About 8 years ago I heard a story about a parent who hung a small stocking on their Christmas tree with money and a note in it. The note said something to the effect of, "Use this gift to give to another who is less fortunate." This touched my heart and inspired me... I wrote a poem (see next page), printed it on cardstock, and put it in a box along with a \$100 bill for each of my kids. My kids were 20, 17, and 15 at the time. One of my kids is a cancer survivor, and when we discussed which charity he would most like to give to, he exclaimed, "Leukemia and Lymphoma Society!" My other 2 chimed in, "Me too! Me too!" This box has been under our tree every year since then, and my kids have chosen many other great organizations such as the American Heart Association, our local homeless shelter, the SPCA, Helping Up, St. Jude's Research Hospital, Disabled American Veterans, our local volunteer fire department, World Central Kitchen, TeamSeas, and a number of others. It's become one of the things we enjoy most at Christmastime. I truly believe it's helped my kids understand that there's more to life than just their needs and that other people need help, love, and compassion too. Our foundation is 100% just to promote goodness and there's no charge for what we'll send to you. All you need to do is provide us with your first name and your mailing address. Then we'll send you a decorative copy of the poem to put in the box and we'll also send the box*. Your job will be to pick the monetary** amount you want to put in the box, put it under the tree, and have fun watching your kid's love and compassion grow!

-Farryl email- JDP@JDPboxfoundation.org website- JDPboxfoundation.org

(Click "Next" below to see poem!)

^{*}If you'd prefer to print a copy of the poem yourself and not receive a box, please email me your request and I'll reply to your email with the PDF.

^{**}I like to put cash in the box, but I don't mail cash to the organizations. The kids get excited to see the cash and I think it helps them better visualize what they're giving, but I feel it's safer to write a check or do an online donation and put the cash back into my bank account.

^{*}If you celebrate a holiday besides Christmas, I'll happily change the design on the card to reflect your holiday. Please let me know in your email ©

It's so much fun to receive,

But tis also the season for giving.

We're blessed with love, health, and so many great things,

And how comfortably we're living.

Others are much less fortunate,

And we shouldn't turn a blind eye.

We should show compassion, love, and gratitude

Every moment that goes by.

As we enjoy all our blessings,

Let's put ourselves in others' shoes.

Think of what touches your heart the most,

And give to the charity you choose.

The card with the poem will look like this (but larger, of course)...



Fun fact – my kids' names are Jonathan, Danielle, and Patrick. When I was trying to come up with the name for our foundation using the first letters of their names – J D & P – "Jesus Does Provide" came to mind.

