

## **NEWPORT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRESS RELEASE #24-013

## Newport Beach Fire Department Annual Fire Santa Program

December 11, 2024

**Newport Beach, CA** — The Newport Beach Fire Department is proud to announce its support for the Gallant family through our annual Fire Santa Program, a cherished community tradition for nearly two decades.

This year's Fire Santa Program centers on Jasmine Gallant, a devoted single mother of four young children, including her 9-year-old son, Silas, who faces significant challenges due to Arthrogryposis, a rare condition affecting joint movement. Silas has already endured many surgeries and ongoing physical therapy while remaining a shining light of positivity, kindness, and determination. He has even shared his dream of one day becoming a police officer.

Despite their struggles, Jasmine and her family have shown resilience and perseverance. Living with their grandfather, a long-time Newport Beach resident since the 1950s, Jasmine ensures her children's school attendance, academics, and overall outlook remain strong. However, the family faces financial hardships that make it difficult to enjoy the comforts many take for granted during the holiday season.

When asked about her family's needs for the holidays, Jasmine humbly requested food and clothing. The Fire Santa Program is committed to going beyond these basic needs to provide the Gallant family with a Christmas they will never forget.

This beloved program began 19 years ago with the simple goal of delivering Christmas cheer to local Newport Beach families through gifts, trees, decorations, and festive meals. Over time, the program has evolved to address greater needs, including home remodels, grocery support, job placement assistance, and paying off medical bills or rent to prevent eviction. Each year, the Newport Beach Firefighters Association also provides a financial gift to help the family start the new year with hope and stability.

"Our Fire Santa Program embodies the spirit of service and community," said Firefighter Paramedic Cory Freeman. "This year, with the support of our generous residents and local businesses, we are humbled and honored to help Jasmine, and her children experience the joy and stability they deserve this holiday season." The Fire Santa Program's success is only possible through the incredible support of our Newport Beach community. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of families like the Gallants.

To contribute or learn more about the Fire Santa Program, please visit the Go Fund Me page to contribute. Please also watch the video on our social media platforms Facebook, and Instagram, for a more in-depth look at how the Fire Santa Program is supporting the Gallants.

The Newport Beach Fire Department is committed to serving our community through fire prevention, emergency response, and community engagement programs. Our annual Fire Santa Program exemplifies our dedication to going above and beyond in providing care and support to our community members in need.

Go Fund Me Link: <u>https://www.gofundme.com/f/newport-beach-fire-santa-2024-the-gallant-family?attribution\_id=sl:222e4a29-1d37-4846-a36f-1d0705ae82ec&utm\_campaign=man\_ss\_icons&utm\_medium=customer&utm\_source=c\_opy\_link</u>

For more information, please contact the Newport Beach Fire Department via email at <u>PIO@nbfd.net</u>.

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