



November 8, 2024

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Cottage  
Supporting Foster Youth during the Holidays**

(Bakersfield, CA) – On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the Kern County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November 13, 2024 through December 6, 2024 as “Holiday Cottage Days” in Kern County. This will be our 37<sup>th</sup> year hosting our month long supportive program helping local foster youth during the holiday season.

The Department of Human Services is excited to announce the Grand Opening and Press Conference for our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Cottage. This year, we will be stationed at our Southwest Office, located at 3043 Wilson Road, Bakersfield, CA 93304 once again.

**Please join us at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2024** for a fun-filled Press Conference. You will have an opportunity to enjoy our decorated Narnia-themed space, chat with Santa, snap a few pictures, and choose a child’s wish from our tree.

Each year, the Holiday Cottage receives wish requests from over 700 children living in foster care. Children’s ages range from newborn to 21 – and some have children of their own. The wishes include: wooden blocks, Legos, dinosaurs, building projects, Play Dough, Barbie’s, musical instruments, climbing toys, baseball equipment, football jersey’s, robots, remote-control cars, bikes, specialty clothing, shoes, bikes, scooters, and lots more.

With the help of our generous community made up of local businesses, families and individuals, we have successfully filled each wish for the last 37 years, even during the pandemic. Once again, we are inviting the public to join us as we ensure children living in foster care know they are important to us, especially during the holiday season.

This year, we have several options to give:

1. Come into our live space – 3043 Wilson Road, open from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
2. Choose a child’s specific request online by viewing their wishes at [www.kernholidaycottage.com](http://www.kernholidaycottage.com)
3. Give a monetary donation & we will purchase the child’s wish: [www.kernpartnership.com](http://www.kernpartnership.com)

For information about this year’s Holiday Cottage, please visit [www.kernholidaycottage.com](http://www.kernholidaycottage.com). To schedule an interview, contact Kristy Torres, at or [oropek@kerndhs.com](mailto:oropek@kerndhs.com)

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