

The Birth of Operation Dreamkeeper

The birth of Operation Dreamkeeper came about through the vision of the late Robert Thurber, a volunteer at the Good Samaritan Training Center. Having grown up without parents, he believed that every child's dream was to be love—yet there are thousands of children for whom love is difficult to find due to poverty, sickness, and sometimes death. Christmas for many can be a day of blissful excitement, but for some it is their worst day of all. Unfortunately, there are children who wake up to the gift of nothing under their little tree of hope. Mr. Thurber, who grew up as one of those children, felt something needed to be done for today's children in need. On December 21, 1993 the Good Samaritan Training Center, along with the help of the community hosted its first annual.



Good Samaritan Training Center

1331 E Fremont St
Stockton, Ca. 95205
Phone (209)469-7098
www.goodsamaritantrainingcenter.com

Business Hours:
Monday
Wednesday
Friday
9am-12noon

*"Christmas, my child, is love in action.
Every time we love, every time we give,
it's Christmas"
--Dale Evans Rogers*

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DONATIONS

Would you like to make a donation to the Good Samaritan Training Center? Please complete the form below and send it with your donation to: Good Samaritan Training Center, 1331 E Fremont St. Stockton Ca. 95205. You may also donate your used vehicle to help provide food and clothing to the needy in our community. All donations are tax-deductible, and 100% of the proceeds goes toward daily operations. The Vehicle Donation Program hotline number is 1-800-567-1069.

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Good Samaritan Training Center OPERATION DREAMKEEPER



2024

The Good Samaritan Training Center, in the heart of the city with the city at heart, is determined to provide the basic needs today and the necessary training for tomorrow. Our goal is to enable people to become productive, thus adding real value and dignity to their lives.

"Making a difference in a child's life at Christmas"

The Last Season at Home by David Cloxton

This year's Operation Dreamkeeper was very special to us Samaritans. As always, we distributed nearly 1,000 tickets to disadvantaged children in our community. We did this by churches, community centers, 2nd Chance Thrift store, 211, United Way, and of course The Good Samaritan Center. During our fundraising we heard a lot about returning the Dreamkeeper event back to the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. Since COVID 2019 we have presented the Operation Dreamkeeper event at The Good Samaritan Center facility. Platinum Insulation along with its Senior Project Manager Omar Gonzalez donated lots of toys and bikes and he encouraged us to go back to the fairgrounds. He offered to donate 100 bicycles for the 2025 event!



David Cloxton shared the Christmas story of the birth of Christ. Brother Coco waits here to direct families for prayers and bicycles.

Michael Spanos, Brother & Sister Purviance, Lighthouse of the Valley church all contributed large donations and some agreed also about moving the event back to the fairgrounds. We followed the weather forecast around 5 days before the event and realized that we were going to get hit by the eye of a large storm with high winds. We started praying. We bought several canopies along with some staff brought in theirs to help. We anchored the canopies from the front door following the building with heavy weights that were donated to the thrift store. It created shelter from the rain and some shelter of the wind. The rain stopped shortly after the event began and for most of the day. God hears our prayers! Even with the weather the line formed early and we decided to open early as well. The line continued to until shortly after 1: PM.

As the families entered, they heard and was shown the Nativity story by Pastor Josh Haney's Acts 29 youth ministry members. Then the children received their gifts and were invited into one of the 8 offices for prayer and Christmas encouragement. Churches gave out invitations to their services and every child got a stuffed goodie bag with candy. After the families were sent through the back where Joe & Cheryl Beltran randomly gave out 35 bicycles.

For the first time this year we opened up the Good Samaritan Resource Center upstairs (which will be used in part to teach bible studies and preach God's word) to the Spanish speaking and had 2 powerful church services. These services promoted Christmas and God's love for everybody. Both services had around 50 people in attendance. There was a powerful altar call.

At the event we provided BBQ hot links. Hot dogs, chips and a variety of sodas to our volunteers. The next day it was reported that several families attended the Primera Iglesia Christmas play and church service.

I'd like to announce the Dreamkeeper 2025 with all of our effort will be asking the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds for Building #2 be donated to us once again! It'll be the first season back where we belong!

Rose Delsie - Keeping Christmas Dreams Alive

Me and my two sons moved from West Virginia about 6 months ago to Stockton. I went on Disability in 2018 because I had a couple of strokes and went to drug rehab because I was drinking and doing drugs. I went to Family Times recovery home with my sons. They helped me get sober by doing AA steps and helped me understand the Word of God. After 6 months I moved in with a friend and things weren't going well so I had to move back to West Virginia to live with my sister for 2 years then I came back. I went there twice then now I'm settling back in Stockton.

I have a small disability check of \$1100 and I struggle to make ends meet. School clothes and supplies and all. I have a friend I'm renting a room from. I can't afford to buy food at times so I came to The Good Samaritan for food. The opening prayer made me cry and my interviewer told me about the Dreamkeeper tickets that my kids could have a Christmas party. It would be so hard for my kids to have a real Christmas with gifts without Dreamkeeper. Its keeping their dreams alive. I thank God and praise Jesus for the help.



Left: Rosie was very happy to help us with a Dreamkeeper story. She was blessed with a ticket and the food!



Right: Hortenzia felt amazing after receiving prayer, food and a Dreamkeeper ticket for her kids!

Hortenzia - The Love of a Christian

I've been married to my husband Emmanuel for 10 years and we have 4 children. I take care of the children at home and my husband is a seasonal field worker. It is not year around work. He only worked 2 days last week because of the weather. Lately there are more workers than there is work. I came today because I heard about the Dreamkeeper program for Christmas for my kids from my friend. My five-year-old Giselle and 9-year-old girl Jasleen got signed up. I heard the morning prayer and I liked it. I felt the presence of God and the people here are Christian and have great faith in Jesus Christ. I used to be Catholic. I'm interested in going to a Christian church. I talked to my interviewer Juanita to learn more about the bible and she invited me to church on Sunday. After I had more prayer, I felt energized by God's love through the Christians that helped me and I have a desire for more.

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TOY DRIVES

PLATINUM INSULATION • OMAR GONZALEZ
LIGHTHOUSE OF THE VALLEY • PAULINE BRADLEY
 TOYS FOR TOTS • BMO BANK



BMO Bank held a toy drive for Operation Dreamkeeper.



We got a lot of looks from folks with our carts full of toys we bought with Dreamkeeper donated funds.



Pictured here are the employees of Platinum Insulation who again donated lots of toys and bikes.



Toys 4 Tots gave us stuffed bags full of new toys. Pictured here is Lizett Valadez and GSC staff member Coco Molina.



Pauline Bradley brought in lots of toys from the Lighthouse of the Valley \$1,000.00 donation.



Pictured here are only some of the Toys Platinum Insulation donated.



Ms. Sanchez dropped off bags of toys during the event.

SPECIAL THANKS

PASTOR JOSH HANEY & ACTS 29 • GIFT WRAPPERS
LAWRENCE COGO PHOTOGRAPHY • GOOD SAMARITAN STAFF
COMMUNITY CENTERS WITH HELP OF SIGN-UPS

Rebekah McGavock - A Grandmother's Christmas

I came in for a box of food today and signed up my 7-year-old granddaughter Phoenix for the Dreamkeeper party. Her mom Marissa is on a fixed income and can't get her a gift for Christmas without the help of Dreamkeeper. I had a stroke a couple of months ago and I'm going through a lot right now. My granddaughter's Phoenix mom Marrissa had major surgery 2 months ago so I've been helping take care of her. Phoenix came to a Dreamkeeper 2 years ago and loved it and her gift and now she wants to win a bike. Since we both are financially struggling right now this is a blessing. Marrissa suffered through drug addiction and got clean 7 years ago when she was pregnant with Phoenix. I am really thankful for this because I really want to get my granddaughter some gifts and Dreamkeeper can help with that.



Left: Rebecca had attended past Dreamkeepers with her granddaughter Phoenix and was glad to be able to attend again!



Right: Ashley, Millie, Mason and Pamela enjoyed being at the Dreamkeeper event.

Ashley (mom) Millie, Mason, Pamela (Grandma) - The True Meaning of Operation Dreamkeeper.

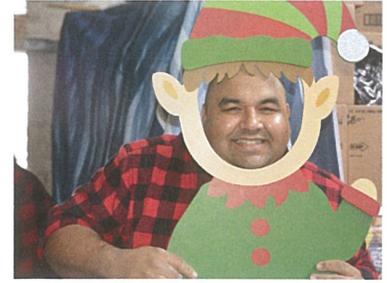
Grandma Pamela mentioned that Dreamkeeper means a lot this year, even coming in the hard rain and wind because we can't afford Christmas. She said they are on a fixed income and spend all the money they have on food. She also mentioned that she attends church but not enough and how she would like to get the children Millie and Mason in church to protect them from drugs and gangs. The mom Ashley said its awesome that they are able to get gifts because they won't get a lot of gifts. Our family has 9 people and everyone is having a hard time. It gives me anxiety. We prayed for them before they left and the presence of God came in and touched them with the true meaning of Operation Dreamkeeper. The mom Ashley said the presence of God made her feel better from her anxiety.



Shirley, Carol and Emily helped to wrap hundreds of toys.



Noemi stacked her wrapped toys very high at our gift-wrapping event.



Joe Beltran put smiles on the children's faces with new bicycles and a jolly smile.



Acts 29 also shared the Christmas narrative with families that attended.



The rain stopped shortly after 9:00AM as families waited eagerly to come inside.



Acts 29 sings Christmas Carols to the families as they arrive.



The new Resource Center on our 2nd floor held its first event at the Operation Dreamkeeper for the Spanish speaking.



Happy Smiles were seen frequently throughout the Dreamkeeper event.



Pauline Bradley the Director of the Children's ministry of Lighthouse of the Valley shares the joy of Christmas.



Cheryl Beltan gives out a new bike to Amari who was full of smiles.



Marlene helped Loretta pack the goodies bags full of candy for all the children at the event.