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KAISER PERMANENTE FRESNO EMPLOYEES SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER BY GIVING TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program and Marjaree Mason Center focus of employee-giving projects this season

Fresno, CA, Dec. 10, 2015 – This holiday season, Kaiser Permanente Fresno employees donated new toys and books to Valley children in need and provided socks, soaps, lotions and other toiletries to domestic violence victims at the Marjaree Mason Center.

The holiday-giving drive kicked off several weeks ago with large bins placed throughout the Kaiser Permanente Fresno medical centers and outpatient clinics where employees donated new, unwrapped toys. More than 200 toys and books were collected.

In addition, since October employees have been collecting items for the victims at the Marjaree Mason Center. Hundreds of items – including diapers, shampoo and even cell phones – were donated by employees.

"Helping those in need in our local community is really the core of Kaiser Permanente Fresno's mission and it's so heart-warming to see our employees giving to others," said Kaiser Permanente Fresno's Senior Vice President and Area Manager Debbie Hemker, RN. "We appreciate everything our employees have done to make the holidays a little brighter for Valley residents."

Since 1996, Kaiser Permanente Fresno employees, physicians and volunteers have donated thousands of gifts to needy children in the local community.

Candice McAleavey, a Kaiser Permanente Fresno senior health educator who helped organize the drive for the Marjaree Mason Center, said she was overwhelmed by the response.

"Our employees gave so much to help these women who really need these toiletry items," she said. "It's really great to see everyone stepping forward to help."

Officials with the Marjaree Mason Center said they were grateful for Kaiser Permanente Fresno's support: "The much-needed toiletry items that Kaiser Permanente has been so graciously donating to MMC through their drive will keep hundreds of families we serve clean, happy and healthy this time of year," said Marjaree Mason Center's Executive Director Genelle Taylor Kumpe."

For more information or to request interviews, please contact Kerri Leedy at (559) 448-4138 or (559) 307-6491.

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