

BRIGHT FUTURES

Holiday Share Tradition Big success thanks to growing family of supporters

Holiday Share volunteers and contributors brought smiles and good cheer to 150 families, including 327 children living in poverty in Novato at our amazing, fun-filled holiday party on December 12th.

All day long, thanks to assistance from 60 volunteers, children had their photos taken with Santa and their adorable faces painted by Mrs. Claus.

Throughout the day groups of families enjoyed popcorn, cookies and milk, and volunteer-led cookie decorating. Card-making was also a popular creative activity, ensuring that each child could add their hand-made card to a small gift bag of toiletries and sweet chocolates provided for their parents, which was prepared in advance by our dedicated volunteers.

Cookies, books and teddy bears... Oh my!

Children also received two books from our new Little Library Book Shop that is now stocked with over 1,000 titles from donation drives at Novato schools, congregations and from caring community members. Teddy bears and stuffed animals were also distributed to each child by Santa thanks to student donations from Sinaloa Middle School and community collections led by the Novato Fire District.

Parents shop with gift cards

The biggest change this year to our Holiday Share tradition was to stop collecting toys, and instead provide parents with a \$25 Target gift card for each child, labeled with their child's first name.

Parents were thrilled to shop for each child's gifts, ensuring that their little ones receive what they needed most. Additionally, each family was given a \$20 Safeway gift card toward the cost of a special holiday meal. We believe giving gift cards provides more dignity and helps parents build self-confidence as they face financial hardships that are even more challenging during the holidays.

Fun Family Night Out brings community together

Fundraising for Holiday Share was kicked off in early November with our first "Fun Family Night Out" party held at Unity In Marin which was a huge success. 140 adults and 40 children had so much fun, and gave so generously, that we plan to make this part of our Holiday Share tradition every year. We raised over \$25,000 to purchase gift cards and to assist low-income families all year long on their path to achieving a brighter future.

Live music performances, delicious food from Alta Cuisine, beer & wine tasting, along with 35 auction items and a separate party

for kids ensured that our 'party with a purpose' was enjoyed by all ages! Our unique children's party for 5-12 year olds featured activities led by Love2Dance, MarinTreats and Studio4Art all under one roof! Kudos to over 100 volunteers, 232 Holiday Share contributors, 27 sponsors and 35 auction donors who made the party such a success.

Thanks to each of you, we ended 2015 feeling grateful for our diverse family of volunteers, businesses and supporters. You are helping us build a strong community and increase our capacity to better serve more low-income children, adults and seniors in 2016!





Thank you for delivering gifts, hope and joy to 327 low-income children in Novato.

Your support will help their families move forward in 2016!

Your Insider Update



Address Services Requested

1907 Novato Boulevard
Novato, CA 94947



NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNICORN
GROUP

Legacy Gifts Provide Lasting Support

Over the years we have been fortunate to receive some very inspiring Legacy Gifts from donors who have made a commitment to helping Novato residents who are struggling with financial hardships.

Thankfully, they've shared our belief that no one should have to face poverty alone. Our most recent bequest came from Louis Francis Thoelecke who passed away in December of 2014. Louis was a long-time donor who provided annual gifts for direct client financial assistance to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Today, our Board President Mark Hoffman, and his wife Roberta, who also volunteers at our Center, joined our Legacy Circle by letting us know they have named Novato Human Needs Center as a beneficiary in their will.

Mark invites you to also join them as members of our Legacy Circle. For more information, please contact our Executive Director, Deanna Euritt (deuritt@nhnc.org or call 415-897-4147 x 38).

