



Christmas Celebration 2021—Sharing God’s Gifts during a Pandemic

While continuing to power through the pandemic, St. Vincent de Paul hosted the 2021 Christmas Celebration on December 4, 11, and 18, 2021 from roughly noon to 5:00 p.m. Once again, Theresa Zimnawoda took the lead. The event was widely publicized to Brown County families through direct mailings, Facebook, church bulletins, contacts with Brown County Township trustees, the Brown County Backpack Program, on the Brown County Schools Parent Square website, at food pop-ups, and by word of mouth. An on-line scheduling system managed by Kevin Preuss was used to recruit volunteers. All event dates required two shifts each with at least nine volunteers. Volunteers from Church of the Lakes in Nineveh, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Agnes Catholic Church, St. David’s Episcopal Church, the Brown County School Corporation, Rotary Club of Brown County, TRIAD, and the Northern Brown County Food Alliance signed up for roles such as Parking Lot Greeter, Welcome Host, Personal Shopper, Hospitality Station and Santa’s Helper. Mary Perez sponsored hot chocolate and cookies. CDC guidelines were followed -three households were invited in at any time and all wore masks, used hand sanitizer, and practiced social distancing. Those waiting their turn were patient and stayed in their cars. Keith Baker from the Sheriff’s Auxiliary helped with traffic. John Aumage captured an aerial photo with his drone. **A total of 123 different households representing 133 families made selections for 487 children and grandchildren.** More than 80 different individuals or organizations contributed including those who committed to praying each day for the volunteers and families...a rough estimate of 900+ volunteer hours. Church of the Lakes in Nineveh, St. Agnes Church, St. Barnabas Catholic Church in Greenwood, the Chamber of Commerce, local merchants and community groups organized campaigns to which individuals contributed one or more gift items. The Nashville Christian Church, St. Agnes Guild, Nashville United Methodist Church and the Community Closet along with God’s Grace provided additional donations of either funds or material items...a true sharing of God’s Gifts during a Pandemic!

Hats, gloves, and breath-taking knitted items were donated by Natalie Lavengood, Rita Simon and other Brown County knitters. Jonathan Bolte secured 400 age-appropriate books from Half-Price Books in Bloomington. Denise Hammack, manager of a local store, organized a campaign resulting in 400 gifts. The Chamber of Commerce hosted a donation campaign and The Light Parade resulting in 274 gifts. Church of the Lakes members worked at the event and also collected items especially for teen boys and girls. A Giving Tree at St. Agnes, coordinated by Jackie & Dennis Brich and Cheryl Bedwell, resulted in the parish donating nearly 80 items. Midwest Foods donated candy and snacks and Target via SVDP/Indianapolis provided items. The Caring Center in Lebanon (Brenda Vaughn and Janet Miller) also donate items. Alan Schwenk, Ralph Dixon and other volunteers split firewood taken from trees that had to be removed from the pantry property and Alan also brought additional firewood for distribution. Kroger Corporation donated \$500 in gift cards towards the purchase of turkeys and hams.

Christmas Celebration Recap of the 487 Served

Ages	Boys	Girls	Ages	Boys	Girls	Ages	Boys	Girls	Ages	Boys	Girls
<1	6	13	6	11	18	12	15	7	18	3	5
1	13	21	7	14	16	13	4	13	19+*	2	2
2	17	12	8	15	15	14	20	15	Total	231	256
3	13	12	9	13	13	15	13	8	*Special Needs Youth		
4	19	25	10	12	16	16	7	10			
5	17	13	11	7	13	17	10	9			

Theresa and John Zimnawoda and family members, Mary, Jeff, Kylene, Jake, Sarah, Jared, Mila, Emmett, Nate, Doris, Valerie, Adrian, Garrett, Griffin, Gage, Alexia and Scott contribute by watching for seasonal sales, prepackaging items, helping with set-up in addition to working the event. Sandy Scheidler, Cheryl Dixon and Cindy Peck along with other “sorting volunteers” identify gently used items during the year and set them aside for gifts. John and Angie Aumage, John Schaffner, Jonathan Bolte, and Shirley Boardman provided organizational support. The Food Pantry was open 6 days in December and distributed 10,600 pounds of food to 614 individuals. A December pop-up distribution at Parkview Church of the Nazarene distributed 3,000 pounds of food to 180 individuals. We are overwhelmed with gratitude and know that this report doesn’t capture all that happened nor all who contributed!