



KCAPS

Kingsburg Community Assistance
Programs and Services

1139 Draper Street
Kingsburg, CA 93631
(559) 897-7961



DECEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER

AS 2018 IS COMING TO A CLOSE WE THOUGHT WE WOULD OFFER TO YOU SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR AND MINISTRY

- **Food Drive:** Very successful We even had people bringing in food the week following the actual date.
- **Toy Stores:** 692 children (plus probably some last-minute extras) will be receiving toys through this ministry. Thank you, thank you, thank you to those who donated gifts or money for these children! That's close to \$21,000 worth of toys and clothing. This is a very giving and generous community and we are thankful beyond measure.



We of course do not yet have 2018 statistics, but we are on track to being equal to or exceeding prior years on several fronts. To give you a view as to what happens here please take a look at the following:

- In 2017 KCAPS provided approximately 21,315 meals
- \$113,765 was spent on various types of aid: emergency rent, utility, & transportation needs, professional counseling and tutoring services, scholarships, and supplies for various ministry and outreach programs.



To put that into perspective, in 2015-2017 KCAPS provided:

- 65,155 meals
- \$278,417 in aid (This does not include the value of the food.)
- Statistically the value of the distributed food would be at minimum \$403,000 for those years.
- **1,575** children in Kingsburg, London, and Traver received gifts through our Toy Stores (\$47,250)



2018 brought us two new Ministry Houses. The **Traver Ministry House** is now the home of missionaries to the community of Traver. They work very closely with KCAPS and we are so excited to be doing ministry together.

- 2018 brought Traver a new soccer field that KCAPS installed and funded through donations of time and materials. This is used for Traver and London's Kid's Club tournaments and is a big draw for a community that previously had no organized youth sports programs.
- The London and Traver ministries reach approximately 70 adults and 130 children on a weekly basis. They meet in our facilities.
- To give you an example of the ministry happening there: Traver's Pastor Juan Diaz (missionary couple) has been working closely with 6 elementary school aged boys. They are very often disruptive, aggressive, and without intervention clearly headed for trouble. KCAPS recently purchased new bibles for these boys, the receipt of which clearly stunned them. The clear leader of this gang of boys told the others that Pastor Juan is his guy and "they are going to listen to what Pastor Juan has to say to them or they can get out". That's progress! Please pray regularly for these boys and Pastor Juan.
- The Pastors, their wives, and our staff work closely with each other as they together serve our clients and their respective communities. Their tag team efforts are clearly bearing fruit.
- The **Transitional Living Home** is used to give individuals and families an opportunity to change their life's direction and get on solid footing. We previously had the free use of an apartment but when that ended it was imperative to find permanent housing for this program.
- This 12 – 18 month program includes low cost housing, a savings program, professional counseling, mentoring, oversight, accountability, and if available, employment. The purchase of this property also allowed us the opportunity to expand our processing area as it is immediately behind our Kingsburg facility.



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2018 continued

- We have outgrown our London facilities and a third modular building is being installed at this time.

Every day at KCAPS is an adventure. Some events bring joy, others do not. All bring an opportunity to watch God at work. What fun it is to watch the toy and food donations roll in. It's fun and satisfying to work the Toy Stores and watch hundreds of parents provide for the children. What joy it is to watch two new homes be purchased and completed, and have them completely paid for, all in one year!

Walking through our doors are people traumatized by the loss of loved ones, the loss of employment, the loss of hope. Where DO you go when no one will listen to your story? Where DO you go when you have been betrayed and abandoned? Some are the victims of other's decisions. Some are the victims of economic realities. Some are the victims of their own poor choices.

This year brought us teen aged children whose mother was dying. This year brought us multiple grandmothers who hadn't planned on raising their grandchildren. They are heartbroken over their own children's decisions. They are struggling financially. The emotional and physical tole sometimes feels unbearable.

This year brought us a family of five living in one room of a relative's home. The husband walked away leaving them homeless and with little or no income. Mom just wanted an ear to listen and a heart to care. She says that she is grateful for what she does have.

This year, like any other, brought us: Long term clients who make, what are to us, unfathomable choices. Long term clients who finally got it together – and then lost it. Clients who want us to give, and give, and give, and then are angry when we do not.

Mostly what we receive is a God given opportunity to "feed the widows and the orphans". They are fed sometimes literally with food. They are fed with a hug, a listening ear, a prayer, words of encouragement, and the life-giving words that THEY MATTER. That GOD loves them. That there IS HOPE.

If you work here you are privileged to enter into the joys and sorrows of others lives. **If you donate your money, your time, or through the Thrift Store YOU are an integral part of this ministry. THANK YOU!**

