December 21, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

***"I have never thought I would be so excited about toilet paper. Oh it just warms my heart so. I don't really get anything for the holidays so I so look forward to this. Thank you Thank you so much. You have no idea how much this means to me," Linda.***

Linda, a local senior, shared her sentiments after receiving her special Christmas Blessings delivery from local volunteers. Livingston County businesses, churches, organizations, schools and local community members provided basic needs items, Christmas cheer and friendly visits to local home bound and low-income seniors through Livingston County Catholic Charities’ annual Christmas Blessing project. This is a tremendous undertaking each year in our community to provide love, help and hope to vulnerable county seniors.

This year’s Christmas Blessing project provided food boxes, cleaning products, hygiene items, paper products and more through 171 boxes to 211 county seniors and their families.

The winter months are a difficult time of year for our vulnerable seniors who have to contend with higher utility costs that affect their ability to purchase food or life-saving medications on their limited incomes. We often hear, too, that they feel lonely and isolated during this time of year and are so overjoyed when they receive their special Christmas delivery and cheerful visits. A longtime volunteer shared that their Christmas doesn’t start until they deliver the boxes.

Throughout the year, Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) senior outreach staff work with local seniors to connect to critical resources and services to help them remain independent in their homes as long as safely possible by connecting them to local, state and federal resources and services. Many recipients of the Christmas Blessing project are clients at LCCC. However, this annual program is open to any county senior in need and LCCC receives many calls and referrals from partner churches and local non-profits calls for assistance leading up to the day of delivery and even after. When one gentleman was asked if we could add his name to our delivery list, he tearfully replied, “I just ran out of toilet paper and didn’t know what I was going to do.”

The Board and co-workers at LCCC are grateful for the outpouring of love, generous donations and help from our community during this continuing health crisis. It is truly heartwarming and just signifies the incredible county we live in. Community volunteers along with LCCC staff began planning LCCC’s annual Christmas Blessing project as early as August. They worked tirelessly in the community seeking donations of food, paper products, grants and cash with a combined value exceeding $38,000; then packing and delivering the food boxes with hygiene products, paper and cleaning products.

This year, 20 volunteers and a number of staff spent 233 hours soliciting, receiving and packaging the numerous donations at the Marion Township Hall as they readied for the deliveries. During December 8 – 10, 75 cheer-filled volunteers delivered cheer to the seniors.

We gratefully share the list of the many donors and hope that you will support them in return. We are stronger as a community when we work together and support each other. This is an example of true collaboration between the community, LCCC and many other concerned individuals and organizations. We are truly thankful for this support on behalf of the people that we serve. Thank you and God Bless!

Alliance Catholic Credit Union, Maureen Alterman, Amazon Wish List donors, The Amman Family, Justin & Michelle Anderson, John & Kathi Backhuus, Barnum Cares Group, Bruce & Mary Bendure, Mary & Terry Bradburn, Brighton District Library, Brighton NC Machine Corp., Vicki Buell, Kelly Butler, Catholic Council on Aging, Carlos & Donna Chacon, Mary Lou Clark, Coalition of Oral Health for Aging, Pinckney Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Dick & Sue Cowdrey, Extreme Machine, John & Linda Furey, Gleaner’s Food Bank, H.H. Barnum, Habitat for Humanity, Hamburg Twp. Senior Center, Hartland Lions Club, Holy Spirit Catholic School Families, Joan Houran, Linda Jamros, Carlos & Donna Chacon, Leslie & Sam Johnson, Karen Jones, Penny Jones, Lisa Kanderz, Kem Krest, Kensington Woods Schools, Bette Klann, K of C #11761, K of C #2659, K of C #7891, K of C #7304, K of C #8169, K of C #8605, Gary Kozyra, Pete and Kathy Krauskopf, Frank & Paula Krupansky, Bob & Kay Kuch, Tony & Meghan Kuch, Rob & Debbie Kwapisz, Amy Lamoreaux, Chris Larson, Light of the World Academy, Livingston Cty. Catholic Charities Staff, Livingston Cty. Sheriff’s Office, Livingston Cty. Women’s Chorus, Livingston Cty. Friend of the Court, Pat Macina, Marion Township Hall, Chuck & Mary McFadden, Carol Muringer, Linda Myers, Larry & Ann Marie Pabin, Joe & Barb Parker, Robert & Cathryn Phipps, Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Agnes, Chris & Vicki Price, Charlotte & Jim Radtke, Michael & Joleen Rebarchik, Philip Reilly, Pat Reimer, Christine and Richard Romanowski, Barbara Rost, St. Agnes Christian Services and Formation Ministry, St. Augustine Parishioners, St. John Advent Tea, St. John Parishioners & 59ers, St. Joseph Catholic School Families, St. Joseph Quilters, St. Mary Parishioners, St. Mary Magdalen Parishioners, St Patrick Parishioners and School Families, Mike Sauro, Sisterhood of Catholic Women, Julie Swidriski, David & Karen Trzcinski, Village Manor Retirement, Burt and Nancie Wakeman, Jerry & Vicki Weyland & several anonymous donors.