

GIVING TREE 2016

“If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warm, and be filled,’ and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?” -James 2:15-16

FOR 30 YEARS THE HOLY FAMILY GIVING TREE PROGRAM HAS BEEN A REAL LIFE EMBODIMENT OF AN ACT OF MERCY. HERE IS WHAT GOD ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH YOUR HANDS THIS YEAR.

You touched 41 families:

- ✓ 77 adults
- ✓ 138 children

You bought, wrapped, labeled, packed and delivered

1,005 gifts:

- ✓ Over 500 pairs of socks
- ✓ 175 pairs of pants/jeans
- ✓ 127 shirts or sweatshirts
- ✓ 106 gift cards
- ✓ 20 dolls

You donated or purchased over 250 extraordinary needs items, including:

- ✓ 48 winter coats
- ✓ 32 blankets or comforters
- ✓ 29 beds or mattresses
- ✓ 20 pairs of winter boots
- ✓ 12 sheet sets
- ✓ 10 bikes
- ✓ 6 televisions

You contributed \$18,661 in cash donations.

The money went toward:

- ✓ 77 \$30 Wal-mart gift cards (one per adult)
- ✓ 41 \$250 grocery gift cards
- ✓ \$4,060 in SunFresh Grocery Store gift cards given to St. James Place
- ✓ \$1,070 toward bus passes for our community's homeless and under served

It was a much better Christmas for many people, including those of you who participated in any way, for your gift was the gift of GIVING! Our merciful God has blessed us all with gifts to share and allowed many others to see Jesus through your good works. God bless these families and all of you.
-The Giving Tree Committee

GIFT OF A HUMBLE PERSPECTIVE

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.

Holy Family parishioner Crystal Angulo and her family understand what it means to be on the receiving end of mercy. Last year they were one of the families that was blessed with gifts from Holy Family's Giving Tree program. Throughout the year they were able to get 'back on their feet' and decided they were in a position to adopt one of the families. But Crystal didn't just purchase the gifts for the family; she decided to involve her Girl Scout troop in the process- a group of 12 girls who are eight to twelve years old.

“Overall it was a really great experience. Our Girl Scout troop was able to gain a sense of achievement,” said Crystal.

The girls chose which gifts they wanted to provide and discussed with their parents how to earn the money to purchase them. Then, they went through the entire process of buying, wrapping and delivering the gifts to the family. Crystal explained that it was like a light bulb went on, that it is better to give than to receive.

This experience actually put a face to the family they were helping, making it real in the girls' minds. Before this process, Crystal said she would hear the typical young girl chatter about all of the expensive material items they wanted for Christmas. Crystal witnessed them develop beyond the “me” attitude typical of this age. In fact, she had several parents say to her that after the Giving Tree experience, their daughters changed their gift requests to more reasonable items, understanding the value of how much work must be done in order to earn enough money to purchase food for a meal, let alone toys or other items.

“If you are hesitant [to deliver gifts], it gives a better perspective on other people's struggles rather than just your own,” said Crystal.

Adopting a family, choosing a single item and delivering the Giving Tree gifts to the families in need are wonderful ways to help those during the Christmas season. If you are interested in any of these acts of mercy, be on the lookout at Holy Family's website or in the bulletin for Giving Tree opportunities starting in November.