Christmas: APPEAL

N ancy is a single mother with an active 2-year-old son and a newborn daughter. She left an abusive marriage and struggled to make a happier life on her own. Nancy is now in a nice apartment and receiving public assistance. When the baby is older, she hopes to return to school and gain. some marketable skills. Meanwhile, Nancy needs some extra help to make a special Christmas in her own home.

 $M^{r.\ G.\ lives}$ alone. His mobility is severely limited by a neuromuscular disease. He has difficulty speaking because of cracked dentures. Mr. G. is not eligible for Medicaid, but has so little money that he can't afford new dentures, housecleaning services or yard maintenance.

The single mother of a 3-year-old 1 son, Ms. V. is doing her best to gain job skills and raise her child. She received a very high score on a business-program placement test and is very eager to begin training. All she needs is help to cover transportation costs.

S ara rents a house in a rural area of Tioga County. Separated from her husband, she had been working as a waitress to support herself and her four children. But for the last nine months, Sara has been out of work. Child-support payments from her husband come late, if at all. Sara fears she will lose her home and car if she can't find a job in time to pay the rent and car insurance.

Health problems prevent Rosa from working to support her children ages 15, 11 and 5. Her husband is serving a three-year sentence in jail. The family is very loving and would be comforted by a festive Christmas meal.

single mother of four, Isabella re-A cently arrived from Puerto Rico. She and her children are living with Isabella's aunt in basement quarters that are not good for her son's asthma. Isabella[•] and her children speak little English. She is waiting to learn whether she will receive public assistance, and is looking for a job. A special meal and needed personal items would make their first Christmas in the United States much merrier.

The P. family of six lives in a renovated chicken coop in a remote rural community. They can't afford to install a heating system or to improve the building's structural support.

Success stories ... X Carl, a regular soup-kitchen guest, had neither income nor family. A \$6.50 grant from the Christmas Appeal paid.

for the non-driver's identification card that enabled him to

X A blind, elderly woman, Alice manages to do most of her own housework, including the laundry. But her onlyway of drying clothes was by hanging them on an outdoor. line from her second-floor porch. Neighbors feared she might fall from the porch, and contacted the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, \$75 from Christmas Appeal funds acies Alice buy a used anyer.

X When her husband was sent to jail, Mrs. W had a hard time finding work to support herself and two children. The Christmas Appeal provided \$160 in rent assistance and food youchers. In turn, Mrs. W. worked as a volunteer at the Southern Tier Emergency Office. She sharpened some of her work skills, regained her confidence and has now found full. fime employment

working as a handyman, but jobs are scarce in the cold weather. Clare doesn't have the skills to earn more than the minimum wage. A little help would make Christmas merry and warm.

ret a ob.

anielle is 35, pregnant and in jail on prostitution charges. She has lost her public-assistance benefits. When she is released from jail, she will need a month's rent for transitional shelter while she reapplies for benefits.

ennifer ran away from home when she was 16. Two years later, she now is pregnant, living in a motel and without any family support. She needs a better home for herself and her baby. But she has no savings, and needs help to pay the first month's rent and buy a crib.

lcoholism caused Mr.⁴ R. to lose A his job. He is waiting to get into an alcohol-treatment program. Meanwhile, he needs bus tokens to get to a daily Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

Maria, 22, is struggling to support a 2-month-old baby on her own. To avoid applying for public assistance, she went to work shortly after the baby's birth. On top of her regular bills, Maria is making car payments,

U nable to cope with the the death of his wife, Mr. D. left his four children with their grandmother. The children will be a physical and finan-cial burden on the grandmother, but she is determined to take care of them. She would appreciate any help at all to make this Christmas a happy one for the children.

Mrs. H. and her granddaughter live in a mobile home with no heat or hot water. Her fuel tank and hot-water tank need replacement. Matching government grants are available, but Mrs. H. can't raise the minimum needed to take advantage of the grants.

Various chronic illnesses frequently have hospitalized Mrs. C. during the last five years. Poor health has made it hard for her to hold a steady job. She has been denied public assistance because she owns a car. Mrs. C. needs the car to get to medical appointments and to work when a temporary employer calls her in. She needs a coat for the winter and some food staples.

Ginella is a young, gentle woman who is intellectually limited. She lives alone and supports herself with a part-time job in a restaurant kitchen.

What can your gift do?

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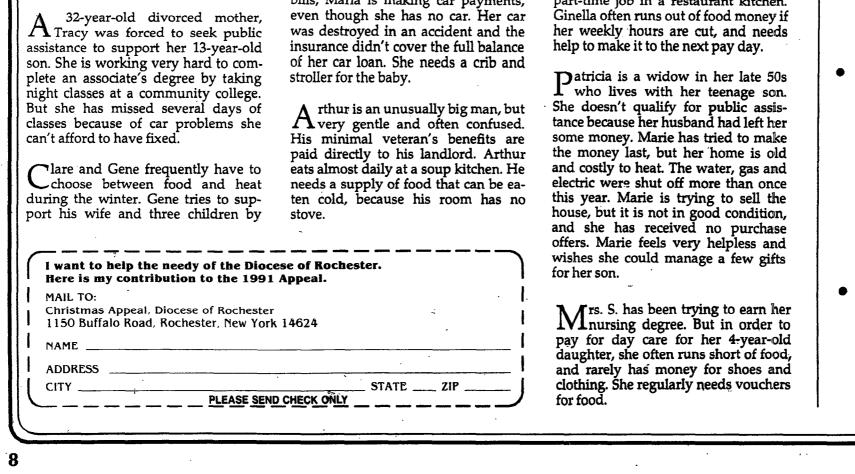
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\$5 will provide an abandoned woman with personal items shampoo, soap, toilet paper, etc. she can't buy with food stamps.

- \$7 will pay for copies of birth certificates and other documents needed by a job applicant.
- \$8.67 will buy formula for a newborn infant left in her grand*mother's care* by the baby's drugaddicted *mother*.

• \$10 will allow a disabled man to visit his aged parent for the holidays.



• \$15 will put thriftstore drapes on the bare bedroom window of an elderly woman.

• \$29.25 will fill a prescription for a patient who has no health insurance.

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