



P.O. Box 3030, La Mesa, California 91944-4259

February 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

It is my pleasure to tell you that San Diego MOM has been very active during the pandemic. Our Director, Barbara Chavez and her staff have worked very hard to find ways to continue our programs of supporting the junior enlisted in San Diego County. Our services were needed even more because these families' have experienced a new challenge on top of having limited funds; losing supplemental income. Spouses have lost their income not by their own means, but due to businesses closing, whether temporarily or permanently, or having to stay at home with their children due to schools closing. As a result, we have seen an increase in families needing our help that would not have normally utilized us.

San Diego MOM has been able to continue supporting these military families throughout the pandemic despite the decrease in cash donations of about 30% over last year, the cancellation of two fundraisers, and the cancellation of the annual Postal Union food drive which provides a large portion of the donated food we received. This resulted in us having to purchase more food than usual. In addition, we also purchased items such as, diapers, wipes, cribs, car seats, other infant items and material to comply with the government's COVID safety guidelines (mask, gloves, thermometers, sanitizing wipes/sprays, signage, etc.).

Our four programs, (Food, Distribution Center, Special Events and Emergency Help), had to be modified. We were still able to hold our Christmas Toy stores as you can see by the attached pictures. Instead of holding baby showers we delivered baby bags full of new baby items to the bases for distribution to expectant mothers. Instead of delivering our food to the military housing we held "Pop Your Trunk and Go" food drives and delivered weekly to bases for distribution. Our Distribution Center on Activity Road continued to be open but followed strict government guidelines to protect our staff and clients. We are pleased with the success over last year as shown by the statistics below.

- Families Served: **FY2019** 12,043; **FY2020** 13,554
- Food distribution: **FY2019** 2,566; **FY2020** 2,597
- Distribution Center Items: **FY2019** 49,424; **FY2020** 63,774

Although we saw a decrease in cash donations, our donors have continued to provide the goods we put in our Distribution Center. We are grateful for the continued support. Thank you so much for your contribution to this work and with helping us give thanks to the military families for their service to our country.

Visit our website at sandiegomom.org to see how to be involved in this great work.

SDMOM IN ACTION



SDMOM's 2020 holiday season was a great success. We were able to serve hundreds of local enlisted military families. Here is one of the many thanks we received:

"In these times of crises, it is organizations like San Diego Military Outreach Ministries that step up to the plate and continue to serve their communities, providing joy, adding value to peoples' lives, reinforcing the golden rule, and reminding us of the amazing country we have sworn to defend" (U.S. Navy Commanding Officer Jeremiah Ragadio, 2020).

Thank you to everyone who helped made it happened. We could not have done it without you.