



## **2017 Giving Tree Donations – Final Report to Parishioners**

submitted by Ruthanne Otto, Chair



### **Marian House**

By purchasing items requested on the yellow tags, St. Charles Giving Tree donations help provide about 50 homeless women, that Marian House helps to transition from Dependence to Independence each year, with new linens when they arrive: 23 pillows, 7 complete bed-in-a-bag linen sets plus 29 sheet sets, 11 comforters, 28 towel sets, and over 120 bath toiletries and personal care items. Thanks to special donations, we were able to add \$125 in Giant gift cards and 56 new T-shirts.

### **Brinton Woods Health and Rehabilitation Center at Pikesville**

Each of 100 elderly residents received an individual Christmas gift, personally selected by St. Charles parishioners for them, such as books, radios and CD players, puzzle books, writing materials, art supplies, bags, costume jewelry, and treats to let them know someone is thinking of them. We also filled lots of red tag requests for plush throws/blankets, warm pajamas/slippers, sweat suits, sweaters, socks, hats, and bed jackets through our Giving Tree. They were both surprised and grateful.

### **INNterim House**

With the assistance of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, we delivered three car-loads full of individual Christmas gifts for each of the 10 mothers and their 25 children, bags generously filled with their needs and wants. For the moms, St. Charles provided winter coats, shoes and clothing for work, bedding, toiletries and gift cards. Giving Tree participants who took green tags also bought tennis shoes, warm coats, snow boots, and sleepwear, as well as school clothes, and comforters for the kids, adding lots of “wants”, such as learning games, cars and trucks, slippers, musical toys, DVD’s, dolls and doll accessories, books, and art supplies. We were also able to add 30 extra T-shirts.

### **Pregnancy Center West**

The wonderful Giving Tree collection for the babies included the items requested on the blue tags: 2136 diapers, 71 packages of wipes and 26 ointment, 146 baby bath items, 5 diaper bags, 94 bodysuits, 47 sleepers, 55 baby outfits, plus several snowsuits and dozens of other clothing items and baby-related needs, including blankets, a stroller, bath seats, books and toys, 12 checks (\$550) to be used to purchase car seats and to sustain their need to help new moms all year, and a very generous donation for the sonogram program. Expectant moms participate in the Achieve & Receive program, earning the baby items they need by taking pre-natal, parenting, and self-help classes.

### **Breaking Bread with the Hungry at Fr. Ray’s Parish, St. Vincent de Paul**

New on the Giving Tree, St. Charles parishioners contributed generously to the poor and homeless. We stacked Fr. Ray’s office with many boxes containing 304 men’s undershirts, 307 men’s boxers, 290 women’s underpants, along with a selection of gloves, hats, socks and thermals, plus a large assortment of feminine hygiene products, compliments of our Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and 70 new hoodies and T-shirts, donated by Kerusso’s. They will be distributed at Friday dinners.

### **God’s blessings and our thanks to all who took a tag and fulfilled the wishes so generously.**

#### **Giving Tree Committee:**

**Marian House – Donna Cooper**

**Brinton Woods Health & Rehabilitation Center at Pikesville – Tina Artes**

**INNterim–Julianne DeMarco–Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Charles Borromeo #2723**

**Pregnancy Center West – Ruthanne Otto**

**St. Vincent’s Breaking Bread with the Hungry – Tom Otto**

**Thanks to all those who offered help wherever it was needed**, including, but not limited to: Tom Streicher, Jim and Cathy Bonner, Sabrina St. Rose and Kerusso’s Donations, Allison Mooney, Lori Mooney, Bill Cooper, Tom and Sandy Feulner, Pamela Wright, Sr. Janet Pfeffer, Noelle Applegarth, Myrtle St. Rose, Tim Olivella, Joe DeMarco, Bob Sears, Bruce DiFelice, Sacred Heart students, the committee who worked tirelessly, and so many other anonymous donors, “angels”, and helpers.

# Giving Tree Report – A personal thank you!

*The Committee and I would like to extend our heart-felt thanks for the most successful Giving Tree ever!*

This year, instead of 4 worthy organizations we donated to 5, as we added the poor and homeless of Fr. Ray's new parish. We were concerned that this would negatively impact the other 4 – the elderly, the children, the pregnant moms and the women transitioning to independence – who continue to rely on our support, but we underestimated the wonderful generosity of St. Charles parishioners. We were blown away by the overwhelming response to the new **purple** tags – and you did this without diminishing the giving to the **red, green, blue, and yellow!!! Truly an amazing accomplishment!!!**

- ❖ Nearly every number for every organization was higher than last year, in many cases, substantially higher!
- ❖ Of the hundreds of tags taken, only one was not returned in time – a record best.
- ❖ We received several very thoughtful bonus donations that helped several organizations.
- ❖ Several new people stepped forward and got involved to make a difference.

Thank you all for not forgetting the less fortunate, for using your hands to do Christ's work on earth.

God bless you!

*Ruthanne Otto (chair)*

