



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CSA's Holiday Sharing Program is off to a great start with a very successful Toy Distribution event!**

Dec. 18, 2017 (Mountain View CA) – Thanks to the generosity of CSA donors and volunteers and an amazing staff, the children of 331 low-income families will enjoy a wonderful holiday season complete with incredible toys and gifts. The agency's annual toy distribution was held on December 2 and 3 in the conference room that was transformed into a magical toyland by the "elves" at Young, Craig and Company.

New this year was a focus on securing donations of toys and gifts for children and teens, ages 9-18, as well as gift cards. "This age group tends to be overlooked in traditional holiday toy drives so we decided to try a new approach," says Volunteer Coordinator LaDrea Clark. "We were thrilled with the community response. We received so many wonderful gifts for older children and teens, and parents were delighted to have gift card options so they could go out and purchase the perfect gift for their kids."

Each family was also given a gift card to use for household needs and the opportunity to pick up their holiday groceries from the Food & Nutrition Center (FNC). "So many of our clients work multiple jobs to support their families and keep a roof over their heads, and it is very difficult for them to come to the pantry during regular working hours, says Case Manager Eonis Cibrian-Pelayo. "They really appreciated being able to select toys and receive food at the same time and were so grateful on so many levels. Many did not want to accept the family gift card because they felt they had received so much, and one person thanked us for 'not making her feel small.' I was in tears."

CSA's Holiday Sharing Program – which includes the toy drive and holiday food distribution – requires much behind-the-scenes coordination, with planning beginning early in the year. "With so many families coming through this past weekend, we have a good handle on what to expect for the remainder of the holiday season," says FNC Coordinator Christine Flego. "One thing we know for sure is that there are more people than ever looking to CSA to help feed themselves and their families."

"While local and state policy makers continue to look for long-term solutions to the affordable housing crisis, the reality is that people in our community need our help now," says Executive Director Tom Myers. "Our Holiday Sharing Program is one example of how CSA partners with our community to help the homeless, hungry and working poor."

CSA's holiday food distribution continues through December 22. Volunteers are especially needed to help in the pantry and to shop for our senior clients. Please contact LaDrea Clark at 650.964.4630.

**Community Services Agency** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides services to elderly, low-income, and homeless residents of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills. We are the community's safety net, providing critical support services that preserve and promote stability, self-reliance, and dignity.

For more information on Community Services Agency: [www.CSAcares.org](http://www.CSAcares.org).

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