



Sacramento County's Gifts from the Heart Program Needs YOU!

What is Gifts from the Heart?

Founded in 1988, the Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) program is an annual holiday gift-giving program that provides gifts to children, teens, disabled adults and seniors. These clients are served within County programs, including Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services and the Public Guardian/Conservator, in the Department of Child, Family & Adult Services (DCFAS). Each season, more than 90 community organizations and private sponsors donate 10,000 gifts to over 3,000 vulnerable and isolated clients who would otherwise be without holiday gifts.

How does the Gifts from the Heart program work?

All gift recipients are referred by their social workers, who send in "wish lists" for each client. Those "wish lists" are then matched up with sponsors who purchase the gift(s), wrap them, then "bag and tag" for pick-up by volunteers or deliver themselves to the Gifts from the Heart warehouse. Gifts are then delivered to the client's social worker for delivery; some senior gifts are delivered by GFTH volunteer drivers, using assigned vehicles.

Can I volunteer with Gifts from the Heart?

Yes! Many of our volunteers are retired former Sacramento County employees, and assist with gift pick-up from sponsors, distribution, delivery, sorting, loading and unloading gifts during the first three weeks of December each year. Volunteers will be working in a warehouse near Folsom Boulevard and Power Inn Road for the three-week period. Scheduling is flexible and volunteers must be able to lift 30 lbs. or more with no physical limitation to bend or reach. All volunteers must pass a criminal background screening (at no cost to the volunteer), and should be willing to work as part of a team with community partner agencies, department staff, social workers and other volunteers.

How can I become a Volunteer with Gifts from the Heart?

Contact Tonja Edelman, GFTH Coordinator, at EdelmanT@saccounty.net or (916) 875-2027 for an application.

Where can I learn more about the Gifts from the Heart Program?

You can learn more about the program at our website:

<https://dcfas.saccounty.net/Admin/VOL/Pages/GI-GFTH-Questions-Answers.aspx>.