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A time for giving

Some Sacramento-area charities and nonprofits in need

he Sacramento region has a well-deserved reputation for grassroots generosity. The annual Big Day of Giving hit another record in May nearly \$8.4 million for 600 nonprofits from more than 23,000 donors.

The holidays are a season for giving. So with a helping hand from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, which runs Big Day of Giving, here are some lesser-known, but high-impact, charities and nonprofits that could use your help:

- **∨** Center for Land-Based **Learning:** Educates and cultivates future generations of farmers, agricultural leaders and natural resource stewards.
- **∨** Community Against **Sexual Harm:** Assists women who have been commercially sexually exploited with survivorled peer support.
- **V** Girls on the Run of **Greater Sacramento:**

Inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a curriculum that integrates running.

∨ Performing Animal Welfare Society: Protects performing animals: provides sanctuary to abused, abandoned and retired animals; and enforces standards of care.

- **▼ River City Food Bank:** Provides healthy emergency food and other assistance as Sacramento's oldest food bank.
- **∨** Society For The Blind: Empowers individuals with low vision or blindness to develop their full potential.
- **∨** Stanford Youth Solutions: Promotes change for young people and their families by

empowering them to solve

serious challenges together.

- ▼ Women's Empowerment: Educates and empowers homeless women to get a job, create a healthy lifestyle and regain a home.
- **∨** Yisrael Family Farm: Uses urban agriculture to empower, engage and employ neighborhoods.

Where to help

Some places that can benefit from extra hands and holiday cheer

ant to lend a helping hand to those in need, but not sure where to start? There are plenty of opportunities to give back to the community this holiday season. Here are just a few places that can benefit from some extra help and holiday cheer.

Loaves and Fishes: The long-established resource center for homeless folks faces plenty of challenges as the holidays approach and cold weather returns. You can sign up to help serve food for their big Thanksgiving meal on the Nov. 26, or donate items listed on their website. 1352 North C St., (916) 446-0874, sacloaves.org.

River City Food Bank: For more than 50 years, River City Food Bank has provided



emergency food and other services to struggling families and individuals. As a volunteer, you can assist with food distribution, community education and other tasks needed to keep the bank up and running. 1800 28th St., (916) 446-2627, rivercityfoodbank.org.

Sacramento LGBT Center: If your

Thanksgiving Day is open, you can cook a dish to share at the LGBT Center's annual Friendsgiving celebration. The holidays aren't always easy, but Friendsgiving is a great chance for LGBTQ folks and allies to come together to celebrate community and found family. 2012 K St., (916) 442-0185, saccenter.org.

WEAVE, Inc.: The nonprofit dedicated to helping survivors of sexual assault, sex trafficking and intimate partner violence is always looking for help from the community. Its Holiday Shop opens Dec. 2, so take a look at the wish list and consider donating new, unwrapped gifts for kids, teens and adults in need. 1900 K St., (916) 448-2321, weaveinc.org.