

Cookie Lady Hands out over 1000 Jackets to the Homeless Community

By Dana Canning



Would you like a cookie? The Crandall family is no stranger to the homeless community living in Santa Ana. “My mom was known as the cookie lady for a while!” laughed Rachel Crandall, a 22-year-old college student from Mission Viejo, California. Her mother, Julie Crandall, is a paralegal with Legal Aid Society of Orange County who dedicates every Thursday to providing free legal services to the homeless community around the civic center in Santa Ana. Rachel recalls memories of her mother walking around Santa Ana offering cookies and legal advice to the homeless community.

“This all began really from mom offering cookies. She gained everyone’s trust that way and word spread of her like wildfire, and eventually my mom, dad, sister, and I went around offering sandwiches with our church too.” Rachel describes.

Julie and the Crandall family collected over 1000 winter coats and walked the streets of Santa Ana delivering winter coats to the homeless community. Rachel and her sister Sam took to social media for outreach and help collecting jackets from their neighbors, friends, and community in Mission Viejo.

“My mom had this crazy idea and we just ran with it!” Rachel describes. Julie’s goal was to collect 500 jackets, she more than doubled her goal. Friends, family, and neighbors they hadn’t heard from in years, rummaged through the back of their closets to collect and donate winter coats for those in need.

The winter of 2016, Julie and the Crandall family collected and handed out over 1000 jackets to the homeless community around the Civic Center. The winter of 2017 Julie and the Crandall family provided the homeless community with 500 jackets. They intend to collect 500 jackets again for the winter of 2018. Look out for the Cookie Lady and ways that you can help donate too!