

PASADENA JAYCEES FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



The **PASADENA JAYCEES** are the

**California
Chapter
of the Year!**

for 2025, as awarded by **JCI California**

A Message from *Foundation*

It is with great pride that I present the Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce Foundation's annual report for 2025. It was a year defined by resilience, record-breaking impact, and the kind of community spirit that reminds us why we do this work.

The year began with the devastating Eaton Fire, which struck our community on January 7, destroying thousands of structures and displacing tens of thousands of residents. Many members of our chapter were touched in some way by this tragedy. And yet, in the weeks and months that followed, our members showed up. Jaycees who had lost their own homes volunteered at evacuation centers. Members stepped up alongside

the Red Cross and local police. **Our chapter transformed grief into action.**

In 2025, we didn't just maintain our programs. We elevated them. Five Acres became 100% donor-funded. Operation Gobbler served 450 families, up from 400. Operation Santa reached a record-breaking 2,200 children from 800 families, 500 more than the year before, with a dedicated initiative for families displaced by the fires. And we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Kasukabe Exchange, sending 25 participants to Japan, while offsetting the costs for students with \$10,000 in scholarships.

The dedication did not go unnoticed. **The Pasadena Jaycees were named California**

Chapter of the Year, and earned the **Clarence H. Howard Memorial Award**, recognizing us as one of the **top three chapters in the nation**. The chapter also brought home several other awards at the state and national level (detailed later in the report). These honors reflect the energy and commitment of every person who made 2025 possible.

Deepest gratitude goes to every volunteer, donor, and partner. Your support is the engine driving our mission forward. We are energized by this momentum and **look forward to making 2026 an even greater year of service** and leadership development 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 Summer Party

For nearly two decades, the chapter has partnered with Five Acres, the San Gabriel Valley's oldest non-sectarian child services center, to provide the foster youth in their care with a day of **joy, creativity, and connection.**

In 2025, that partnership took on even greater meaning. **The Eaton Fire directly impacted Five Acres—the facility sustained fire damage, and residents were displaced to a hotel.** With that context in mind, our committee set out to create something bigger and more meaningful than ever before.

This year's event was **designed from the ground up with**

input from the youth and staff themselves, incorporating ideas and passions of our own committee members into every activity station. The result was an afternoon of games, arts and crafts, sports, STEM activities, food from local community partners, and personalized gift bags. **Each child left with something tangible to carry home.**

The project also served as a powerful entry point for new Jaycee members, who helped design and lead individual stations. The project was 100% donor-funded, reflecting both the generosity of our community partners and the fundraising energy of our committee. Seven

new members joined the chapter through this project, discovering firsthand how leadership and service go hand in hand.



THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT PARTNERS

Five Acres • Target • Lucky Boy • Book Alley • Remainders Creative Reuse • Michaels • The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company • Union Street Toys • SusieCakes • Macy's • Lakeshore • Olive Garden • Collector's Paradise



"This year we aimed to provide an event at a grander scale than we had before, partly in response to the difficulties their community has faced in the wake of the recent Eaton Fire."

- MARCUS BALDWIN, FIVE ACRES CHAIR, 2025

20

foster youth served

16

Jaycees volunteers

100%

funded through donations

Kasukabe Homestay Exchange

Since 1985, the Pasadena Jaycees' Kasukabe Homestay Exchange has been building bridges of international friendship and understanding. Alternating yearly, Jaycees and local students travel

to Kasukabe, Japan, or host their Japanese counterparts here in Pasadena, immersing themselves in culture through host families and planned activities.

In the summer of 2025, **we marked the 40th anniversary of this remarkable partnership.**

Twenty-five participants—15 adult Jaycee members and 10 local high school students—traveled to Kasukabe for a week of cultural immersion, sightseeing, community events, and connection with our sister chapter's members and host families.

This year, accessibility was a defining priority. The Pasadena Jaycees Foundation awarded **\$10,000 in scholarships**, ensuring seven students with demonstrated financial need



could participate. The US JCI Foundation contributed an additional \$3,500 grant for the Farewell Party and supplies. Participants engaged with more than 50 Japanese members, students, and host families throughout the journey.

Back in Pasadena, the **newly introduced Sayonara Party drew more than 60 community members** to celebrate the exchange and the bonds it continues to build.

25

Exchange participants

7

students received scholarships

40

years of exchange

“One of the biggest things I took away...was a deep appreciation for the generations who kept this tradition going...I've personally built lifelong friendships through the program — the kind of connections that continue long after the exchange ends.”

- SHAWN SAUERWEIN, KASUKABE HOMESTAY CHAIR, 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT PARTNERS

Kasukabe Jaycees • Pasadena Jaycees Foundation • US JCI Foundation • The Hoiby Family



Operation Gobbler

Since 1987, the Pasadena Jaycees and Friends In Deed have partnered to provide Pasadena-area families with everything they need for a Thanksgiving meal — from the turkey to all the traditional fixings.

In 2025, that need was especially acute. With the lasting impact of the Eaton Fire still being felt across the community, **more local families were struggling**

to make ends meet. In response, we expanded our reach, **serving 450 families** — up from 400 the year before — through volunteer-sorted and distributed meal kits delivered the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Operation Gobbler gives Jaycees members hands-on canvassing and relationship-building experience while deepening one of our most meaningful

community partnerships. **For the families on the receiving end, it means a holiday meal shared at home, with dignity.**

THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT PARTNERS

Friends In Deed
Dog Haus
Trader Joe's
Smart and Final



\$9,309

In monetary **donations**

1,100

people received **meal kits** for at-home preparation

\$3,885

In-kind **donations**



“Watching 450 families receive complete Thanksgiving meals was not an abstract impact—it was something tangible and visible. Every fundraising call, every turkey order, every logistics spreadsheet had a human face attached to it.

- MANNY OCHOA,
OPERATION GOBBLER
CHAIR, 2025

Operation Santa

Since 1934, Operation Santa has touched the lives of thousands of children every year, and 2025 was no exception. Hundreds of volunteers come together each holiday season, sorting toys and forming Santa Teams to deliver toys to children on Christmas Eve.

This year carried special meaning. In the aftermath of the Eaton Fire, many families in our community had lost everything.

A dedicated Eaton Fire Relief Initiative ensured that displaced families, including those who had relocated outside the service area, could still meet Santa and receive toys through an alternative pickup event. **Santa visits were also extended to families residing at Union Station Homeless Services family shelter.**

The project’s reach (and need) continued to grow, with **new families accounting for more than 700 of the children served participating for the first time.** Approximately **half of all families served self-reported living below the poverty line.**

For many, Santa’s visit was not just about toys—it was about being seen and acknowledged by their community.



THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT PARTNERS

Scottish Rite • Toys for Tots • Sparks of Love • Altadena Sheriff’s Station • Polytechnic School • Collector’s Paradise • Santa Clarita Jaycees • Union Station Homeless Services • JCI California Foundation • Judy Chu Toy Drive • The Notley Family • PCC Cosmetology

“Operation Santa was the first Jaycees project I was involved with when I joined. During the months I spent on the committee, I met passionate, dedicated Jaycees who poured countless hours into bringing this project to life. By going out on a Santa delivery route, I was able to directly witness the impact this project has on Pasadena families. That feeling moved me—and I was honored to chair it in 2025.”

- ASHLEY JORDAN, OPERATION SANTA CHAIR, 2025



2,200

Children received toys and a visit from Santa

33+

families served through the Eaton Fire Initiative

35%

first time families

Expanding Our *Impact*

Beyond our cornerstone projects, 2025 was a year of significant expansion, engagement, and achievement for the Pasadena Jaycees.

The year kicked off with the Rose Bowl, where **Program Sales generated nearly \$20,000**. When the Eaton Fire struck just six days into January, the chapter did not pause. Members **mobilized alongside the Red Cross, volunteered at evacuation centers, and provided ongoing support** throughout the lengthy recovery process.

Across 2025, the Jaycees held 60 events—from monthly mixers and spin classes to Renaissance Faire outings and community service projects. We completely **rebuilt and redesigned our website**. We built and strengthened **65 community**

partnerships, forged 23 new business relationships, and welcomed back 42 returning supporters.

The Pasadena Jaycees were recognized at the state and national level for their achievements over the course of 2025.

JCI California: Best New Member (**Kyle Eligio**), California Jaycee of the Year (**Shawn Sauerwein**), California Chapter Vice President of the Year (**Brady Mahony**), Top Community Impact Project (**Operation Santa**), California Chapter of the Year (**Pasadena Jaycees**)

JCI USA: Most Outstanding Inter-Organization Collaboration Project (**Pasadena Jaycees Exchange with JCI Kasukabe**), Clarence H. Howard Memorial Award, Outstanding Local



Chapter (**Pasadena Jaycees**), Heidi Juttner Memorial Award, Outstanding Local Chapter Officer (**Shawn Sauerwein**), Dr. Jerry Bruce Memorial Award, Outstanding Long-Term Local Community Development Programs (**Five Acres Summer Party**), Top Recruiter (**Madison Hoiby**).

We invite you to join us in making a difference! Please reach out to us via pasadenajaycees.org or info@pasadenajaycees.org to learn more, sign up for project updates, or become a member.



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

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PASADENA JAYCEES
FOUNDATION TODAY!



Thank You to Our 2025 Donors

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BEACON PROPERTY MGMT, INC.	DAVE HOTCHKIN	HOLE PUNCH DESIGN <i>(In-Kind)</i>
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