



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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La Mesa Chamber Members Give the Phrase "There's No Place Like Home for The Holidays" New Meaning By Collecting Toys for La Mesa Military Families

La Mesa, California, December 16, 2020 - La Mesa Chamber members, friends and the community come together every year to celebrate our strength and our strong belief in giving. We do this by collecting and distributing toys and items to military families living in La Mesa military housing. Each year we have assisted these children and their families, through a partnership with Lincoln Military Housing, the organization that manages military housing throughout the nation. We usually have a huge party at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, complete with food and beverages, as a way to collect our toys. This year due to the pandemic, we had to change our strategy and hold a "Drive -Thru" toy gathering activity at Grossmont Center.

In addition to the "Drive-Thru" event, we partnered with Teresa McClatchy, the manager of **Barnes & Noble** in Grossmont Center who usually hosts an annual book drive for these families, as well. With the current restrictions, that activity also had to be shelved. Teresa and her team were not deterred by the pandemic and held their own in-house book drive, gathering books and toys for the children. With the help of Teresa and the **Barnes & Noble** team members, we are happy to have been able to collect over 402 toys and items this year.

We want to thank all of those that played a part in assisting the children this year and making a difference in the lives of our La Mesa military families.

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