



December 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Celebrating a Successful 2020 Virtual Holiday Cottage

(Bakersfield, CA) – On **Thursday, October 1, 2020**, The Kern County Department of Human Services officially launched its first **VIRTUAL Holiday Cottage** through the **Kern Partnership for Children and Families**.

Our department is overjoyed to share the results of this campaign. Truly, it is thanks to the warm embrace from our community that we have been able to touch the lives of so many Kern County foster children. Due to the outpouring of monetary support from Kern County residents and businesses, we were able to fill the holiday wishes of nearly 700 local foster children. Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to bless these deserving members of our community with Christmas gifts.

In total, Kern County donated **\$33,592** to the Holiday Cottage. We'd like to give a special thank you to our donors who contributed \$1,000 or more to this cause, including Stinson's, Strata Credit Union, Exemplar, C.A.R.E. Foundation, and Kern Family Health Care. Your generosity is appreciated more than words can express. We'd also like to thank The Home Depot, who gave an additional \$3,000 to our local foster youth, as well as IKEA, for donating living room furniture to a local foster youth student. Additionally, Haddad Dodge blessed eight whole families with gifts, and even provided a wheel chair for one child. Finally, two private family donors helped a family in Ridgecrest this holiday season, along with five foster youth. Thank you for your kindness.

Again, we'd like to thank our generous community for their steadfast support throughout the past 33 years, and adapting along with us for the first virtual Holiday Cottage. Because of your donations, we've provided hundreds of Christmas gifts to local children in foster care. When debating if and how our department would navigate this year's Holiday Cottage, it was NEVER an option for us to cancel a program that makes the holiday season brighter for our community's most vulnerable. Thank you for standing with us during this challenging time. Sending peace and holiday blessings to you and your loved ones.

For media arrangements, please contact Jana Slagle at 661.342.8054 or Ally Triolo at 661.556.0376.

###