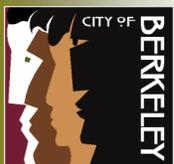


BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-5900, TDD: (510) 981-5799, police@ci.berkeley.ca.us



The Yearly Tradition Continues Holiday Meals Given to Families in Need

Media Contacts:

Sgt. Jen Louis S12
Special Victims Unit
(510) 981-5717

Sgt. M. Kusmiss S6
Public Information
Officer (PIO)
(510) 981-5780

Chief of Police
Michael K. Meehan

City of Berkeley
Main Line
(510) 981-CITY

Berkeley, California (Wednesday, December 21, 2011) - On Thursday, December 22nd at 6:30 a.m., members of the City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD), Berkeley Boosters Association, University of California Police Department (UCPD) and community volunteers will gather in front of Old City Hall to continue a 27 year tradition.



Off Loading Turkeys & other Food



Assembling the food to be distributed

The groups will put together 250 food baskets to be distributed to Berkeley families in need by BPD and Parking Enforcement Officers. Each basket will contain a turkey, fresh produce, and enough canned and packaged food to feed approximately eight (8) people. On November 23, 2011, BPD, UCPD, Berkeley Boosters, family, friends and community volunteers assembled the food baskets and distributed them for the Thanksgiving holiday.

During this year's "Turkey Ride," current and retired BPD, UCPD officers and a few friends rode the 210 miles in three days and raised donations to purchase items to help fill the turkey baskets.

The Turkey Ride was conceived in 1983 when three (3) BPD officers rode their bikes from Berkeley to South Lake Tahoe. During their journey, those original riders decided to build future rides into fund-raising events and use the money to help Berkeley families in need. Each year, participants of the ride receive great support from a dedicated team composed of members of BPD, family and the Berkeley Boosters Association.

This year's program goals could not have been met without the long-time support of the Berkeley Rotary Club, which contributes generous financial support and Greenleaf Produce as well as the Alameda County Food Bank who donate additional food for the baskets. The Turkey Riders and the event organizers would like to thank them for their ongoing generous support and donations.

###