

CATHOLIC COURIER SOCIAL MINISTRY
**Christmas
 A P P E A L**

Nancy 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.

Mr. 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 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.

Sara 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.

A single mother of four, Isabella recently 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.

A 32-year-old divorced mother, Tracy was forced to seek public assistance to support her 13-year-old son. She is working very hard to complete an associate's degree by taking night classes at a community college. But she has missed several days of classes because of car problems she can't afford to have fixed.

Clare and Gene frequently have to choose between food and heat during the winter. Gene tries to support his wife and three children by

Success stories ...

★ 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 get a job.

★ A blind, elderly woman, Alice manages to do most of her own housework, including the laundry. But her only way 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 helped Alice buy a used dryer.

★ 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 vouchers. 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 time 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.

Danielle 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.

Jennifer 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.

Alcoholism caused Mr. R. to lose 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, even though she has no car. Her car was destroyed in an accident and the insurance didn't cover the full balance of her car loan. She needs a crib and stroller for the baby.

Arthur is an unusually big man, but very gentle and often confused. His minimal veteran's benefits are paid directly to his landlord. Arthur eats almost daily at a soup kitchen. He needs a supply of food that can be eaten cold, because his room has no stove.

Unable to cope with the death of his wife, Mr. D. left his four children with their grandmother. The children will be a physical and financial 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. Ginella often runs out of food money if her weekly hours are cut, and needs help to make it to the next pay day.

Patricia is a widow in her late 50s who lives with her teenage son. She doesn't qualify for public assistance because her husband had left her some money. Marie has tried to make the money last, but her home is old and costly to heat. The water, gas and electric were shut off more than once this year. Marie is trying to sell the house, but it is not in good condition, and she has received no purchase offers. Marie feels very helpless and wishes she could manage a few gifts for her son.

Mrs. S. has been trying to earn her nursing degree. But in order to pay for day care for her 4-year-old daughter, she often runs short of food, and rarely has money for shoes and clothing. She regularly needs vouchers for food.

What can your gift do?

- \$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 grandmother's care by the baby's drug-addicted mother.
- \$10 will allow a disabled man to visit his aged parent for the holidays.
- \$15 will put thrift-store drapes on the bare bedroom window of an elderly woman.
- \$29.25 will fill a prescription for a patient who has no health insurance.

I want to help the needy of the Diocese of Rochester. Here is my contribution to the 1991 Appeal.

MAIL TO:
 Christmas Appeal, Diocese of Rochester
 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE SEND CHECK ONLY