



Crippsmas Place – Holiday Family Fun in Fremont

Cheer and good will in action in the East Bay!

Fremont neighborhood carries on December tradition of annual “Crippsmas Place” Holiday Display and Charity Fundraiser.

November 2017 (Fremont, California)

Crippsmas Place returns this December, featuring a cheerful neighborhood holiday display of Christmas lights and unique decorative lawn displays in north Fremont. Visitors to the north Fremont streets around Cripps Place not only will be treated to the multi-street festive scenery, also but also free candy canes at the end of Wellington Place from friendly volunteers starting ***Saturday Dec 9th***. The candy cane volunteers will also accept visitors’ cash donations, collected to benefit five charities. PLUS Santa Claus will be there (weather allowing) – great for photos!

The Crippsmas Place event is how these neighbors celebrate and give back to the community, continuing a holiday tradition begun on Cripps Place by former neighbor Robert “Spider” Cantley over 40 years ago. Unique to Crippsmas Place are the plywood cutout decorations, featuring classic and new beloved children's cartoon characters. Every year new decorations are made by dedicated neighbor volunteers - look for Wonder Woman, Paw Patrol, and adorable characters from Lion Guard and the new Star Wars movie!

Many visiting families either stroll the sidewalks or slowly drive along the neighborhood streets with excited children pointing out favorite and familiar cartoon characters and all the bright holiday lights.

The schedule for this year's Crippsmas Place 2017:

Candy cane giveaways and Charity collections will be for seventeen days this year, ***December 9 – 25, 2017***. Hours are ***Mon-Thurs 6 – 10pm, Fri & Sat 5-11pm, Sun 5-10pm***.

Fun Facts - Crippsmas Place 2013 featured:

- * 70 houses displaying the unique handmade plywood decorations
- * 299 unique Crippsmas Place plywood decorations displayed
- * Over 20,100 candy canes handed out

Planning and much of the work is done by a dedicated group of neighbors, appropriately dubbed the “Crippsmas Club”. Everyone involved is an unpaid volunteer. Crippsmas Club President, Kate Amon, said “I’ve been very impressed to discover how resourceful and generous my neighbors

are! Between getting decorations made, setting up the candy cane hand out, and the daily tasks every evening there's a lot to do. There's no way I could personally do it all myself. But I think it's a great thing more people are involved – it builds community! Especially wonderful people like Loren and Janice Wiseman, who do a lot of the hands-on work to run this event, along with newer neighbor Patrick Zhou. Ivar and Gail Highberg help with finances, and Stephanie Monnier is our coordinator who schedules the “candy cane volunteers”. Above and beyond that, the Arnold family – especially Wendy and her daughter Melissa are the heart of the “Creative Works Department”, creating and restoring the unique plywood decorations along with other neighbors like Elizabeth Haddad. Irene Shen handles the website, and another involved neighbor, Georgia Butterfield, not only volunteers for Crippsmas Place, but also runs the Adopt an Angel charity.

For me, the rewards are many, like I always smile when seeing the holiday brightness driving home after work. It's always a joy to see the happy families visiting, especially the enthusiasm of the children. Supporting several deserving charities on top of that makes the efforts even more worthwhile! That's why our Crippsmas Club motto is '*For Community, Charity, and Childhood Joy*'.”

Five charities will benefit again this year, with donations received split evenly among the charities:

- **Leukemia Lymphoma Society** - "*Fighting blood cancers*"
- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation** - "*Dedicated to finding a cure*"
- **SAVE** (Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments) "*Because Peace Begins at Home*"
- **HERS Breast Cancer Foundation** - "*Caring for women and families until there's a cure*"
- **Adopt an Angel** - *Gifts & basics for children in the Alameda County's Protective Child Services*

Volunteer Opportunities Vocal groups who like to sing are also invited to display their caroling talents on those evenings. Please contact Kate to schedule.

For more information, see our website www.CrippsmasPlace.org or please call or e-mail Kate Amon - phone 510-821-5579, e-mail kateamon@yahoo.com