

CATHOLIC COURIER SOCIAL MINISTRY
**Christmas
 APPEAL**

Success stories ...

★ The summer heat is particularly hard on those suffering from heart problems. The Christmas Appeal helped two such elderly shut-ins to buy \$95 air conditioners.

★ The Nelsons' 15-month-old daughter had multiple allergies. Their doctor urged the family to move out of their damp trailer, but they couldn't afford the move on their limited income. The Christmas Appeal provided \$50 toward the security deposit on more healthy housing, and the child's condition improved dramatically.

Mr. T. can't work because of a back injury, and his wife's handicap prevents her from taking over. They live within their limited means, but do not have any way to make a brighter Christmas for their two sons.

The L. family regularly needs help from the local food pantry. One family member has special dietary needs, and these foods are not typically available. They need help to purchase a month's supply of the special foods.

A refugee who speaks little English, Mrs. A. is a single mother of three. Her attempts to find work have been complicated by a recent fall in which she broke her hand. The injury will take time and therapy to heal properly. Meanwhile, she needs help with food and winter clothing for the children.

Nona is a widow who lives in a rural area. Medical bills from a lengthy hospital stay have used up all her meager savings. She needs money to hook her house up to the village water supply.

A recent disability left Mr. C, who is in his 40s, dependent on a walker to get around. He also has been forced to seek help with housing, transportation and food costs as a result of delays in receiving public assistance. He still has no money to purchase grooming items, pots, pans or linens.

Stress — both financial and medical — was the product of Mrs. M.'s long bout with cancer and lack of medical insurance. Now she and her family need money to correct a hazardous electrical problem in their home.

Mrs. K. is a widow from Southeast Asia who came to this country with her two children in 1985. For a long time, she could not find employment because she lacked work experience and couldn't speak English. She finally found a job that did not require

English language skills and has been off public assistance for over a year. But Mrs. K. is not eligible for health-insurance coverage at work. She has asked for help in paying for prescriptions while she waits for Medicaid enrollment.

After several suicide attempts, 51-year-old Mrs. V. is being treated for psychological problems stemming from pain. Diagnosed with tuberculosis, she had two operations within one year. The first was for a lung infection and the other for a back problem. Mrs. V. cannot support herself and her two sons, and her family can't afford any "Christmas cheer" on public assistance.

Medical bills related to a car accident ate up everything 75-year-old Albert and his wife had saved. Now Albert desperately needs medications the couple cannot afford while they await Medicaid enrollment.

Kathy is the single parent of three boys ages 6, 5 and 1. The family's medical problems make life difficult. Two of the boys have attention-deficit hyperactive disorder. The oldest and the youngest have asthma, and the middle child has seizures. Kathy has a congenital hip defect that makes walking difficult, and recently had knee surgery. Because of her own health and that of her children, Kathy has been unable to work. She needs help to buy some kitchen chairs and winter clothing for her growing children.

Daria is a former school teacher who came to the United States from Moldavia. She is in her late 60s and has no family here. Her limited income makes each day a struggle for survival. A food voucher would put something extra in her food cupboard for a change.

Mary is working hard to support herself and keep her four daughters out of an abusive situation. Lead toxicity problems have forced her and the children to move several times.

Her three year old has been hospitalized with critically high levels of lead. Now Mary is faced with the expense of moving again. She can barely make ends meet, let alone afford safer housing as well as winter clothing and blankets.

Anisia is a lonely Ukrainian widow who has no relatives. Occasionally she supplements her small pension by doing odd jobs for friends. She needs a number of personal items, but cannot afford them.

Peter is an unemployed medical technician. No jobs are available in the rural area where he lives. He would like to relocate to Rochester, but doesn't have enough money to move. Peter needs help to rent a truck and move his family.

Kim has just given birth to her fifth child. She and the child's father do their best to provide for the children and are excellent parents. Kim's five year old has emotional problems and is currently living in a therapeutic foster home. The family is working to bring this child home soon, but the household income barely meets the family's needs. All the children need clothes and would be delighted by some Christmas surprises under the tree.

Despite physical and emotional abuse as a child, Evelyn is an optimistic and dedicated single parent to her 15-month-old son. She has few resources, but is willing to work hard toward her goals. She hopes to begin training in word processing in January. Some small gifts would brighten the holidays for this mother and her child.

Mr. X., his wife and two children are refugees from Vietnam. The family has lived in this area for a year and depends solely on Mr. X's meager income. Their adjustment to a new culture, language and lifestyle has been made even difficult by the recent ordeal of open-heart surgery for his 10-year-old daughter. Mr. X. would like to make this Christmas special for his daughter, but is limited by his income.

This summer marked an important milestone in Linda's life. She successfully finished a yearlong drug-rehabilitation program. Previously, Linda used drugs to try to escape a life of abuse. Now she has learned more healthy ways to cope and is rebuilding her life. Linda's five children were removed from her care a year ago. The two daughters rejoined her last month, and Linda hopes her three boys can come home soon. Her concern at the moment is preparing a festive, family holiday.

Anna, who is in her mid-20s, has seven children between the ages of 11 months and 10 years. This young mother is suffering from lingering depression over the murder of a sibling. The responsibility of caring for her children intensifies her bouts with depression. The family's limited income does not allow for special purchases. Some Christmas gifts would give Anna and her children much needed joy.

Mrs. B. found the courage to leave her abusive husband after 17 years. She is on public assistance and finds it difficult to provide adequately for her seven children. A holiday meal and some personal gifts would bolster the family's spirits.

**What
 can your
 gift do?**

• \$5 will buy groceries for about 10 packaged meals.

• \$8.75 will enable a single mother to file a Financial Aid Form for enrollment at a community college.

• \$15 will buy the gasoline to put a long-term unemployed man on the road to his new job.

• \$20 will provide a telephone for the young mother of a sick infant.

• \$40 will buy a bed for a man who is sleeping on the floor.

• \$50 will help an impoverished family avoid eviction.

**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