Volunteer Coordinator Micki Hickox stopped by the Escondido Fire Department last month to pick up a generous donation: the station donated $400 towards the purchase of outdoor shades and garden boxes for our Hawthorne Veteran and Family Resource Center. We thank the Escondido Fire Department not only for their daily service to our community, but for also helping to make it a better place with this donation.

Interfaith thanks everyone who participated in our 2016 Holiday Adopt-a-Family program, making it our most successful year yet! 110 adopters generously adopted over 570 individuals and families, fulfilling hundreds of holiday wishes and providing our clients with comfort and support. This year, Interfaith hosted a Holiday Open House where adopters were welcomed to our headquarters to drop off their gifts and celebrate the season with holiday decorations, music, cookies and punch. Thanks again to everyone who participated this year and made the holiday season a little brighter for our clients.

The Larry Himmel Neighborhood Foundation made a surprise visit to Interfaith last month to see what the children in our Family Housing program were asking for this holiday season. The foundation sent a costumed Santa Claus to a gathering of families in the program and after Santa took requests from each child, they secretly fulfilled wish lists and sent Santa back to make deliveries just before Christmas. “Many of the people who knew my Dad for his work are from an older generation,” said Miles Himmel, son of local TV icon Larry Himmel and founder of the foundation. “My hope is that someday people may say ‘I didn’t know your dad from his work, but I do know his foundation.” Miles formed the foundation after his father’s passing to help San Diegans in need all over the county.

Over 570 clients receive holiday gifts through Adopt-a-Family

The Larry Himmel Neighborhood Foundation sends Santa to Interfaith

Escondido Fire Department donates to veteran programs

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Pictured above: Volunteers Corryn Kivetty and Larry McCulla, both from Mariner Wealth Advisors, help organize gifts at the 2016 Holiday Adopt-a-Family open house

Pictured above – Top: Santa (portrayed by Bruce Patch, Larry Himmel Foundation board member and Himmel’s longtime cameraman at KFFB) asks children in the Family Housing program for their holiday wishes. Bottom: Micki Hickox, Volunteer Coordinator, visits the Escondido Fire Department.
Anonymous donor purchases bikes for Interfaith kids

Interfaith thanks an anonymous donor for giving $2,000 to purchase new bicycles for the children participating in our programs. The bikes were distributed in part to families participating in our 2016 Holiday Adopt-a-Family program, as well as to children in our Family Housing and Family Self-Sufficiency programs. We thank our anonymous donor for his continued support of our organization and the families in our North County communities. With his help, the holiday season was a little more special for children in need this past year.

Painted Rock Elementary fifth graders make teddy bears for Interfaith

Thanks to students in Mrs. Rizzuti’s fifth grade class at Painted Rock Elementary in Poway for continuing a 20+ year-long tradition of donating teddy bears to Interfaith during the holiday season. The students each made their own bears, picking out their favorite fabric and colors, and then donated the finished products to Interfaith so we could provide the children we serve with an extra-special gift during holiday season. We thank the students for their thoughtfulness and hard work, and can’t wait to see what they create next year!

U.S.S. Midway Foundation donates $30,000 to the Hawthorne Veteran and Family Resource Center

Interfaith was one recipient of the U.S.S. Midway Foundation’s 2016 charitable giving grants, receiving $30,000 in funding to support the Hawthorne Veteran and Family Resource Center last month. “Freedom isn’t free, and the Midway Foundation is here to help ensure that those who protect our liberties receive the support they need,” said Malin Burnham, Midway Foundation Board Chairman. Interfaith thanks the U.S.S. Midway Foundation for their support and looks forward to growing our partnership in the coming year!