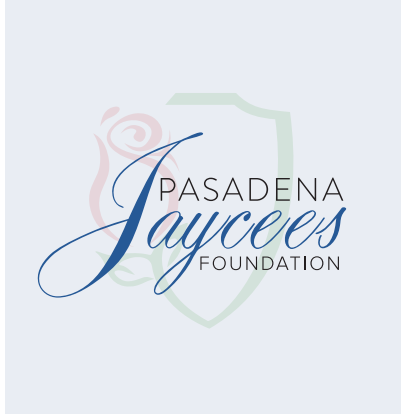




A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION

I'm honored to present the Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce Foundation's annual report for 2023, highlighting our continued dedication to serving the Pasadena community.

My name is Mike Wehbe, and this is my second year as President of the Pasadena Jaycees Foundation. I'm also a JCI senator and served as the 87th president of the Pasadena Jaycees in 2016.

This past year, our signature programs—Operation Santa, Operation Gobbler, and the Five Acres Party—were back in full swing, giving back to more than a thousand members of the Pasadena community. We were also able to contribute to our Kasukabe Homestay program by sponsoring two high school students who could not otherwise afford to join the trip.

After a hugely successful year of fundraising in 2022, we were able to surpass those numbers and raised over \$40,000 thanks to many generous

donations and grants. Past Presidents, current and past members, honorary life members, politicians, parents, grants, and Facebook campaigns, all came together to support each one of our projects.

The Pasadena Jaycees were also recognized by JCI California and received several awards, including Top Inter-Chapter Project for the Kasukabe Homestay Exchange, Top Community Impact Project and Best Overall Project for Operation Santa, as well as Alumni of the Year, awarded to Sherri Notley, for her many years of supporting Operation Santa, among other things.

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers and donors. Your dedication fuels our mission. We're energized to build on this momentum and make 2024 an even greater year for the Pasadena community.

- **Mike Wehbe**, Foundation President

web: pasadenajaycees.org | email: foundation@pasadenajaycees.org | social: [@pasadenajaycees](https://www.instagram.com/pasadenajaycees)

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FIVE ACRES

Our partnership with Five Acres foster home, the oldest non-sectarian child services center in the San Gabriel Valley, continues to be a highlight for the Pasadena Jaycees.

“Even though it might be commonplace in the world beyond, we all know how especially meaningful a summer afternoon of play is to the kids at Five Acres.”

- CLAIRE PUKSTA

Founded in 1888 as an orphanage, Five Acres provides vital support to abused and

neglected children through prevention, treatment, and family education.

This year, the Jaycees once again brought smiles to the faces of the Five Acres children with engaging and fun activities.

This year's festivities kicked off with a splash! Water balloon battles, a slip-and-slide extravaganza, and colorful arts and crafts stations kept the energy high. Snow cones, popcorn, pizza,

and friendly competition in basketball and soccer rounded out a memorable day.

By the numbers...

24 CHILDREN SUPPORTED

17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FIVE ACRES

70 PERCENT FUNDED BY DONATIONS

These events were made possible thanks to the generous donations to the Pasadena Jaycees Foundation.





“This is a life-changing trip. Visiting our sister chapter in Kasukabe opens doors to growth, friendship, and international collaboration. Bonds forged through karaoke and community service last a lifetime!”

- DREW MCWILLIAMS

KASUKABE HOMESTAY EXCHANGE

Building cultural bridges since 1985, the Pasadena Jaycees' Kasukabe Homestay Exchange program fosters international understanding. Each summer, Jaycees and local students travel to either Kasukabe, Japan or to Pasadena, experiencing life with host families and participating in cultural activities.

This long-standing exchange fosters friendships and creates a lasting connection between our chapters, promoting global understanding and lifelong bonds.

The chance to participate in this program is highly

sought after for both Jaycees members and high school students in the community. This year, the Pasadena Jaycees Foundation was able to help two students take part in this special experience by offering scholarships that covered the full cost of the program, other than the flight.

The trip included visits to Tokyo, Nikko, and Kyoto, as well as a visit with the Kasukabe Mayor, and an exchange with students at Kyoei University.

The Kasukabe Exchange was also awarded the Top Inter-Chapter Project for 2023 by JCI California.



By the numbers...

2

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR THE EXCHANGE

\$1,600

IN FUNDS DONATED

18

STUDENTS & ADULTS
TRAVELED TO JAPAN



OPERATION GOBBLER

The Pasadena Jaycees' heartwarming tradition of providing Thanksgiving meals to those in need continued in 2023. This year, Operation Gobbler ensured that more

First organized in 1987, Op Gobbler has been a cornerstone of the Pasadena community service efforts for 37 years. Jaycee members work hard to collect ingredients and

distribute ingredients for Thanksgiving meals to local families facing hardship.

Thanks to generous grants and community donations, including support from the Hartford, Whole Foods, Smart and Final, Stater Bros, both Pasadena Dog Haus restaurants and Aldi, Operation Gobbler again

By the numbers...

37

YEARS OF
GIVING
BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY

326

FAMILIES
RECEIVED
MEALS

100%

FUNDED
THROUGH
GRANTS

“Everyone deserves to have a proper Thanksgiving meal on the table. The Jaycees are proud we can continue to provide that to our community year after year.”

- MATT BRUNNER

The Jaycees remain deeply grateful to Friends In Deed Pantry for their ongoing partnership in this vital program.

than 300 families enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving feast.

provided a helping hand during the holiday season.





OPERATION SANTA

For 89 years, the magic of the holidays has been delivered throughout Pasadena thanks to the Pasadena Jaycees' Operation Santa. In 2023, more than 30 Santa Teams and 200+ volunteers spread holiday

“This project might be 90 years old, but I’m so happy to say it’s alive and thriving. We served more kids than we have in over a decade.”

- JESSICA WEHBE

cheer, delivering thousands of toys to families on Christmas Eve—more toys than have been delivered through this project in over 10 years.

Operation Santa received fantastic media coverage from KNX and Pasadena Now, solidifying its position as a beloved community tradition.

The project wouldn’t be possible without the invaluable support of partners like Reading to Kids, Toys for Tots, and Sparks of Love. We’re also incredibly grateful to The Notley Family and Becon Property Management for their generous donations, which allowed each child to receive a personalized selection of toys, including a STEAM toy to ignite their curiosity and spark an interest in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

By the numbers...

1,300+

CHILDREN RECEIVED TOYS & A VISIT FROM SANTA

50%

OF THOSE SERVED WERE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

31

TEAMS OF SANTAS & HELPERS

Operation Santa was awarded the James Jones Jr. Memorial for Top Community Impact Project of 2023, as well as the Best Overall Project, by JCI California. JCI California also awarded Sherri Notley Alumni of the Year for her work supporting the project!





EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

Beyond our cornerstone projects, the Pasadena Jaycees and Pasadena Jaycees Foundation foster connections within the community through various initiatives.

Each year, the Pasadena Jaycees play a vital role in the Rose Bowl experience by selling official game programs on New Year's Day. Outside of the funds raised by the Jaycees Foundation, this event is the Pasadena Jaycees' main chapter fundraiser, and the dedicated efforts of our members and participating

school and community groups are instrumental in supporting all our community projects throughout the year.

The Pasadena Jaycees Foundation also brought back the successful Drag Queen Bingo fundraiser and grossed more than \$1,200, while also putting on a highly entertaining event for the community.

Additionally, the Pasadena Jaycees contribute to help outside service groups, volunteering at the LA Food Bank, the Masters of Taste

event (supporting Union Station Homeless Services), Escondido Jaycees Christmas Parade, Glamour Gowns and Suit Up, and more. The Jaycees have also partnered with The Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, raising money for youth music programs in the community.

The Jaycees frequently partner with Five Acres and Friends In Deed, as well.

Please reach out via our website or info@pasadenajaycees.org to sign up or get future updates on a particular project.



PASADENA JAYCEES FOUNDATION
474 W WALNUT STREET
PASADENA, CA
91103-3562

DONATE TO THE
PASADENA JAYCEES
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