 families
- Over 3,000 toys & gifts to more 1,400 children
- 500 new and gently used coats to clients to keep them warm through the long winter months
- Food and gifts delivered to over 200 sponsored families and seniors through the Family Sharing Program

For more information, please visit our website: www.samaritanhousesanmateo.org or call 650-341-4081.

About Samaritan House:

Since 1974, Samaritan House has been serving low-income families and individuals in San Mateo County. Our services are designed to meet the immediate and basic needs of our clients for food, shelter, healthcare, clothing, financial counseling, and more. With the help of thousands of volunteers and donors every year, Samaritan House helps meet the basic daily needs of more than 12,000 individuals in our community. All of our services and programs are designed to provide quality resources and effective evaluation to our clients in order to help them become more stable and secure in our community.

Our Mission is to mobilize the resources of our community to help those among us who are in need, while preserving dignity, promoting self-sufficiency, and providing hope.