Operation BLESSING of Southwest Chicagoland

January, 2026

Follow us on Facebook

Visit our website at OPBLESSING.ORG

Toys for Christmas Day

Operation Blessing held it's annual Toy Day on Saturday, December 13th, and it was cold! Winter showed up this December and we had wind chills below zero, snow, and ice layering the parking lot. But, that did not deter parents from showing up as early as 3:30 am to sign up and get an early spot for our toy give-away. Once we opened up, the parents found plenty of toys to choose from, and take home to put under the tree for their children. Pam (of "Pam & Jennefer's Store") provided over 100 specially filled gift bags and backpacks for the kids. With Christmas music going, gifts being wrapped, and candy treats being given out, it was a festive atmosphere enjoyed by all. By noon, when we were done, we had seen 80 families come through looking for toys for about 300 kids. We hope they all had a Merry Christmas. (pictures on reverse)

We'd like to thank the TFT Motorcycle Parade for donating toys as they have for many years. And, thank you to the Black Hat Divas who donated toys and their time to volunteer. Thank you to Pam for all her work in putting together her special gifts. And a special thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Crestwood and Oak Forest who donated $500 again this year for us to buy toys. Thank you to all those who also donated toys and those who donated their time volunteering to make our Toy Day "merry and bright" for another year.

2025 Statistics

Heads of Households	9157
Individuals	28160
Prayed with	7994
Professions of Faith	89

December Statistics

Heads of Households	579
Individuals	1854
Prayed with	515
Professions of Faith	9

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

Operation Blessing of Southwest Chicagoland is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit charitable organization

THANK YOU TO Griffith Foods!

We'd like to send a huge thank you to Griffith Foods for donating funds to purchase 150 hams this year for Christmas meals. Griffith Foods is a global company that is "passionate about creating delicious food that is healthy, sustainable, and nutritious". They create seasonings, sauces, dressings, and original recipes and are right here in Alsip.

We are grateful for their generous gift at Christmas time and we know the families we serve are too.

Miracle on 127th. Street

For 21 years, about 15 churches along 127th Street have gathered for a community Thanksgiving celebration. This year's event was held at the Salvation Army's "Next Generations" church in Blue Island. The service was full of energy with lots of music, singing, and clapping.

The keynote address was given by their very own Lt. Shannon Norcross, focusing on gratitude. It set the tone perfectly as we entered Thanksgiving week.

And, speaking of gratitude, we are grateful to once again be the beneficiaries of the money donated during the service. There generosity gave us a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

As we end each year, we always want to acknowledge everyone who keeps our ministry going. The volunteers are "boots on the ground" to serve, support and encourage those in need. Our financial supporters in the background allow us to have a place to serve from and keep the doors open.

Thank you for another year of "Reaching out in Christ's love" and here's to 2026!