



# CATHOLIC *Diocese of Fresno* CHARITIES

Dear Friend,

It's the most wonderful time of the year. With twinkling lights on houses and trees, gifts and traditions, we begin a season of celebration of faith, family and hope surrounding the miracle of the birth of Christ. But for many different reasons, December can often bring a painful time for families struggling with life circumstances different than our own.

It is this time of year that an overabundance of requests pour into Catholic Charities on how we might be able to help so many who are struggling throughout our 8-county Diocese - whether it be assistance with food to nourish their body, a coat to keep them warm, shelter to keep them safe, or simply a toy so that their child has something to open on Christmas morning.

***"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." - Mother Teresa***

On an ordinary day, a man called one of our offices asking about what Catholic Charities does for families in need during the holiday season. We assumed he was a client and in need of services, but he went on to explain that Catholic Charities assisted him 12 years ago and he was now in a position to give back to a family so much like his own... Praying and paying it forward.

On an ordinary day, a man walked through our line hoping to receive some food. He had no shoes as he walked barefoot on the cold, wet asphalt. Many watched on as someone from our staff pulled him aside unprompted and asked him to wait. Moments later, he was dressed with a warm coat and that same staff member knelt down on his knees and put socks and shoes on the stranger's feet... Praying and paying it forward.

On any ordinary day, there are so many unordinary things - wonderful things - blessings - that take place at Catholic Charities because of you. We feel your support in all that we do. Our team is made up of passionate people who care and who make a tremendous impact. Please continue to pray us forward to allow us to pay it forward to those in the greatest of need.

Thank you for allowing others to feel the love of Christ this Christmas season and beyond. It's a love that renews hearts and fills them with hope, to share joy, and to find peace. Thank you for your never ending support of Catholic Charities.

From our entire team, Merry Christmas and may the love of Christ be with you always.

Jeff Negrete  
Executive Director