

FOSTERING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER 2020



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Support D&M Today!

1

DONATE

Donate to support youth and at-risk families

<http://bit.ly/DMYFSdonate>



2

REVIEW

Please leave a yelp review for Dave & Maggie's Center

<https://bit.ly/DMyelp>

3

SHOP

at Dave & Maggie's Center. Your shopping supports youth and families with a history in the foster care system.

<http://bit.ly/DMYFSstore>



4

READ

the D&M Blog to learn about the people and programs that you empower

<http://bit.ly/DMStories>

STAY IN TOUCH!

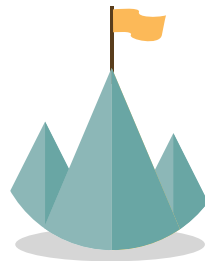
Always be the first to know about what's happening at David & Margaret. Sign up for our mailing list and join our community however is easiest for you.

Our website
<http://bit.ly/DMupdates>

or by calling
Maggie Bohlman 909-596-5921 x3246;

or by email
info@davidandmargaret.org

Learn about new merchandise, specials and offers at Dave & Maggie's Center through their monthly e-flyer
<http://bit.ly/storenews>



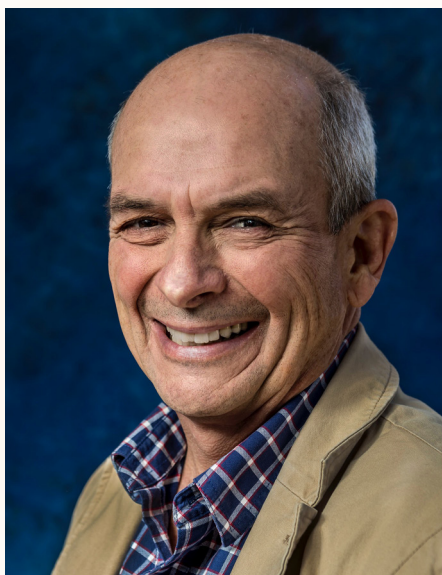
OUR MISSION

David & Margaret empowers children, youth, and families through culturally diverse services that foster emotional, educational, spiritual, and identity development.

DAVID & MARGARET YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Reader,

This is my first time writing to you as the new president of the board of directors. I am honored to serve in this position as I have the greatest respect for the mission of David & Margaret Youth and Family Services and the people who work to carry it out. I have been volunteering here for the last 12 years and have served on both the Joan Macy Board and the David and Margaret Board. As I move into this role I am very grateful for my predecessor, Sabina Sullivan, for all her hard work, her accomplishments and her incredible devotion to David & Margaret. Building on what she and the board has already accomplished, I am

excited to move us into a new era - an era where David & Margaret will be refining its focus, lifting up best practices and bringing in new resources to serve the children, youth, young adults and families with whom we work.

Throughout my time volunteering at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, I have been impressed and amazed to see the caring and dedication of the staff. I want to offer my thanks to them for all they do. They are the heart of this agency and their caring and compassionate support to those served is what transforms our community for the better.

In support of the staff and agency, the board of directors is responsible for the high-level leadership and decision-making for the organization, including determining its mission and purpose, providing financial oversight, ensuring legal and ethical integrity and accountability, strategic planning, and much more. It is this with in mind that we are embarking on significant work to ensure that David & Margaret Youth and Family Services will be here for another 110 years and will be an asset to those in the community who rely on its programs and services.

Thanks to UCLA Anderson School of Management's commitment to supporting non profits, David & Margaret has benefitted from their expertise in several ways. Last year David & Margaret participated in their Net Impact program and this year the UCLA-NUS Global Executive MBA Management Practicum Field Study Program selected David & Margaret as their capstone project. This project has recently concluded with over 175 hours of research and interviews from 75 social services experts all over the US. They have made substantial recommendations to the board and we are moving forward with those recommendations as of August.

This work with UCLA will be coordinated with the strategic planning work the board and staff are engaged in with the Special Services Group. Building on a 2019 organizational assessment and a contemporaneous strategic and operational financial planning process, this capacity building initiative and will focus on strengthening infrastructures in three principal areas: strategy, program/organizational evaluation, and information/communication technology and financial management. Ultimately, this capacity building initiative will strengthen operational infrastructure and organizational processes and enhance the quality of service delivery across all of the programs at David & Margaret. You can read more about this work on page four.

These investments in the agency will create new opportunities for community building, for renewal of our core programs, and the realization of our mission and values in representing a new era of service. All of this is exciting and challenging and essential as we work to serve the children, youth, young adults, and families in our community. I look forward to working with you, our stakeholders and supporters, as we move through this process.

I am also excited to share with you a snapshot of just a few of the good things the staff has been doing in recent weeks. I hope you will read and be moved by the stories in this newsletter like I have been.

Bob Dalton
President, Board of Directors

DAVID & MARGARET *Values*

INTEGRITY 2

model expectations, perform duties under guidelines of “best practices”, honest discussion of issues, openness, fiscal responsibility



5 TEAMWORK

together there is strength, no one is alone, each voice is important, listen to all sides of an issues and help make united decisions, foster open communication, develop and sustain positive family and community connections



6 SAFETY

develop a safe, caring environment and communication patterns

1 MUTUAL RESPECT

respect diversity of opinions, value cultural ideas, focus on strengths, listen, work to resolve differences with dignity, respond in a timely manner



3 KNOWLEDGE

teach through instruction and role modeling, teach and encourage making wise choices, empower self-determination, instill desires to be a life-long learner



4 CHOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

value ability to choose, ensure active participation in treatment planning, understand and follow accepted agency policies and procedures, be accountable for choices, hold self and other accountable



6 SERVICE

learn by teaching others, heal by helping others



At David & Margaret Youth and Family Services our programs and services are delivered according to the highest standards of professionalism. We maintain a safe and nurturing physical and emotional environment in which to live, learn and grow. By doing so, we create and maintain a model of service in which we share, change and lead by these vitally important values and ideals. These values guide our work, our purpose and our actions.



MAPPING THE FUTURE

Since 2019 David & Margaret Youth and Family Services board of directors and staff has been laying the groundwork to move the organization forward through a substantial shift in leadership and strategic planning. Change does not happen over night and meaningful change requires, purpose, planning and patience.

As a first step in 2019, thanks to a grant from the United Way's Home For Good Funders Collaborative and The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), David & Margaret Youth and Family Services contracted with Special Services Group Research & Evaluation (SSG R&E) to conduct an organizational assessment which informed the work the agency is currently engaged in.

Based on this assessment along with the diligent work of the senior leadership group of D&M staff it was determined they agency would benefit from additional guidance and support. Staff made contact with the UCLA Anderson School of Management to explore ways they could support the agency. Last year David & Margaret participated in their Net Impact program and this year the UCLA-NUS Global Executive MBA Management Practicum Field Study Program selected David & Margaret as their capstone consulting project. The capstone consulting project has recently concluded with over 175 hours of research and interviews from 75 social services experts all over the United States. When asked about their experience working on the project the UCLA team shared *"These last few months have been both inspiring and humbling for us. We have had the opportunity to spend time with many of the dedicated team members within the agency. Our team has also spent time with several other agencies around the United States in order to identify best practices. These best practices have been incorporated into our recommendations for the David and Margaret organization to amplify the positive impact being made in the local community."* The UCLA team presented its findings to the board of directors in August and they are being used to inform the next steps of the process that will be facilitated by the SSG group.

A second generous grant from the Home for good Funder's collaborative has allowed this work to continue. SSG

R&E will conduct and/or manage the facilitation of a strategic planning process that will account for both short and long term goal horizons, a delivery of an evaluation capacity building curriculum to strengthen strategic, process, outcome, and impact evaluation activities, and a coordination of technology and financial infrastructure development in alignment with strategic and evaluation objectives. Susan Baik, A Research Analyst with SSG shares *"I hope that through this project D&M will be able to strengthen their skills in all of the various components that an organization needs to, whether that's in their business development, strategic planning, community relationship, finances, and staff morale. As an evaluator and researcher, I believe one of the key things that D&M will be able to take away from this opportunity is how they can center and uplift the voices and needs of their youth and community members not just in their programs but also when they're making larger organization-wide decisions."*

175+

hours of research
and interviews

75

social service expert
all over the US

The board of directors, staff and community stakeholders are now working together to bring to life the recommendations from the UCLA team and move through the strategic planning process with the SSG group. These new ways of thinking, new ways of doing and new ways of being are the start of the next 110 years for David & Margaret Youth and Family Services and we look forward to sharing the progress with you as we move through this stage of agency growth.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Supporting families through ongoing training, home screening & approval, around-the-clock support, child & family therapy, home visits, a monthly stipend and complete adoption services. The FFA works in collaboration with surrounding counties to place children awaiting homes with approved foster parents.

Twice a month our fost/adopt experts host a free Foster Parent Orientation on zoom! Join us the first Monday of the month for English and the second Tuesday of the month for Spanish. Or call 1-800-4-FOSTER and start your journey today!

Foster Family and Adoption Agency

New Beginnings Program

The New Beginnings Program provides a safe, loving & home-like environment to a small number of children, ages 6-17, coming into the country as they start a new chapter of their lives. The majority of these youth come to this country unaccompanied, without their parents, when their home country is no longer a viable option for them to live safely. Our team of trained, experienced and educated staff provide a nurturing experience while a suitable sponsor or guardian is located and verified to ensure the youth will receive all the care they need after leaving our program.



COMPASS Programs make up the various services offered by D&M, each supporting young adults who are aging out of foster care. Our dedicated staff provide individualized support to each youth, meeting their specific needs and providing the tools & support needed to transition successfully into adulthood. Services include career/college readiness, Workforce Training Program, COMPASS Point Drop-in Center, Supportive Housing, peer mentoring, paid internships and more!

SOFT OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT! Learn more about new service improvements and the opening of the COMPASS Point Drop-in Center on page 7.

COMPASS Programs

Creating Opportunities and Making
Personal Advancements to Self Sufficiency



COMPASS Programs
— at David & Margaret —



Joan Macy is a specialized, non-public school located in La Verne, Ca., serving at-risk youth grades 1st-12th in the surrounding communities. Students benefit from small class sizes, student-teacher relationships and individualized curriculums. A new semester has just begun! Do you feel your child could benefit in this kind of environment? If you'd like to learn more, contact your student's district or contact our registrar for more information! (909) 596-3173



Joan Macy School

David and Margaret provides outpatient mental health services for Medi-Cal eligible children and youth up to age 21. Treatment plans vary depending on the individual. Services can include a professional assessment, individual, family, and/or group therapy, medication assessment & management, psychological testing, case management ,and rehabilitative services

David & Margaret also offers a Full Service Partnership Program for youth (ages 0-15) and families in need of intensive services. This program provides 24/7 crisis support, 3-4 weekly visits with a therapist and behavioral specialist, and more.

Our team of professionals offer in-person and tele-health appointments and are currently accepting referrals. Call 909-596-5921, x3510 to get support today!

Mental Health Programs



Dave and Maggie's Center

Dave and Maggie's Center provides the community with brand-name staple and other goods at deeply-discounted prices while providing paid internships to youth with a history of foster care.

New inventory hits the shelves every week, stop by Tuesday - Saturday between 10am and 4pm to see what's in store!



The LEC is open to the public and supports community members ages 3-99 with various difficulties by retraining the brain to accurately and effectively take in information, process it, and respond appropriately.

If you or your child experience difficulty concentrating, or struggle with reading comprehension, coordination, or short-term memory, the LEC is here to help. Call today for a free assessment!

909 596 5921 ext. 3152

Learning Enhancement Center



COMPASS POINT



The COMPASS Point Drop-in Center has been a dream for many years and it has recently become a reality, albeit in a virtual capacity.

Like so many other things the COMPASS Point opening was pushed back due to COVID-19. We are happy to share that as of last month Transitional Age Youth - many with a history in foster care have a place to find the resources they need to thrive. The Compass Point Drop-In Center provides much-needed resources to Transitional Age Youth (TAY). These young adults have the same aspirations as their peers but have to fight much harder to achieve them. Many are homeless, looking for work, and trying to attend school while lacking a foundation to make this possible. Compass Point provides a safe space to meet the needs of the TAY.

The COMPASS Point Drop-in Center team has been holding, and will continue to hold stakeholder meetings with community members to ensure they have a voice in the program design and implementation. While the opening has needed to be largely virtual due to the pandemic, everyone at David & Margaret is working to make COMPASS Point Drop-in Center a much needed resource and place of community and support for the TAY.

One way that is being accomplished is by bringing VISTA Volunteers to the program. Four VISTA Volunteers will be coming onboard in the coming weeks to build the programmatic capacity of COMPASS Point and to help build out the program infrastructure. One of those VISTA Volunteers is Katy, she will be serving as the Program and Policy Associate. When asked about her role Katy said “It has been so rewarding to watch the progression of the Drop-in Center. We’ve been laying the groundwork, creating protocols, holding stakeholder meetings.” Katy recounts. “David & Margaret has a huge opportunity reaching these clients and I feel the Drop-in Center is a great way to offer a variety of services and resources to those who need it the most. I’m so passionate about the work David & Margaret is doing and it’s so great to be a part of it.

Over the coming weeks and months more and more services will be available to the TAY. Initially the program is launching for existing David & Margaret participants, and we look forward to expanding that when possible.

PLANNED SERVICES INCLUDE:

- a trauma-informed team designed to support TAY in learning independent living skills
- on-site representatives from supportive services such as WIC, ILP, LAHSA, etc.
- on-site workforce training
- peer-led groups
- tutoring
- full kitchen and stocked pantry
- laundry facilities and lockers
- full bathrooms and showers
- a computer lab with printer access
- a comfortable lounging area

These resources will enable transitional aged youth in the community to take care of their everyday concerns so that they can learn the skills necessary to be self-sufficient, build their confidence and ultimately reach a level of success where they can be truly independent.

If you would like to learn more about COMPASS Point Drop-in Center please contact Marissa Scholefield, Director of COMPASS Programs, scholefieldm@davidandmargaret.org

CENTER NEWS



Dave & Maggie's Center

Anna H. ★★★★★
I've been coming here for a couple of years now, especially during the holidays, and it's a neat place to look for random things like tissue, to cough drops, to bath products. All proceeds help out David & Margaret Youth and Family Services so no matter what, it's a win win situation! Come check it out and you never know what you'll find!

J.F. ★★★★★
This is a great place to find bargains but be aware that what you see today may be gone tomorrow. Staff is always helpful.

May T. ★★★★★
It's a great store with good cheap things ranging from foods, beauty products to clothes

Dorothy ★★★★★
I have been shopping at this place before they changed there name. It is a exciting place and I have always found some reasonable treasures. There are shoes, stickers, clothes and so much more. Drop in and check it out.

Tofuti K. ★★★★★
Great prices on tons of stuff... They have everything from clothes to food... I've been coming here since I was a kid and I always come out with bags full of items. Plus the benefit of knowing you're helping a good cause.

Cory H. ★★★★★
Best place to shop for candies, snacks, cosmetics, shoes/clothes, etc. all at discounted prices. It's nice to know that your purchases all goes into this non-profit organization helping the youth in the community.

Thank you to all the patrons of Dave and Maggie's Center! When you shop with us, not only do you find great products at discounted prices, but you also help provide a safe work environment for youth aging out of foster care who need hands-on work experience to build their futures.

Dave and Maggie's Center plays a huge role in the Workforce Training Program (WTP) and is an integral part of the COMPASS programs at David & Margaret. These programs are dedicated to providing support to Transitional Age Youth (TAY) with a history of foster care.

The WTP is one of David & Margaret's most unique programs and one of the few programs of its type in California. While in the program, youth work individually with our employment and educational specialists and are provided paid work experience and a curriculum of employment readiness classes tailored to address the needs and barriers inclusive to this population ensuring they are gaining skills that will allow them to not only obtain but also retain employment.

If you enjoy shopping at Dave and Maggie's Center and would like to share your feedback, please leave a review on our Yelp page. Your feedback helps shape our services and connect Dave and Maggie's Center with like-minded community members! X;



Bi-Monthly Community Food Bank Distribution

Take part in the bi-monthly Food Bank Distribution! Simply drive up to Dave an Maggie's Center, park in the designated area and your items will be brought to you!

Upcoming Dates:

September 10, 2020 & September 25, 2020 11am - 3pm
October 8, 2020 & October 22, 2020 11am - 3pm

ISABELLA'S STORY

In March of 2020, Isabella, a 7-month-old baby girl, was placed into foster care after being removed from a neglectful living situation. Caseworkers immediately reached out to Isabella's relatives, hopeful to find a caretaker able to provide a safe home for Isabella. As it turned out, Isabella had an aunt, Ceci, who loved her very much and was more than willing to provide for her.

When Ceci was contacted, she was out of the country on vacation but decided to return as soon as possible to be with Isabella. While she organized plans to return home, Isabella was placed with Steven and Michelle Montalvo.

Steven and Michelle began their resource parent journey with the Foster Family and Adoption Agency at D&M in 2019, after making the decision to grow their family through foster care and adoption. They went through the five steps of Resource Family Approval in just six months and received approval in February of 2020. Isabella was their first placement; they were eager to provide for a child in need and welcomed the experience they would gain through this unique circumstance.

Ceci was scheduled to fly home a few days later but was unable due to the new flight restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The Montalvos agreed to care for Isabella for an undetermined amount of time while Ceci figured out a way to get home.

It wasn't until July 2020 when Ceci was finally able to return to the United States to be with Isabella. Throughout that time, Steven and Michelle ensured Isabella maintain contact with Ceci through zoom and photo messages. Although Isabella was only in their care for a few short months, the Montalvos provided Isabella with crucial support that helped lay a foundation for her entire future. They fed and clothed her, supported her as she learned how to walk, comforted her when she cried, brought her to medical and therapeutic appointments, taught her fundamental English and Spanish, and helped transition her into Ceci's home upon her return.



Resource parents are vital to children and youth in the foster care system and while the Montalvos experienced an extraordinary unusual situation, there are thousands of children just like Isabella who need a caring family to provide normalcy while away from their families. If you are interested in becoming a resource parent, call 1-800-4-Foster, our caring team of trained professionals are eager to support you!

5 STEPS TO RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL*

- STEP 1** Attend an Orientation
- STEP 2** Submit an Application!
- STEP 3** Parent Preparation Training
- STEP 4** Background Clearance
- STEP 4** Home Study

*Resource Family Approval (RFA) is the new approval process unifying the requirements and training for foster parents, adoptive parents, relative care, and guardianship. The Foster Care Agency follows RFA guidelines, approving families for both foster care and adoption, also known as Resource Parents, or dual-certified.

The Foster Family and Adoption Agency hosts a free, online Foster Parent Orientation twice a month from 6pm-8pm!

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
6	7	8 Orientation	9	10	11	12	4	5 Orientation	6	7	8	9	10
13	14 Orientation	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13 Orientation	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Personal Orientations can be scheduled at your convenience when you visit bit.ly/FFAJ20



1-800-4-FOSTER
Register via bit.ly/FFACAL20
Foster@DavidandMargaret.org

English Spanish



JOSEPH: A SUCCESS STORY

Candace is her son's number one advocate. When she noticed he was exhibiting signs of severe anxiety and was expressing himself through physical violence. His behavior continued to worsen and she felt she needed more support for her son. While looking for local resources, she discovered David & Margaret's Mental Health Program. She reached out to the office and a date was set for her son, Joseph, to meet with a specialist for an intake appointment. It was determined that Joseph was struggling with his mental health due to past traumatic experiences. His new team of therapists, along with Candace, worked together to create a plan to best support Joseph.

Initially, he was afraid to participate in the sessions, which is not uncommon for younger children. But with consistent, supportive engagement from his David & Margaret therapists, and encouragement from his mother, they were able to form a trusting relationship and he soon felt comfortable enough to open up.

He has now been in David & Margaret's program for nine months and receives weekly individual, family, and behavioral therapy. In this time his behavior and temperament has drastically improved. He has become less anxious and is able to self-regulate using breathing techniques and other exercises. Learning how to verbalize his feelings has been his biggest achievement so far.

This progress would not have been possible without the combined efforts of Joseph, his therapeutic team, and his mother, Candace. From the beginning she was eager to learn new ways to support her son. She utilized the techniques shared during family therapy sessions and integrating the exercises into their daily lives. His treatment is not yet complete, but he is well on his way to a lifetime of mental wellness. Joseph is proud of his progress as is his mother and his entire team at David & Margaret.

Studies show over 20% of youth in the United States will witness or experience a traumatic event before the age of four, and 60% by the age of 16. Of those youth, less than half will ever receive proper treatment. These events can cause life-long problems, affecting brain response, hormonal systems, and even the immune system; leading to a life of limited opportunities and constant struggle. Professional intervention can help manage symptoms and protect overall quality-of-life.

20% of the US youth witness or experience a traumatic event before the age of 4

60% by the age of 16

If you, your child, or a loved one are struggling with mental health issues, the best thing to do is seek professional assistance. David & Margaret provides mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible youth and children and is currently offering both in-person and tele-health appointments. Our team of trained, caring professionals are here to support you on the journey to mental wellness. Call (909) 596-5921 x3510 and get started today. To learn more please visit <http://bit.ly/DMMentalHealth>

Your Monthly Donation
Renews Hope and Inspires Change.



When you support David & Margaret's Fall Appeal, you make an **investment in programs and services for at-risk youth and families** in our community!



<https://bit.ly/HopeChange20>



David & Margaret

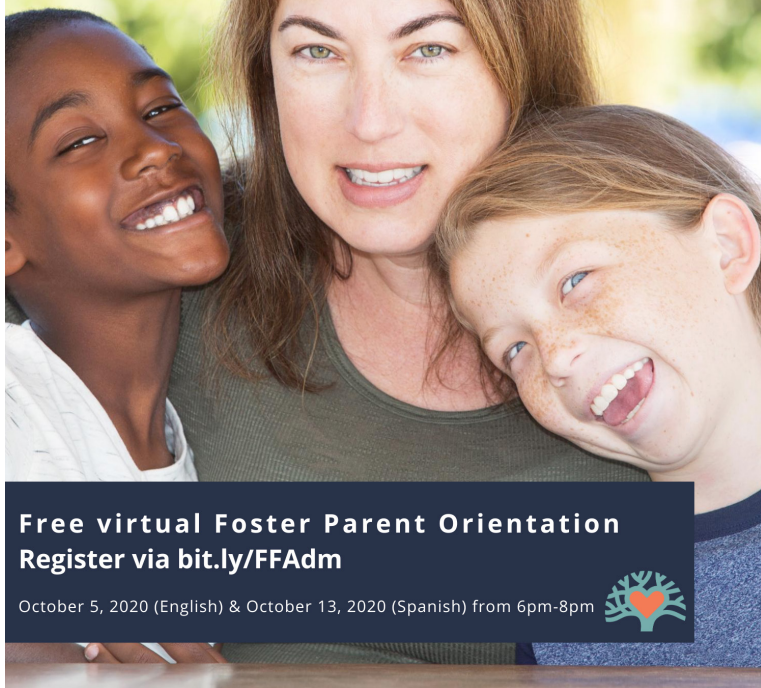
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

1350 Third St.,
La Verne, CA 91750

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1-800-4-FOSTER

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION



Free virtual Foster Parent Orientation
Register via bit.ly/FFAdm

October 5, 2020 (English) & October 13, 2020 (Spanish) from 6pm-8pm



1351 Palomares Ave., La Verne, California 91104
Tuesday - Saturday 10am-4pm

Shop for Good



In Store Savings

 **Dave & Maggie's Center**

15% OFF

ENTIRE PURCHASE INCLUDING SALE ITEMS

Valid September 2020

Exclusions apply, see cashier for details. One coupon per customer.
Must present coupon at check-out. Expires December 31, 2020.