



Happy New Year Everyone

Happy New Year from the Toledo Kids Who Care!! We've been really busy the past few months so we apologize for not sending this out sooner! As we enter 2019, we look forward with enthusiasm to another action-packed year. Below are a few highlights from our events. Thanks to all of you we were able to make a difference in the life of so many. Thank you all very much!!

Easter Baskets for Hospitalized Children

Spring time is always magical and this year was no exception. For 16 years, we have been brightening the day of children at University Hospital with a surprise Easter Basket delivery. This year with the help and support of so many of you, we were able to donate **21** absolutely beautiful baskets. Stephen remembers how unexpected acts of kindness lifted his spirits when he was hospitalized and every time we walk into a room and a child smiles we know we are doing something good.



Mimi Donates Knitted Blankets

As many of you know our Mimi has been our number one supporter and in many ways our inspiration. She has been knitting for children in need for most of our lives so this year as we searched for a way to celebrate all she has done we decided to donate **88** baby blankets, **23** hats and one scarf to North Porch Women & Infants' Center in Newark. North Porch is a non-profit



organization that provides emergency aid, in the form of baby supplies, to mothers and infants in northern New Jersey, to help them stabilize and improve the quality of their lives. It wasn't until after we made the donation that someone pointed out that we had donated 88 blankets and Mimi is 88 years old. This made the donation even more memorable.

Duduza Dolls for Uganda

This year was a very productive year for our Mimi. We are extremely blessed to have her in our lives and she is a constant inspiration to all of us. This year thanks to her we were able to donate **150** Duduza Dolls to Uganda. We would like to thank Sr. Carole MacKenthum for providing us the opportunity to serve the children of Uganda and perhaps, as the name Duduza means comfort, provide a little comfort to the many orphans there.



Backpacks and School Supplies

As summer comes to an end many children around the country begin their shopping in look for all the supplies they will need to make their school year a success. This is not always possible when a family is living paycheck to paycheck, these children learn to make do with what they have, even if that means returning to school without the supplies they need. That is why this year we started planning for our

backpack and school supply project very early. As always, we were overwhelmed by your generosity. Thanks to so many of you we were able to donate **102** backpacks full of supplies. These supplies are not just about the paper, pens or binders. It's about giving the gift of hope, love, and opportunity in the life of many of these children that will not receive otherwise. We heard many heartbreaking stories during our visit to Father English Community Center and we would like to share a few. One high school student thanked us as she opened her backpack and noticed that she had several notebooks. She shared that the year before she had to write very small because she used the same "one subject" notebook for multiple subjects. She was thrilled that she wouldn't have to do that this year. The gratitude from these children was at times overwhelming. But perhaps the



most memorable moment was when the mother of a high school boy came back to tell us that her 6-foot tall son was sitting outside on the stairs in tears because he had found a calculator in his backpack. He was confident that that calculator would help him get the scholarship he so desperately wanted. We are blessed to have the opportunity to hear these stories and to share in their happiness but we are very much aware that none of this would be possible without the help and support of many, many people, we would especially like to thank Lynette, Anthony and Nicki Palmieri who with their friends; Maria, Gianfranco and Elina Sparacio helped us assemble, deliver and distribute the backpacks. In addition we would like to thank the Estevez Family, Mimi Angela, the Novak

Family, the Horwitz Family and Co-workers, Bayada Home Health Care's Parsippany Charity Committee, and Ada Rita DelValle for your generosity. We simply could not do this without all of your help. In addition, we would like to thank Sister Maureen Sullivan, Director of Pastoral Ministry, Community Programs and Volunteers and Carlos Roldan, Director of Father English Food Pantry for setting up this incredible opportunity.

Christmas Toys For Hospitalized Children

We ended the year by visiting the children at the hospital and providing them with a small toy or stuffed animal. Thanks to all of you that donated we were able to donate over **\$300** worth of toys for the children who were hospitalized at University Hospital in Newark. You can't imagine the difference your gift can make to a hospitalized child.



We know we cannot change their situation but we are fortunate to distract them for a few moments. University Hospital is going through some transitions but we hope we will be able to continue to visit for many more years to come.

Upcoming Events

We have already started to think and plan for our next big project. We are once again looking forward to donating Easter baskets that will bring joy and hope to children in desperate situations. I know it's hard to think about Easter but I assure you it will be here before you know it and we have lots to do if we want to meet our goal. We are in need of baskets both filled and empty, small toys for children of all ages, hygiene products, (toothbrushes, shampoo, etc.), small essential clothing items (socks, t-shirts etc.), and Easter candy and Easter toys. Please check our website for other suggested items. Easter is on April 21st so we will need all donated items by **March 29th** to allow enough time to put together the baskets and arrange delivery.

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