

comfort & joy

for the city

2026

HOPE

FOR SAN DIEGO

About Hope for San Diego

Hope for San Diego mobilizes a collaborative network of churches and nonprofits to create lasting hope and renewal among the poor and marginalized.

FOCUS AREAS

- **Homelessness**
- **At-Risk Youth**
- **Human Trafficking**
- **Refugees & Immigrants**

Our community gives and serves in local proximity for the benefit of our neighbors so that we together are multiplying our impact for the good of those in our city.

Message from Kate

Welcome to Comfort & Joy! This Christmas season, we remember that God came near to us in love, and we have the chance to do the same for a vulnerable neighbor in San Diego.

Whether you're shopping for gifts, serving at an event, or doing both alongside your family and friends, you are a part of something bigger than any one of us.

Thank you for saying yes.
May this season bring you joy as you share hope.

Merry Christmas,



Kate Ortiz
Executive Director
Hope for San Diego



About Comfort & Joy

For San Diegans living on the margins, **one bump in the road can send them careening into financial hardship**. A health emergency, a lost job, or other unexpected event can radically change their lives and the safety of their loved ones.

Our affiliates, *trusted non-profit partners*, are in tune with their community's needs and look to us to provide a little extra encouragement during this season. In 2025, our community shopped and served for over 950 people across 14 organizations.

Explore in this booklet ways you, your family, or your group can Shop, Sponsor, and/or Serve, as we show up together to bless our neighbors with tangible care and support.

Table of Contents

Timeline	3
Shop	4
Sponsor	5
Family Guide	6
Group Guide	9
Service	11
Young Adult Wrapping Party	13
Thank You	14

Timeline

OCTOBER

- Nonprofits collect practical info and identify greatest needs. Sends lists to Hope for San Diego

NOV. 1ST

Volunteers can



Serve



Sponsor



Shop

DEC. 13TH

- Last day to drop off gifts

THIRD WEEK OF DECEMBER

- Hope for San Diego ensures all gifts are accounted for
- Nonprofits pick up gifts

BEFORE DEC. 24

- Nonprofits distribute gifts, further strengthening relationships with the recipients they serve.

Vulnerable neighbors living on the margins experience love, care and support from churches and individuals. And our nonprofit partners are supported throughout the year.

Shop

Get a personalized list to shop and wrap!

Volunteers, families and groups sign up to shop for San Diegans living on the margin. When you sign up, you'll get a list of requested items, shop, wrap, and drop off to us.

STEP 1 Sign up and select who you want to shop for. Shop for a variety of neighbors connected with our partners:

Family - Various Sizes	$100 per person
Survivor of Trafficking	$150
Student Overcoming Adversity	$150
Refugee Neighbor	$150
Homeless Neighbor in Recovery	$100

**All groups include a $50 grocery card*
***Consider shopping as a group and share the cost*

STEP 2 You'll be paired up to receive a personalized list of gift requests.

STEP 3 Shop and wrap (family guide - pg. 7, group guide pg 9)

STEP 4 Drop off dates are between December 6 and 13. You'll receive a variety of geographic locations to choose where it's most convenient for you to drop off.

FAQ

How does this support my neighbors?
We know each of the San Diegans selected are being invested in and care for throughout the full year. These gifts and tangible needs fill in a necessary gap for our nonprofit partners so they can focus on what's most important: the people they serve.

Can I request the organization I want to support?
You may enter a request, but given the size of this program we may not be able to accommodate every request.

Do you have additional needs?
We support our partners throughout the year! Consider making a year end gift to help the sustainability of our partners throughout the year.

Sponsor

Have volunteers shop on your behalf!

Sponsoring is a great option for those who can't commit to shopping, but still want to bless families and neighbors this holiday season. This is the opportunity to give. We'll use these funds to shop for you!



01

Use the QR Code and specify your amount and designation.

02

Write a check and mail it to:

Hope for San Diego
4075 Park Blvd, Suite 102-348
San Diego, CA 92103

03

Make a gift of stock

04

Make a gift through a Donor Advised Fund

Questions?
Reach out to **Jane@hopeforsd.org** for a quick response.

Family Guide

Have a conversation with young ones about loving our neighbors

Serving is the perfect opportunity to inspire your kids to engage with the world as the hands and feet of Jesus.

If you are shopping for a family or neighbor through Hope for San Diego this year, you can involve your kids by asking for their input and help.

Have them help shop with you, wrap gifts, or just carry boxes and tape.

Take the opportunity to talk about why serving is important to your family.

> ***If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."***

1 JOHN 3:17-18

Explaining Who has Need

Your child will likely ask,

“Why are we giving toys to other kids? And who are these families?”

This is a great opportunity to explain that not everyone in our city has the money they need to afford essentials like food and gas, let alone extra things that bring joy, like toys.

Families may be experiencing material poverty for many reasons...

- **Homelessness**
- **Loss of a job**
- **Medical emergencies & hospital bills**
- **Single moms / one income**

Explaining Why We Serve

- Volunteering is not just to make ourselves feel good, but to reflect the love that Jesus has shown us.
- Everything we have was given to us by God, and he wants us to share it with those in need.
- God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Neighbors aren’t just people who live next door, but include people very different from us in different parts of our city.
- God cares about our souls and our bodies.

Reflection Questions

How do you feel when you receive a gift? How do you feel when you give gifts? What are some things that God has given you that you’re thankful for?

What are different ways we can serve? What gifts has God given us to offer to others?

How do you think it feels to not be able to afford special gifts at Christmas?

What would it be like if you knew you wouldn’t receive any presents?

PRAYER

God, thank you for the good gifts you have given us: food on the table, clothes on our backs, and loved ones who see and know us. We easily forget these good things and we ask you to help us be more thankful for both your good gifts and your presence here and now. Give us eyes to see, and ears to hear, and mold our hearts to care more and more for the people you deeply love. Thank you for your Word that reveals your character, heart, and love for the poor and weak. And thank you for the greatest gift of all, your precious Son, Jesus Christ, who being both God and Human, entered into our world for our sake and in our brokenness.

Group Guide

Shopping and Wrapping with a group?
Here is a step-by-step guide!



1 Have one person sign up on behalf of the group.

2 Send out the list to your group and have them sign up for specific people or items.

- If someone needs a lower budget way to participate, they could provide wrapping supplies or the grocery card.

3 Plan a date before Dec. 13th to wrap the gifts together. Consider a wrapping party!

4 Once you gather, share the nonprofit affiliate guide you received with your list to let your community know more about the organization. Use this discussion guide for conversation.

5 Pray over the organization and the specific points, as well as the direct neighbors you shopped for.

6 Check that all gifts have labels, and designate one person to drop off the gifts, preferably in boxes.

Reflection Questions

Was there ever a time you relied on the kindness of someone you didn't know?

What stands out to you as you think about this family in need at the holidays?

How does the reality of Christ's becoming poor in the Incarnation speak to you?

The neighbors you are serving are cared for throughout the year by these nonprofit partners. What next step do you believe you can take to serve our neighbors in the new year?

✦**PRAYER**

Lord, give us eyes to see opportunities to serve in simple, practical ways. Soften our hearts to love well. Prepare our hands and feet to serve our neighbors. Kindle our minds to desire to learn about the vulnerable in our city and teach us what you want us to know and how you might want us to respond.

Service

Show up and use your hands, feet and heart to engage.

SIGN UP

NOV 14 — **Prayer Team at Thanksgiving Meal** San Diego Rescue Mission
Downtown · 12-4pm · 8 volunteers · 18+ only

NOV 21 — **Thanksgiving** San Diego Refugee Tutoring
City Heights · 12:30-3pm · 14 volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

DEC 1 — **We See You Dinner** We See You San Diego
Old Town · 4:30-7pm · 20 volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

DEC 2 — **Wrapping** Hope for San Diego
North Park · 10am-12pm · Unlimited volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

DEC 5 — **Family Christmas Day** Bithiah's Family Services
San Marcos · 8:15-11:45am or 11:45am-3pm · 5 volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

DEC 7 — **Mercy Me Packing** UrbanLife
City Heights · 5-7pm · 6 volunteers · 18+ only

DEC 8 — **Mercy Me Distributing** UrbanLife
City Heights · 3-6pm · 6 volunteers · 18+ only

DEC 8 — **Cookies & Books** San Diego Refugee Tutoring
City Heights · 4:30-7pm · 10 volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

DEC 10 — **Cocoa & Gifts** San Diego Refugee Tutoring
City Heights · 4:30-7pm · 10 volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

DEC 11 — **DHF Artist Showcase** David's Harp Foundation
Downtown · 4:30-6pm · 5 volunteers · 16+ only
All abilities

DEC 12 — **YA Wrapping Party** Hope for San Diego
North Park · 5:30-7pm · Unlimited volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

DEC 12 — **Holiday Handmade Gift Event** Clairemont Emmanual
City Heights · 12-5pm · Unlimited volunteers
Family friendly

BY DEC 13 — **Back Up Shoppers** Hope for San Diego
County-Wide · Unlimited volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

N/A — **Prayer Team** Hope for San Diego
County-Wide · Unlimited volunteers
Family friendly · All abilities

Additional group opportunities available online.

comfort & joy for the city

YOUNG ADULT

Wrapping Party

SATURDAY, DEC. 12 2026 · 5:30–7 PM

Covenant Church

2930 Howard Ave San Diego, CA 92104

a night of

COOKIES & DRINKS ✦ GIFT WRAPPING ✦ COMMUNITY

how it works

1. Get a list of 1–2 people to shop for
2. Go shopping for their gifts
3. Bring gifts and receipts to wrap together and get reimbursed

hopeforsd.org/young-adults

Thank You

Thank you to the generous Volunteers, Donors, Hope Partners, Companies and Churches who invest in this mission to care for our neighbors throughout the year!











Thank you to our in-kind corporate sponsors:

Please consider shopping with the businesses who are investing in our community.

DR. BRONNER'S ALL-ONE!

CleverMade

jojo's CREAMERY

KENDRA SCOTT

SWITCHFOOT

vuori

Vision

We envision a renewed San Diego where even the most vulnerable thrive through the love of Christ.

www.hopeforsd.org

SIGN UP TO SHOP BY

Dec. 6th

ALL DROP OFFS BY

Dec. 13th

Thank you for joining us this Christmas and holiday season to love our local neighbors!

4075 Park Blvd
Suite 102-348
San Diego, CA 92103

Tax ID: 77-0605178