



# Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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## News Release

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### **Sheriff's Custody Staff Spreading Holiday Cheer and Helping Those in Need During Holidays**

**Santa Barbara** – Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Custody Staff and California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) employees have been working together the past several weeks to put together holiday care packages to give to the homeless in our community. Tomorrow, December 22, 2017, they will distribute the packages to those in need at various sites throughout Santa Barbara.

At 11:00 a.m. they will deliver the bags to the Transition House located at 434 E. Ortega Street. Transition House staff and Doctors without Walls-Santa Barbara Street Medicine will be there to accept the packages and make sure they get to those who need them the most.

The packages include a blanket, emergency blanket, sandals, socks, a scarf, toiletry items such as a toothbrush, soap, deodorant, sunscreen, chapstick, granola bars and water. The bags also include a resource packet which includes how to access important resources. All the items were donated or purchased by CFMG and Sheriff's Custody Staff. Thanks to KMART for providing a generous discount for several of the items that were purchased for the bags. This is the first year that CFMG and the Sheriff's Office have partnered to create and distribute holiday care packages. They hope to make it a yearly tradition.

Earlier this week, Sheriff's Custody Staff donated 10 children's bicycles to the Transition House. The bikes were all refurbished through an inmate vocational program at the Main Jail. All of the bicycles were given to children in need, just in time for the holidays.

The Recycle a Bicycle Program is a long-standing Sheriff's Office tradition. Each year, the Sheriff's Office collects bicycles, either through evidence, recovered or unclaimed stolen property, abandonment or through donations. In many cases, the bicycles are in need of minor repair or reconditioning. To get these bikes back on the road and safe to ride, the Sheriff's Office started a Recycle a Bicycle Program, where Santa Barbara County Jail inmates enrolled in work programs refurbish the bikes and effect minor repairs. The program gives the inmates an opportunity to give back to their community. It also allows the inmates a chance to develop bicycle repair skills. The Recycle a Bicycle program requires no budget since inmates do the work and are not paid. The inmates also do not receive additional credits for time off their sentences for participating in the program. This program was a previous recipient of the California State Association of Counties Challenge Award for demonstrating effective, original and cost-conscious ways that counties are serving their citizens.

