



## School for homeless seeking holiday gifts

Monarch School has annual event so students can go "shopping"

**SAN DIEGO** — The Monarch School for homeless youth is seeking donations for its holiday celebration for the students.

The K-12 school is requesting donations before the annual event, to be held Dec. 22. In addition to food, games and dancing, the celebration allows Monarch's 150 students to "shop" for donated new clothes, shoes, small electronics, toys and more.

The school also hopes to provide students with gift cards for retailers such as Target and Ralphs.

Gift cards are requested in \$10, \$25 and \$50 increments and in-kind donations should be in new condition. A full list of requested items and directions for how to donate can be found at Monarch's [Wish List](#).

Before the holiday break this year, all Monarch students will receive tickets to go "shopping," and have had the opportunity to earn extra tickets based on good behavior, attendance and grades. At the celebration event, students will use these tickets to "purchase" the donated items.

"The holidays can be a strain on any family, but it's especially hard for those who are homeless," said Jim McMillan, president of the Monarch School Board of Directors. "Many of our students don't receive gifts outside of what Monarch School can provide. It's why we try our best to make sure each child experiences the joy of the holidays and that they have resources to get food and basic supplies while the school is on break."

Monarch students and their families, who most often live in shelters, a car or in temporary situations like a motel, rely on the school year round for two to three meals daily and a warm place for children to be during the day while shelters are not open.