

Do you remember our **St. Paul's Christmas family** from last year?! The family with **4 kids and Baby Gracelyn** born early with prayers needed for her health?? Unplanned medical expenses and time away from work caused a large burden on them for the upcoming Holiday putting them in a position to ask for help. A family of 7 that kept getting passed up on the list for organizations that couldn't handle such a larger family to help. Well as you know, in St. Paul's fashion, we made their Christmas dreams come true. When we showed up with an overflowing trunk of gifts, Mom was overwhelmed with our generosity. While it may have been a surprise to her, it was no surprise to us that St. Paul's poured their hearts into this family. No questions asked, strangers to all of us- we helped that Mom and Dad give their kids a **Christmas Morning** full of *Love and Magic* and for a moment- we covered the burdens for Mom and Dad as they enjoyed the smiles and screams of excited kids opening their gifts! The gift of giving is so rewarding and fills our hearts. That's why we do it!

As in all homes, the Christmas tree came down and the Nativity was packed away. Our Christmas family, filled with the **Love** they felt from our church, moved on. Gracelyn got stronger, finances got better, and they focused on their **Faith**.... They went from being small apartment renters to homeowners! The fridge always has food and the bills are paid. Life is looking pretty good!!! A simple life, but a good life! As the holiday season approached, there was that "family down on their luck" memory from last Christmas. The not forgotten, pit in their stomach that they lived through. And the **LOVE** they were given by our little church-- *always* remembered.

So Mom leaned in- and leaned hard- on her **Faith**! She went out on a limb. She started her very own Facebook Giving Tree. First, she asked for donations.. and then she asked **who** needed help. This Mom, with the support of her husband, and help from her sister and her kids, have made Christmas come to life for over **185 families in need**.. Yep-- read that again. 185 FAMILIES!!! They organized families to be "adopted" by the community, they received gifts for them, wrapped them ALL, and hand delivered to porches all over the area. I can't help but wonder.. Did God put that family in our lives for a reason? Did God know that the LOVE we shown that family would grow and blossom to reach so many more families?

I think we all know the answer! ❤️❤️

**Merry Christmas St. Paul's Family!!!**