Feed-a-Family delivers “a little extra” holiday cheer
Alissa Workman

For days leading up to Thanksgiving, Rosedale Development Association buzzed with activity as individuals came by with donations to fill Feed-a-Family baskets. Members of Rosedale churches dropped off coats, turkeys, and canned goods to support neighbors in need. Many Rosedale businesses brought in boxes upon boxes of food they and their customers had collected throughout the fall. Police officers from the National Latino Peace Officers Association stopped in to give funds they had spent all year collecting. And dedicated volunteers counted, sorted, and assembled cans, coats, turkeys, fruit baskets, and more. Then, on November 21, 40 Rosedale elders and families received baskets overflowing with turkeys, fresh produce, kitchen staples like beans, rice, flour, and oil; household necessities; and winter weather gear for their children.

This is RDA’s Feed-a-Family program. “Each year I’m nervous we won’t have enough to give the families,” says Program Director Je’ T’aime Taylor, who has coordinated the program at RDA for four years. “And each year I’m again reminded of the great generosity of the Rosedale community. Individuals, businesses, churches, schools, and area organizations all came together to make sure neighbors’ needs are met during the Thanksgiving season.”

The program was not possible without the generous support of ordinary Rosedalians who give time, food, money, and winter gear to deliver a little extra holiday cheer to fellow Rosedalians in need each Thanksgiving.

“This is by far my favorite time of year,” says Dave Haun, who annually donates 80 pounds of potatoes and onions to the program. “I love being able to support the Rosedale community through this program.”

Holiday shopping is a chance to build community
by Samantha Burton-Boisie

Amidst the holiday hustle, Rosedalians are making lists, checking them twice, and searching local shops for something nice. Whether the loved ones on their lists prefer tasty food or colorful arts, home projects or community sports, no one needs to leave the neighborhood to find treasures with spice. See below for a sample of the flavorful gifts Rosedale businesses are offering this holiday season.

New this year, Three Bees Pottery and Coffee Shop (925 Southwest Blvd.) has an assortment of great gifts for the holiday season. Choose from blown glass tumblers, ceramic planters, framed Needham watercolor portraits, and gift certificates for fresh tamales or Tuesday night Lotería (Mexican Bingo). Where else can $10 buy a drink, dessert, Spanish lesson, and a chance to dare.

Finally, for those with a small budget and/or big heart, opportunities abound for giving back. Neighbors may donate to RDA in honor of a loved one or commit to volunteer as a youth sports coach, healthy kids advocate, community garden leader, or cleanup captain. Whatever the list, consult this guide for a chance to transform holiday shopping into a community building adventure.

Give “40 for 40” on December 18
by Kimberly Hunter

On Tuesday, December 18, community members are invited to the Vox Theatre to celebrate RDA’s 40th anniversary as a nonprofit in Rosedale. The event will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m., where guests will join RDA board and staff in enjoying light food and drinks, share stories and accomplishments from RDA’s collaborative community work over the last 40 years, and discuss visions for Rosedale’s future.

Unofficially organized as the Rosedale Community Council in 1945 as a grassroots, community-centered organization addressing issues such as neighborhood blight, business development, crime, zoning, and flood control, RDA received official nonprofit status in 1978. Today, RDA remains committed to work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community through advocacy, programs, leadership development, and community service.

Guests are asked to RSVP by Friday, December 14. To learn more, contact Je’ T’aime Taylor at 913-677-5097 or jetaime@rosedale.org.
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