

Pacific Symphony Volunteer Challenge #70: Happy Thanksgiving!

From: Abby Edmunds (aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org)

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Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

As I wait for the last few Thanksgiving dishes to bake, I thought I'd take a minute to wish you all the happiest of Thanksgiving, and let you know how much you all mean to me! Hearing from you and seeing you in the Concert Hall, once again, has brought me much happiness! I hope it has done the same for you.

So, Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes for a day filled with great food and memorable times.



As a special treat, I thought I'd share this sweet song with you, as well!

Written and performed by Ben Rector, here is The Thanksgiving Song. Ben is a an American singer, songwriter and record producer based in Nashville, Tennessee.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=thanksgiving+songs&&view=detail&mid=560156472BCB47ED8DB6560156472BCB47ED8DB6&&FORM=VRDGAR&PC=APPL>

Lastly, some of you may want to help Pacific Symphony as we support the 2/11 Marine Battalion and their families this holiday season. Read this message (and check out the attached flyer) from Abigail Torrence, Pacific Symphony's AmeriCorps Fellow for 2021-2022, to learn how you can take part. 😊

Hello, Pacific Symphony Family and Friends!

Thank you all for the warm welcome during my first few months here. I love working in such a kind environment that makes me happy to come into the office. I cannot believe it is already the end of November— and that being said ... Happy Holidays! Since it is the giving season, Volunteer Services will be running an office-wide Toy Drive for the Irvine 2/11 Marine Battalion and their families. This is through the 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee, who has been serving soldiers and their families for over 10 years. Here is a bit of their mission statement: *"The specific purpose of the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee is to provide charitable and educational activities and support for the benefit and welfare of the United States Marines and their families assigned to Camp Pendleton, California, with special emphasis on the Marines and families of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines ("2/11 Marines")."*



This committee runs not only Toy Drives, but makes care packages for soldiers, plans pre-deployment events, and more. This is cool for me personally, being an Army brat. My dad served 29 years in the US Army and is currently working as a retired soldier at NORAD (I only assume tracking Santa). Moving around and living military lifestyle can get draining and exhausting, especially around the holidays. I was lucky enough to have siblings during these times, but even so it is hard being uprooted often and sometimes scary for younger kids. During times when moving around and following a soldier is top priority, holiday celebration go on the back burner – so I know small donations like this really go a long way for families who might not feel grounded and cared for.

Now, I am asking you to help out and donate a gift if you can! This is completely optional, but every bit helps. The donation does not have to be big at all, just something for an age group between 0-12 years old. I hope you all have safe travels this week and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. I know I am thankful for a welcoming office with kind people I get to see every day. If you have any questions about the Toy Drive, please contact either Abby in Volunteer Services 😊 Thank you in advance for your generosity and have a great weekend and holiday!



As I have said many times before, it brings me so much joy to stay connected with you! Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much I am thinking about you.

Warmest regards and Happy Thanksgiving!

Abby

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