



## DECEMBER NOTES + NEWS

The holidays are upon us and I for one LOVE this time of year.

Personally, we get time with family and loved ones. With two small children and a wonderfully supportive wife, there is no better time of year to express my appreciation for the inspiration they provide me every day. I am truly blessed.

Professionally, we wrap up the year and prepare for what is necessary to continue our success into next year. At Austin Bates VIP Mortgage, we'll look back on last year with a critical eye while looking forward to 2019 and the opportunities it will bring us. Some things will change, we'll be adapting to new market conditions and any regulatory changes that come with them, but one thing will not change - our commitment to providing you and your clients an extraordinary lending experience.

With that, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy holiday season. Whereas I typically look for important real estate information to share, let's take this time to share something a little different.

**CALL THE BATES TEAM TODAY**



### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT THE SALVATION ARMY**

Each holiday season, The Salvation Army provides thousands of meals for needy families across the Valley of the Sun. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners are served to all who attend and are home-delivered to home-bound

individuals. Volunteers are always needed to set up, serve, clean, and usher at Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and to deliver holiday meals to families, the elderly, and shut-ins. There are also opportunities to help out at the Christmas Angel Toy Drive by distributing gifts to families, but please note that volunteer stops for this event fill up fast.

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### **VOLUNTEERING FOR ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK**

Tearing St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance strives to raise awareness of the realities of hunger and poverty hiding in plain sight. Volunteers are essential to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance operations, and assist in a number of tasks including sorting, boxing, and bagging food items, providing administrative and fundraising

support, and acting as community advocates and ambassadors to bring about positive change. The food bank is closed on Christmas Day, but their biggest need for volunteers is immediately after the holiday and in early January when all the food collected from the local food drive must be sorted and packed.

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### **VOLUNTEER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AT A PLACE TO CALL HOME**

If you have an affinity for wrapping presents, A Place to Call Home seeks volunteers each holiday season to help wrap gifts donated by the community to give to foster families across the region.

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