

OTTP-SF

THE OTTP-SF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OTTP-SF's Holiday Gift Drive Delivers Joy to Bay Area Youth in Need

Holiday Gift Drive Success

From November 1st to November 26th, OTTP-SF successfully hosted our annual Holiday Gift Drive. The drive aimed to bring holiday cheer to underserved youth in the Bay Area, and the results were nothing short of remarkable.

This year, OTTP-SF went above and beyond, delivering almost 500 gifts to the clients we serve—a notable and significant increase from the previous year.

The success of the Holiday Gift Drive wouldn't have been possible without the support of the community, as donors and supporters from all over came together to purchase gifts and contribute monetary donations. Their collective efforts ensured that the spirit of the season reached even more young lives in need!

OTTP-SF extends heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated in making the Holiday Gift Drive a success. Your generosity has not only provided material gifts but has also bestowed the invaluable gift of joy during the holiday season. To share this joyous impact, OTTP-SF clinicians have provided these heartwarming reactions of youth as they opened their gifts.

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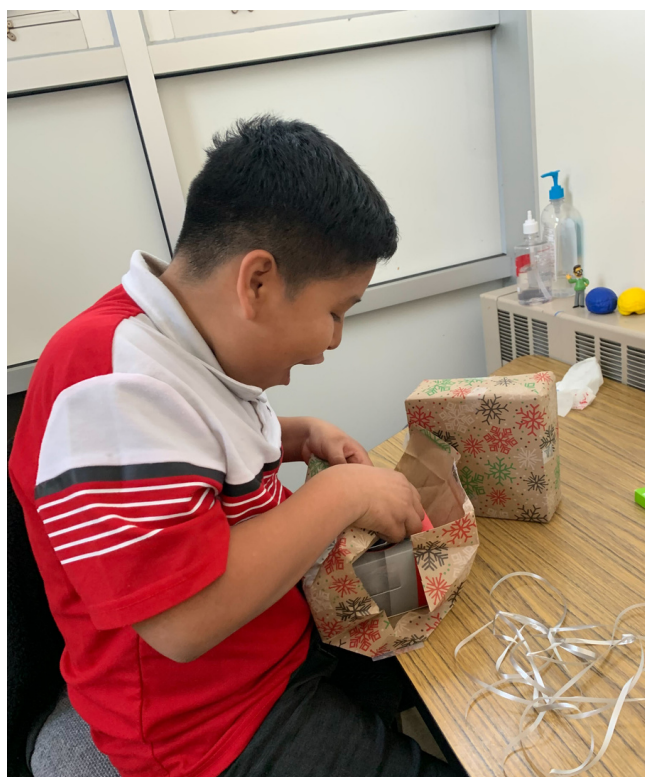
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Opportunities for Connection and Relaxation

Tamara Sanchez-Monter, an OTTP-SF Occupational Therapist, shared these heartfelt moments of youth unwrapping their gifts.

In one instance, a youth unwrapped a pair of bright red headphones, exclaiming “Yes!! I can’t wait to use these during our writing time...I finally have my own, thank you thank you thank you!!”

Similarly, as other youths opened their gifts, two of them couldn’t contain their excitement. Upon discovering a drawing kit, one exclaimed “Wow!! Look at all the colors! I can’t wait to draw pictures during break!!” Another youth, unwrapping a pack of Super Mario Bros Uno cards, joyfully exclaimed “Wow, thank you for my gifts! I can’t wait to draw when I get home...and play (Uno) with my brother!”



A youth expresses his excitement while opening up his new red headphones.



A youth playing with his Super Mario Bros Uno cards, with Sanchez-Monter.



A youth shows her excitement to use her drawing kit to draw pictures during break.



A youth opening up a Sonic scooter.



A youth playing with his Sonic scooter.

A Personal Connection

Paula Leon, an OTTP-SF Psychotherapist, shared this touching reaction from a youth, as he unwrapped a Sonic scooter. Overwhelmed with excitement, the youth exclaimed, “No me lo puedo creer, me encanta, una patients del sonic! (I can’t believe it! I love it, the Sonic scooter).” The youth expressed immediate enthusiasm about painting a picture of the scooter, emphasizing the personal and meaningful connection these gifts hold for the recipients.



A youth painting a picture of his Sonic scooter.

These snapshots capture the genuine happiness and appreciation sparked by the Holiday Gift Drive, showcasing how the thoughtful gifts provided by the community have made a meaningful difference in the lives of the youth we serve.



Volunteers from VMware help wrap gifts for OTTP-SF's Holiday Gift Drive.

VMware Volunteers Help Spread Holiday Cheer at OTTP-SF

VMware Volunteers

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, volunteers from VMware, under the leadership of Sheeva Banisalam, dedicated their time to lend a helping hand in wrapping gifts for the Holiday Gift Drive.

This marks the second occasion where VMware has extended their support to OTTP-SF. Previously, the volunteers played a pivotal role in organizing the supply room at our San Francisco building, showcasing their commitment to making a positive impact on OTTP-SF and the lives of Bay Area youth.

Banisalam, who organized and led the group of volunteers, spoke about VMware's experience collaborating with OTTP-SF:

“Our team was honored to be invited back to wrap hundreds of gifts. We had a great experience and love working with an organization that helps so many children in need. We hope to do more with OTTP-SF in the future.”

The efforts of these volunteers proved instrumental in ensuring that clients experienced the joy of unwrapping carefully prepared gifts.

Their dedication exemplifies the power of collaboration in spreading holiday cheer and making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. OTTP-SF is looking forward to working with VMware again in the future. Thank you, VMware!



VMware volunteers carefully wrap gifts for Bay Area youth.

East Bay LDS Church Members Enhance OTTP-SF Facility in Community-Driven Effort

Oakland Building Transformation

Thanks to the organization and facilitation by Don Sherwood, Director of Community Service, members of the Oakland Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), dedicated two Saturdays in November to support the development of the upcoming Oakland facility of OTTP-SF. This group was made up of members of the Oakland 6th, Oakland 1st, Lafayette and Moraga Wards, and full-time missionaries serving the Oakland community. The collaborative initiative focused on tasks such as taping, cutting, priming, and painting, which not only transforms the physical space but also underscores the positive impact that the community can have in creating a supportive environment.

The investment of time and skills by LDS volunteers is not merely a contribution to the aesthetics of the facility, but also to the creation of a warm and comforting atmosphere for future OTTP-SF clients who will receive mental health services at this location.



LDS members transform the Oakland facility.

As the Oakland facility approaches completion, the impact of these volunteer efforts will resonate within and on its walls. The community collaboration spearheaded by LDS Church members exemplifies the potential for positive change when individuals unite with a shared purpose.

OTTP-SF extends profound gratitude to LDS Church members for their generosity and commitment to community service. We also want to express our gratitude for Heather Davis, for initiating this relationship of help and service. This collaborative spirit serves as an inspiration, showcasing the transformative power that community-driven initiatives can have in creating a better and more supportive world for everyone.



Members of the Oakland Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints support the development of the upcoming Oakland facility.

Legacy Filipino Martial Arts Empowers OTTP-SF with Self Defense Workshop

Self Defense For The People

In a proactive move to enhance personal safety and empowerment, Legacy Filipino Martial Arts School conducted the workshop, “Self Defense For The People,” for the OTTP-SF team.

The driving force behind this initiative was Ray Nubla, an Occupational Therapy Manager at OTTP-SF who organized the workshop. Reflecting on the decision to bring Legacy FMA on board, Nubla shared an insightful quote that encapsulated the rationale behind this valuable training opportunity:



OTTP-SF staff participate in self defense workshop. From left to right: Jo Kweon (Occupational Therapist) & Tommy Gaerlan (OT Intern)



OTTP-SF staff practice self defense with Legacy FMA. From left to right: Aaron Souksavath (OT Intern) & Shasta Rice (Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist)

“It was in response to our equity plan, where we are hoping to learn from different cultures to support a sense of community. October also happened to be Filipino Heritage Month, so the timing worked out well.

As an agency, we’re also actively looking for ways to support staff wellness, and our hope is for clinicians to feel safe given the increased violence in the community.”

If you’re interested in booking a workshop for your company/organization, visit <https://www.legacyfma.com>.

OTTP-SF Celebrates Giving Tuesday Success with a Surge in Social Media

Giving Tuesday

On November 28th, OTTP-SF reached out to supporters to follow us on our social media channels for Giving Tuesday. This Giving Tuesday proved to be a resounding success, particularly on Instagram, where we experienced a notable boost in followers. For those interested in joining our growing community of supporters, OTTP-SF extends an invitation to connect on our various social media platforms. Follow us on [Instagram \(@ottpsf\)](#), [Threads \(@ottpsf\)](#), [Facebook \(@OTTP.SF\)](#), and [Twitter \(@OTTP_SF\)](#) to stay updated!

As OTTP-SF continues to make strides in building a stronger online presence, we remain grateful for the follows we received from our dedicated supporters. The growth in social media engagement reflects a shared commitment to making a positive impact in our community and beyond.

OTTP-SF Engages Locals and Gears Up for Holiday Gift Drive

Art Walk SF

On October 7th, the community spirit was in full swing, as OTTP-SF joined the festivities at Art Walk SF in the vibrant Glen Park Neighborhood in San Francisco. With a dual mission of raising awareness for our upcoming Holiday Gift Drive and fostering creativity, OTTP-SF brought a splash of positivity to the event.

Amidst the backdrop of talented artists, musicians, and local businesses, OTTP-SF's table quickly became a hub of activity. Visitors to the booth were invited to engage in a "make your own" affirmation cards activity, a heartwarming endeavor aimed at promoting self-empowerment and mindfulness.

Our presence at Art Walk SF was not only an opportunity for us to connect with the local community, but to also shed light on our Holiday Gift Drive. With the holiday season just around the corner, we were gearing up to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need.



Affirmation Cards created by visitors at Art Walk SF.

Bryant Chou: A Decade of Dedication to Youth Empowerment and Technological Innovation

OTTP-SF Advisory Board Member Spotlight



A Supporter of Youth Empowerment

In an unwavering commitment spanning nearly a decade, Bryant Chou has played an integral role as a dedicated member of OTTP-SF's Advisory Board since 2012. His dedication is deeply rooted in a profound belief in the mission and vision of OTTP-SF, recognizing our organization's pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for the youth we serve. Chou is driven by his passion to bring happiness and opportunities to Bay Area youth, through a blend of philanthropy and innovation.

A Leader in Technology

Beyond his advisory role, Chou is the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Webflow, a cutting-edge software company revolutionizing website design. Webflow's innovative approach empowers designers to create professional-grade websites without the need for coding skills. This technological breakthrough has proven instrumental for OTTP-SF, as we utilize Webflow's platform to establish and enhance our online presence.

Envisioning a Brighter Future for All

Chou's dual commitment to fostering youth empowerment through OTTP-SF and leveraging technology at Webflow underscores his visionary leadership in both philanthropy and the tech industry, paving the way for a brighter and more accessible future for all.

Intern Reflects on Experience at OTTP-SF

Intern Spotlight

Aaron Souksavath, an intern at OTTP-SF, shared his thoughts on the journey he embarked on during his time with our organization. Having spent several months immersed in the dynamic environment, this young professional delved into his experience by addressing two key questions:

1) What made you interested in interning at OTTP-SF?

“I was interested in interning at OTTP-SF because I have always wanted to work in community based OT and I heard great things from my professors about OTTP. Also, the values and approach of OTTP-SF aligned with mine and I really wanted to see that in practice.”

2) What’s the biggest takeaway from your time at OTTP-SF?

“My biggest takeaway from my time at OTTP-SF is that a success is not always defined by a value or measure. It can be found in someone who spends their time engaging in unhealthy habits, but for 30 minutes, they were able to play a board game with a group of peers. It can also be found in someone simply being able to sit at a table with others and do crafts, instead of isolating themselves. There are different levels of success and you never know what small things can lead to big change in someone’s life.”



Gratitude to our amazing sponsors!

Through their sponsorships, OTTP-SF continues to provide mental health services to Bay Area youth who need it most!

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