

Local News

San Jose Foos' fairgrounds toy drive gets a boost from mayor's office

Fourth annual event aiming to distribute 30,000 toys next weekend at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds



The Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose will be the site of the county's first Veterans Stand Down, a resource fair for veterans on July 8-9, 2023.



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San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan's office is putting its holiday spirit behind the fourth annual San Jose Toy Drive, an effort that's grown exponentially in a short time and aims to distribute more than 30,000 toys to families at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds next weekend.

That's right. Even the mayor of the biggest city in San Jose has been drawn into the orbit of San Jose Foos, the megapopular social media account and civic influencer that has been part of the toy drive since 2021.

"San Jose Foos is a social media phenomenon," said Mahan, who recorded an Instagram video with San Jose Foos founder Anthony Gomez in front of City Hall last month. "We've tried to work together and promote good causes in the city, and this is a great initiative I want to be supportive of."

The effort could still use more toys before the distribution to about 10,000 pre-registered families next weekend. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off in person at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds or donors can contribute cash or buy something directly from the San Jose Toy Drive's Amazon wish list. Go to www.sanjosetoydrive.com to find out more.

The San Jose Toy Drive started out pretty small as a collaboration among businesses in Japantown but got very big in a short time. Sacred Heart Community Service is also partnering on the effort this year, along with the Fairgrounds, which is donating the use of its space for the toy distribution for a second year.

Salene Duarte, co-interim executive director of the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Management Corp., said she's excited about the partnership with Sacred Heart and San Jose Foos.

"It's heartwarming to see our community come together through the efforts of these incredible influencers and organizations," she said. "By providing our facilities at no charge, we reaffirm our commitment to connecting essential resources with those in need — a small gesture that can create lasting joy."

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