



## **Giving Trees: A Community Project by Harbor City Food Pantry**

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October 15, 2021

### **Introduction**

Harbor City Food Pantry 501(c)3, humbly submits a proposal to the Harbor City Neighborhood Council for community support in approving a Neighborhood Purpose Grant of \$5,000.00, to be utilized in providing patrons of the Harbor City Food Pantry with Christmas trees during the December 2021 holiday season.

Located in the Old Towne area of Harbor City, the Harbor City Food Pantry is a community resource where the majority of food distributed is donation based. We strongly believe that every person has a human right to fresh natural foods- regardless of their race, income, education level and status of citizenship. We make a good faith effort to only accept usable items, and train every volunteer- dedicated or new- to assure the quality and freshness of any foods and/or products that are distributed to the community weekly.

Currently we receive donations from Cast Your Bread Los Angeles and Food Forward; along with several other neighboring organizations which help us in distributing fresh seasonal foods to our diverse community in Harbor City and its surrounding areas- and we are rapidly growing!

The community who utilizes Harbor City Food Pantry, are majority-comprised of families of color and the elderly. Due to systemic racial disparities, the ongoing pandemic, inflation and the current lack of a living wage, this demographic remains under funded, under privileged and without necessities- or wants that could be considered common and that most might take for granted.



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## Proposal

This holiday season, Harbor City Food Pantry has set an intention to distribute Christmas trees to one hundred fifty (150) families on a designated Saturday in December 2021. The majority of these families consist of multi-generational households; families who have a loved one/s with disabilities, care-givers who have lost their main source of income, and still others who are struggling to recover from the pandemic.

A current study by Professor Melissa Sturgeon-Apple from the University of Rochester has proven that children from families struggling with financial instability, notice the financial burden of their care-givers. By providing our community members with a Christmas tree, the Harbor City Food Pantry hopes to help these families alleviate some of the debilitating stress that falls to many parents and/or caregivers during the holidays. Through this act of giving and promotion of celebrating togetherness, Harbor City Food Pantry hopes to also minimize the risk of poor mental health and social isolation in the communities it serves.

The act of providing Christmas trees to struggling families in Harbor City, would exemplify community leaders' recognition of their at need citizens. In return, creating bridges and lines of communication between organizations and community. With the help of the Harbor City Neighborhood Council, the reputation of giving back to those in need will not only be recognized by the Harbor City Food Pantry & it's community, but by the entirety of Harbor City.

If you or another member of the Harbor City Neighborhood Council are free this, or any Saturday morning, we invite you to come check us out! See what we do, meet our volunteers, get to know our patrons and experience how our organization makes a weekly impact on the many lives of our diverse community.



## Budget

With the approval of the \$5,000.00 Neighborhood Purpose Grant funds, Harbor City Food Pantry will purchase Christmas trees from a wholesale vendor that operates in Northern California & delivers locally to Los Angeles every holiday season. Furthermore, by using a wholesale company, the delivery of Christmas trees will consist of a single trip directly to our distribution location.

This cost-effective method will permit Harbor City Food Pantry to distribute a Christmas tree to the 150 families/community members that we service on any given Saturday; without having the fear of running out of trees before distribution hours end.

The table below breaks down how the NPG funds of \$5,000.00 will be allocated in regards to the purchasing of Christmas trees through a wholesale retailer. Which is estimated to be \$25 per six-foot Christmas tree; making the cost (for trees only) estimated at \$3,750.00. Costs of delivery and storage fees have also been estimated to be \$1,250.00.

Should the costs of storage fees and/or delivery fees not total up to the estimated \$1,250.00, subsequently leaving the project's funding to total less than \$5,000.00; all remaining funds will either go toward purchasing a total of 300 trees or fresh foods to distribute the Saturday following the Christmas tree distribution date.

	Cost Per Tree	# Families Distributing	Delivery Fee/ Tree	Total Costs
<b>Christmas Trees</b>	\$25	150		\$3,750.00
<b>Storage Container, Delivery Charge, &amp; Potential Foods*</b>				\$1,250.00
<b>Total Budget</b>				<b>\$5,000.00</b>

\*Should less than \$1,000.00 be needed/used in delivery & storage fees for the Christmas trees, the remainder of the NPG fundings will go to acquiring more trees or fresh seasonal foods for distribution at the Harbor City Food Pantry.