



January, 2025

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*Thank You!*

Thank you to you, our donors. Without your continued support, we wouldn't be able to continue feeding our neighbors or spreading the Word of God with them. As you all are aware, we don't receive any state, federal or local government assistance. That is why your support is so very important to us.

Many people have a negative view of the police. However, we work closely with local police departments, and the County Sheriff's department. We see a side that isn't on the news or lauded. They come to us for help when they come across a family in need, or an entire homeless encampment. We get them food clothing and anything we have on hand to assist. Many of the officers we work with have gone to the grocery store to purchase food out of their own pockets for those in need that they encounter. This is, of course, outside their job description, but they do it anyway.



When you encounter a police officer, thank them. They do so much more than hand out speeding tickets.



We are in need of volunteers. We need help, not only with the distribution, but also with registration and check-in. If you would like to help but can't do any lifting, we have a spot for you at our reception desk, or with registration. Please reach out to 708-597-6326, leave a name and number and that you want to volunteer. We will get back to you promptly.

2024 Statistics	
Heads of Households	10337
Individuals	32860
Prayed with	9042
Professions of Faith	85

December Statistics	
Heads of Households	750
Individuals	2332
Prayed with	657
Professions of Faith	0

## OPERATION BLESSING TOY DAY 2024

A tradition for over 30 years, Operation Blessing held it's annual Christmas Toy Day on December 14th. Although it has changed and grown over the years, the goal is the same—to give families in need some Holiday cheer and to make sure they have something to put under the tree for their children at Christmas.

This year we had **88** parents “shopping” to find gifts for about **311** children. As Vince played and sang holiday music, we also gave out gift bags from “Pam & Jennifer's Store”, also, candy treat bags, we drew winning numbers for bikes, and wrapped the chosen gifts. It was a very busy morning, but we were glad that we could help so many children.

None of this would have been possible without the groups and individuals who took the time to donate toys for the event. This year, we would like to thank two new toy doners. Thank you Sue (one of our volunteers) and the folks at Heart Procedure Center at Christ Hospital for collecting toys. Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Crestwood/Oak Forest for donating \$500 that we used to buy toys for our event.



Then there are the volunteers who take time out of the busy holiday to help. Thank you to the Black Hat Divas, Vince, Janet, Kathy, Barb, Joan, Jennifer, Reda, Bud, Caroline and Vivianna for making everything run smoothly and spreading Christmas cheer to all who came.

