



Spreading Warmth and Hope: CAI San Diego's YAC Holiday Drive

BY AMBER KORODY-HALL, CCAM, CMCA

Each winter, CAI San Diego partners with the Youth Assistance Coalition of San Diego (YAC-SD) to bring light, comfort, and compassion to local youth experiencing homelessness. The annual holiday supply drive is more than a seasonal tradition – it is a community movement that reminds us how powerful small acts of kindness can be when we work together.

From November 1 through December 17, business partners, management companies, and homeowner associations across San Diego will open their doors as donation hosts. Collection boxes will fill with the essentials—travel-size toiletries, jeans, jackets, snacks, blankets, diapers, wipes, and \$10-\$15 gift cards – to help YAC-SD continue its mission to provide a “hand up, not a handout” to youth in need.

Participants are encouraged to bring donations to the CAI San Diego holiday mixer on December 10 at Paradise Point Resort & Spa, where each donor will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card and be entered into a raffle as a small token of appreciation. For those unable to attend, volunteers from CAI's community outreach committee will coordinate pick-ups, ensuring that every contribution reaches the youth who need it most.

Those looking to make an even greater impact can contribute financially through www.yacsd.org/give or purchase items directly from the Amazon wish list (<https://amzn.to/3L6pig8>). Every dollar and every item donated helps YAC-SD fill critical gaps—providing hot



meals, hygiene supplies, and the resources needed to help young people transition off the streets and toward a brighter, more stable future.

The giving doesn't stop there. On December 17, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., volunteers are invited to join CAI San Diego's community outreach team at YAC's headquarters at 1848 Commercial Street, San Diego, CA to help sort donations. Afterward, a hosted dinner will be served for YAC's youth clients—a heartfelt opportunity

to connect, share stories, and see firsthand how the community's efforts make a difference.

New this year is the adopt-a-youth program, offering donors a chance to sponsor an individual youth's holiday wish list—typically ranging from \$200 to \$300 per adoptee. It is a personal, meaningful way to bring joy and hope to a young person navigating difficult circumstances, allowing donors to directly impact one youth's holiday experience with thoughtful, individualized gifts.

Together, through generosity and teamwork, CAI San Diego and YAC-SD are building a community where compassion shines brightest during the holidays. To learn more or get involved, contact Amber Hall at the email below.



Amber Korody-Hall is the owner of Choice Management Solutions. She can be reached at amber@choicemanagementsolutions.com.