



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES FAMILIES IN NEED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKET AND TOY GIVEAWAY**

**El Monte, Calif.** – The City of El Monte Police Department will once again make Christmas wishes come true for thousands of local residents at its annual Christmas Basket and Toy Giveaway on **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.** Baskets will be assembled at the rear of the El Monte City School District offices, located at 3540 Lexington Avenue.

Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, the project that once provided baskets to 30 local needy families now provides more than 800 Christmas baskets filled with food and toys that reach more than 4,500 people.

The event is coordinated by Officer Larry Fry, who has been in charge of the project for four years. “I have participated in the coordination of this project for over 20 years – even before I was an officer, I used to volunteer. I do this because I used to be the kid who received the baskets. This was my Christmas.”

Fry’s job with this project consists of more than just delivering the baskets; he and his partner, Ed Legarreta, spend hundreds of hours picking up donations and, with the help of other officers, college interns and volunteers, separating all of the toys by age groups and making sure all food is distributed evenly among families.

With more than 250 volunteers each year, the giveaway process lasts only about four hours. Fire fighters, police officers, city officials, school personnel and community members gather bright and early to team up and assemble and deliver the baskets.

Families receiving baskets are chosen by school nurses, school resource officers and school personnel, through sign-ups at the police department, and through radio calls received by police officers. All families on the list to receive baskets are cross-referenced to make sure no one is left out.

Those interested in volunteering to deliver the baskets the day of the event should arrive at the El Monte City School District Offices no later than 7:30 a.m. on Saturday.

If you are interested in donating food or toys for the Christmas baskets, please contact Officer Larry Fry at 626-580-2186.

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The City of El Monte, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit [www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/](http://www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/).