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The Sheehan Adopt-A-Family Project

1590 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite D360

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www.safproject.org

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Childhood hunger is up over 1,000% this year due to COVID19. Local charity seeks to raise awareness and help for kids in crisis

This year, due to COVID, children are increasingly more vulnerable to hunger and homelessness than at any other time since the Great Depression. The level of hunger in U.S. households almost tripled between 2019 and now. Even more alarming, the proportion of American children who do not have enough to eat is now as much as 14 times higher than it was last year.

Statistically, 40% of these these youth will wind up homeless without intervention. Every year, more than 28,000 children in foster care and group homes become instantly homeless the day they turn 18.

For eleven years, The Sheehan Adopt-a-Family Project (SAF Project), a charitable 501(c)(3) foundation (www.safproject.org), has worked to address the pressing needs of local children and families in need. SAF Project has partnered with other local charities to pack and deliver more than 1500+ boxes of food to the city's most desperate, and to provide holiday gifts to more than 350 local children. **This year, due to COVID-19, our partner charities have cancelled funding for both events, putting more than 1500 families at risk of not having enough to eat this holiday season and no toys from Santa.**

The SAF Project is raising awareness of this pressing need and seeks donations from the public this year to make up the shortfall in funding.

In addition to addressing food and housing insecurity affecting children and families in Los Angeles, The SAF Project also partners with Stepping Forward Los Angeles (SFLA) and Vista Del Mar to provide internships and housing to foster youth that will soon be aging out of group homes and foster care. These vulnerable youth are most at risk of becoming homeless. Through SAF Project's partnership with SFLA, foster and group home kids learn critical life skills including how

to apply for college and apprenticeships, how to find stable and safe housing, and how to budget, buy and prepare food.

100% of contributions will go towards the purchase of groceries, housing and essentials for kids and families we “adopt” through the DPSS "Adopt A Family" program, the Vista Del Mar Group Home, and Stepping Forward Los Angeles.

You can safely contribute online at <https://safproject.org/donate-now/> or mail your contribution to: The Sheehan Adopt A Family Project 1590 Rosecrans Ave, Suite D 360 Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Los Angeles business owner Melissa Sheehan-Clarkson founded The SAF Project after she saw the growing need to address pervasive homelessness and hunger in Los Angeles. “I wanted to give back to the community that supported my pet care company, Melissa’s Mutt Hutt (www.gotmutt.com), “I figured if I could run a successful small business for 16 years, and survive Covid19, I could apply some of these skills to help on a grass roots level impact,” said Sheehan-Clarkson. The SAF Project has grown to become the largest non-corporate adopter of DPSS families, bringing clothing, food and toys to thousands of needy families throughout greater Los Angeles area. The Sheehan Adopt A Family Project has also built 2 new computer labs and given away over 200 new and refurbished computers to foster and group home kids.

About the SAF Project:

For more than 11 years, the Sheehan Adopt-A-Family Project 501(c)(3) (www.safproject.org) (SAF Project) has been “adopting” families and kids through the Department of Public Social Services "Adopt A Family" program, Vista Del Mar Children's Services and Stepping Forward Los Angeles. SAF Project provides backpacks, clothing, toys, food, housing and computer labs to at risk youth and families residing in shelters.

About Vista Del Mar:

Vista Del Mar Child Care Services (<https://www.vistadelmar.org>) provides comprehensive housing and help to orphaned and foster children with special needs. Located on over 18 acres in Culver City, the secure facility includes 24/7 care for residents, and an exclusive school where children can be monitored at all times. Vista Del Mar’s mission is to provide at-risk youth with the best opportunity to learn fundamental life skills in an effort to prepare them for adulthood.

About Stepping Forward:

Stepping Forward Los Angeles (<https://www.stepsforwardla.org>) provides individualized, structure, support, and guidance in creating short and long-term goals, helping youth achieve self-directed goals and self-sufficiency through incredible counselling education and hands on paid internships They work

with foster youth from 14-24 that are aging out of the foster care system without programs, getting adopted or returning to their biological families teaching them basic life skills and connecting them to the resources they need to reach their fullest potential. Their ultimate goal is to help young vulnerable kids find a community where they have a sense of belonging, find their voice, acquire and utilize personal life skills and social skills necessary for a successful transition to adulthood.

About the Department of Social Services "Adopt a Family Program":

<https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/community/volunteer.html> **Adopt-A-Family** assists by sponsoring and providing contributions of food, toys, and clothing to some of our Department's neediest individuals and families. Each year, this long-standing tradition brings smiles to hundreds of families served by DPSS. In 2019, over 1,400 generous sponsors provided gifts to 2,000 CalWORKs families during the holiday season. Los Angeles County staff, individuals, groups, and businesses can all participate in this joyous and gratifying program by sponsoring families. Sponsors are matched with a family and provided with their contact information along with the family's "wish list" of requested items. These items may include; groceries, clothing, gift certificates or toys.

About the Viking Charities of Los Angeles

<https://www.losangelesvikingcharities.org>) founded over fifty years ago in Los Angeles, is an organization dedicated to bringing happiness to the lives of physically challenged and disadvantaged children. Among numerous yearly charitable functions, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and LAPD, each Christmas, the Viking Charities pack and distribute approximately 1,500 food baskets to needy families and give countless new toys.

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Social Media

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