



January, 2024

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Winter weather creates challenges for us all, but for older adults, families with children and other neighbors facing hunger, freezing temperatures can bring many difficult decisions. Food, housing and fuel prices remain high—and many households already struggling to afford groceries, prescriptions and other basic necessities will have to choose between heating their homes and putting food on the table this winter.

Higher utility bills mean more people will experience hunger...and more people will seek food from us. A retiree who visited us knows all about impossible choices. Kathryn shared, "Everything is so expensive. It's hard to get enough to feed the whole family...we can either buy our meds or buy food."

**Please make a gift now to ensure nutritious food and healthy meals are available all winter so our neighbors don't have to choose between running their heaters, getting their medicine or feeding their families.**

**Thank you for standing with Operation Blessing** at this time, and sharing our belief that no one should have to choose between eating and staying warm this winter.

A very special thank you to our volunteers. Without them we would have a very difficult time accomplishing our mission.



Thank you to Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling for their continued support. It's a very special treat for our clients to receive the beverages they donated.

For the second year in a row, the M family had donated food to us. This year, they decided as a family to forgo gifts for themselves and donate solely to us. This year the M family purchased and donated 1,416 pounds. It was such a pleasure to meet them.



**December Statistics**

Heads of Households	636
Individuals	1982
New Clients	87
Prayed with	592
Professions of Faith	9

**2023 Statistics**

Heads of Households	9272
Individuals	29,662
New Clients	1498
Prayed with	6420
Professions of Faith	73

Terry Wuethrich, President; Mike Will, Secretary; Marsha Jakobi, Treasurer;  
Don Cyze, Director; Brian Cottrell, Operations Manager

## Operation Blessing Toy Day—2023

As we have for many years, even during the Pandemic, we held our annual Operation Blessing Toy Day on the second Saturday of December. Parents were welcome to come and pick out toys to bring home and put under the tree for Christmas. And, this year, there were plenty of parents looking.

We helped **122 families** with toys for about **433 kids!** That's back to pre-pandemic levels. But because of generous donations, we did have enough toys to go around.

"Pam & Jennefer's Store" had wonderful gift bags full of clothes, homemade items, and toys for kids in all age groups. We also brought back the "Win a Bike" bicycle drawings, which had been on hold these past few years.

Vince sang and played Christmas tunes (and a few others) to help us keep the festive spirit. Our friends from Oak Tree Church were kept busy wrapping gifts to keep them secret until Christmas.

As a final treat, everyone received a gift bag of candy to take with them. With all our helpful volunteers, the day went smoothly and everyone had a good time.

Thank you to all who donated either gifts or their time to make our Toy Day a success. We know there were a lot of happy kids on Christmas morning because of your help.

