



Holidays are about family, happy memories and hope for the future...

But for the 2,000 children in San Joaquin County who have a parent in jail or prison, the holidays are often a lonely time.

Imagine you are a child and the holidays are approaching. Imagine the thought of the holidays without your mom or dad.

Imagine the heartfelt sadness of a child who cannot be with their mom or dad, the shame of having a parent in jail, the secrecy, and not knowing when the family will be together again.

Imagine feeling that alone in the world....

The past two years, Friends Outside has provided over 150 local children with holiday gifts, and also “thank you” gifts for their caregivers.

This year, we’d like to provide gifts for 100 children who have a mom or dad in the county jail, and gifts for those tireless grandparents, aunts and uncles who are caring for them in their parent’s absence.

We can’t do it without your help.

Our process is respectful, and protects the dignity of those who benefit from your generosity. The gift-giving is a festive occasion...a real holiday party at the children’s museum...with holiday treats, music, games, and selection of cozy soft stuffed animals for each child, in addition to their “Friends Outside” gifts.

Parents who are incarcerated in the county jail tell us about their children’s needs, and we engage the assistance of the caregiver to suggest age-appropriate gifts. We are looking for ideas of what the child needs (i.e. new shoes, a warm jacket) and also what they would like.

These suggestions are then passed on to the individual, family or group donor who does the shopping.

There are lots of ways you can help us bring a little light into a child’s holiday. The attached list will help you decide what you would like to do to be a holiday benefactor.

Help us help a child to know they are not alone in the world, by making their holiday a little brighter.

Your gift will bring a little joy to their holiday season, and bring them hope. They are not alone.

With warm wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season!

Gretchen Newby, MA

Executive Director



Friends Outside Holiday Wishes: 2018

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Friends Outside was founded in 1955 in San Jose California to, among other things; help mitigate the distress that incarceration imposes on innocent family members, most importantly children. We are a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

There are many ways that you, your family, your work group, service group, business or faith community can help a child who has a parent in the county jail.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Provide gifts for a child or children in a family.
- Provide caregiver gifts, to thank them for stepping in to “parent” the child or children.
- Contribute wrapping paper, bows, tape, and other supplies to wrap gifts
- Donate money and let us do the shopping for you.
- Donate refreshments for the holiday party.

Get involved... to donate for the Holiday Wish Program contact Friends Outside at (209) 955-0701 or by emailing holidaywish@friendsoutside.org

**Help us give a child the gift of hope
this holiday season!**

