



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

Department of Recreation & Community Services

PRESS RELEASE

4100 Baldwin Park Blvd. · Baldwin Park, CA 91706 · (626) 813-5245, Ext. 268 · Fax: (626) 814-2998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Yuriko Ruizesparza, program supervisor
Phone: (626) 813-5245, Ext. 268
Fax: (626) 814-2998

Free food baskets to help hundreds of families

Program designed to assist disadvantaged in time for holiday season

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (November 2, 2016) – Applications are now available to local residents and families who could use some extra support this upcoming holiday season. Officials with the Department of Recreation and Community Services have officially launched their annual Christmas Food Basket program, and they want to make sure eligible residents do not miss out on this opportunity.

“There is a greater need in Baldwin Park because [residents] just have less discretionary income, so these types of programs are really valued by the community,” Manny Carrillo, director for the Department of Recreation and Community Services, said.

According to Food Basket organizers, Baldwin Park’s annual Food Basket Program connects disadvantaged residents with a variety of produce, meats, and canned goods that could prove helpful during the holidays, when expenses can be higher than usual.

Residents may receive and submit an application for a gift basket through November 17. Applications are available at the Esther Snyder Community Center, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd., or at the Teri G. Muse Family Service Center, 14305 Morgan St. Submissions will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

To help as many locals as possible, organizers stressed that gift baskets are limited to one per household and are only available to city residents. In fact, potential food basket recipients

must provide proof of income and Baldwin Park residency to qualify for the program. Once a resident is approved for a basket, he or she will be assigned a pick-up time and date.

Carrillo said his city has organized the Food Basket Distribution project during the holiday season for close to two decades, as many as 500 baskets are distributed to local families each year. The project was created out of local officials' ongoing efforts to help the community, especially those who may be financially strapped.

"During the event, we get so many smiles and 'Thank yous.' It's amazing," added Carrillo.

Recipients of the food baskets will be given a box filled with produce, chicken, tortillas, cheese, and apples, among other fare. Primary contents of the gift baskets are provided by Navidad en el Barrio, a non-profit organization that accumulates food donations from major food companies throughout the year. Those donations are then supplemented with canned foods (donated by Baldwin Park Unified School District students), as well as other donations provided through local community groups. Once all the items are gathered into each donation box, food baskets may weigh as much as 50 lbs., Carrillo noted.

"We wouldn't be able to make this happen without all of the community partners," he said. "You name it, and they're contributing in some way, shape, or form."

For more information about the Food Basket Program, call (626) 813-5245, Ext. 268, or visit www.baldwinpark.com.

About Baldwin Park

The City of Baldwin Park Department of Recreation and Community Services provides year-round recreation activities and community services to residents of Baldwin Park and surrounding communities. For additional information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Community Services at (626) 813-5245.

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