

# 2020 Giving Tree Donations – Report to St. Charles Parishioners

*submitted with gratitude by Ruthanne Otto, Chair*



The 2020 Giving Tree may have been tiny, but no pandemic could diminish the generosity of St. Charles parishioners! We not only accepted the challenge, we made this annual parish outreach an amazing success in a year when nothing else seemed normal. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated whether by shopping in person or donating on line. With your TLC our Giving Tree flourished.

Woman's Center West (formerly known as Pregnancy Center West) is so grateful for the ongoing generosity of St. Charles parishioners for over 30 years. Because of the 2020 shutdowns their “baby showers” and donations were way down, but the need was just as great. In spite of the pandemic, we delivered 1853 diapers, 76 packages of wipes, 13 ointment, 68 bath products, 27 crib sheets, 60 blankets, and 175 baby sleepers, onesies, outfits, socks, etc. to help them continue their life-saving work with new mothers and their babies for many months. In addition to a number of generous personal checks, thanks to on-line donations, we were able to contribute an additional \$1400 to support the sonogram program and the purchase of car seats and pack and play mini cribs.



The women at Marian House received many practical needs, like personal care products: 23 each shampoo and conditioner, 50 body wash, 60 soaps, and 20 body lotion. With the extra help of 2 special benefactors we included more linens: 10 mattress protectors, 8 blankets, 4 pillows, 3 bed-in-a-bags, and 24 towel sets. We also provided many requested Christmas gift items: 40 toiletry gift sets, 120 pairs of winter socks, 12 journals, 19 umbrellas, and 5 earbuds. They were very pleased to receive a surprise donation of new coats and boots, plus purses, travel bags, slippers, scarves, jewelry, household and religious items thanks to a friend of Fr. Jerry. To help fulfill their many needs as the women move “from dependence to independence”, we were also able to contribute a bonus \$1400 for their program.



Every item and every dollar that was donated was put to good use according to the donor's wishes. In addition to the regular Giving Tree ministries, we sent a collection of beautiful hats and gloves to former parishioner **Sr. Barbara Barry of the Sisters of St. Francis Assisi** in Milwaukee for the needy children in her care.

**The Apostleship of the Seas** collection sponsored by the Knights of Columbus also received two boxes of personal care items, snacks, and small entertainment -- books, games and cards.



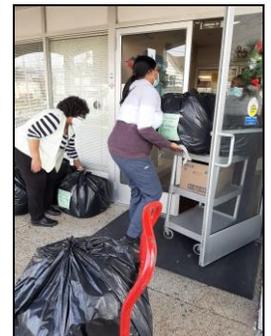
**Fr. Ray** was on hand to help us unload a packed station wagon for the needy served by his parish. Following our delivery of over 70 each warm hats and gloves, over 60 thermal underwear, about 130 undershirts and 140 boxers, 35 pairs of socks, plus many new or nearly new heavy warm coats, sturdy shoes, sweatpants, sweaters, scarfs, vests and jackets donated by our parishioners and several large bags of warm bedding compliments of a friend, St. Vincent's weekly newsletter reported on Friday's **Breaking Bread with the Hungry**. Here's a quote:

*"When we arrived, small groups of people were huddled up against the main doors of the church trying to stay dry. As soon as we announced that dinner was ready, they came down the steps into the rain. Several guests told us how happy they were that we came out with the food in such rainy and cold weather. Everyone was very appreciative, as always. We gave out underwear, socks and a few hats and gloves and a coat to those who needed them."*

**Our gifts were helping them meet the needs of the homeless men in Baltimore!**



**Autumn Lake Healthcare at Pikesville** was most grateful that we would include them in our Giving Tree outreach in 2020. Although the name has changed multiple times, since the 1980's we have made sure there would be a gift on the bed of each resident on Christmas morning. Even though we were challenged by COVID restrictions that no one could choose a tag and shop for one person this year, we worked with their Activities Director to personalize that individual gift from a list of common requests, enhanced by some special donations. It was truly a blessing that Julianne and so many busy "elves" in the Catholic Daughters adopted this outreach to coordinate it and ensure that the needs of all the residents were met. Thanks to Debbie, Jerry and Tom for their help packing 112 gift bags with warm throws, shawls and socks, then filling them with personal care items, treats, and in-room entertainment (crafts and puzzle and coloring books complete with crayons, colored pencils and markers). Residents also benefitted from the wonderful collection of CD's and DVD's Barbara shared and the extra bedding and clothing items from Rosanne.



Personalized gift bags prepared for the residents of Autumn Lake. We organized, bagged and let them sit before contactless delivery outside the nursing home across Sudbrook Lane – we filled 5 car loads.

**Many special angels made the Giving Tree happen. Thank you and God bless each of you!**