



NEWS RELEASE

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Holiday Baskets – You Are Not Alone Program



Click on the photo to watch a video of the touching holiday visits

The holidays can be a challenging time for seniors who live alone. The COVID-19 Pandemic is also contributing to the isolation of those most at risk of catching the virus.

That's why the Sheriff's You Are Not Alone (YANA) Program is so important. YANA ensures daily telephone calls and a weekly visit from a Senior Volunteer Patrol team year-round. If no one picks up the phone, a deputy follows up with a welfare check.

We kept the program going during the pandemic with phone call welfare checks. Sheriff's Deputies also serenaded the seniors while wearing a face mask from a safe distance.


For Christmas, the Sheriff's Department delivered gift baskets to 135 seniors enrolled in the YANA Program. 13 Sheriff's Department Stations and Substations including North Coastal, Rancho San Diego, Vista, Poway, Ramona, Santee and Lemon Grove participated in the surprise visits. The deliveries were done while safely observing social distance.

To download video of the holiday deliveries and touching interviews for broadcast, visit <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/IZkdhOkFTa>.

The gift baskets were filled with blankets, shirts, toiletries, hand sanitizers, pet food and \$25 grocery gift cards. Some stations personalized their giveaways with jackets, socks, gloves, homemade cookies, pet toys, pain relief patches and additional \$35 grocery gift cards. The Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association received a \$10,000 grant from the San Diego Senior Community Foundation for the You Are Not Alone Program gift baskets.

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