

Christian Community Action

The light of Christmas is shining through you

*See how you're making
a difference for
mothers like Gracie!*

After battling breast cancer and living through intense chemotherapy and a double mastectomy, Gracie was struggling to pay the bills—let alone get toys for her two kids for Christmas. There wasn't much to be cheerful about until neighbors like you gave her a hand up and made sure her family could enjoy a beautiful Christmas season.

Gracie needed help with her rent, utilities, and medication. And through your gifts and prayers, CCA's Family Assistance and Spiritual Care program was able to assist Gracie with

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The light of Christmas is shining through you

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her bills as well as give her access to our Food Pantry.

Because of you, Gracie was able to provide new, unwrapped toys to give to her children for Christmas. You made it possible for them to experience the wonder of an unexpected gift, just like the gift of Jesus coming to earth that first Christmas night long ago!

In the years since we first met Gracie, CCA's Back to School program has been able to give her children the basic necessities they need to do well at school. Gracie even went to school, attending English as a Second Language classes to improve her communication skills. And she was able to use her improved language skills to land a better job. Gracie's case manager, Tish, calls every two months to make sure she is still on track and doing well.

Knowing that friends like you are there for her and her children when everything falls apart makes Gracie hopeful about the future. "Without CCA I don't think I would have pulled through," Gracie shares. "It wasn't just the money or the food, but the love and support I feel

every time I came in. They truly listen to me!"

Because of friends like you, Christmas was a special time for Gracie and her family—not a time when they were reminded of all they didn't have. They could truly feel the love of God shining through a really dark night!

We're deeply grateful for your support to give help—and the hope of Christ—to so many of our neighbors in need this holiday season. May you be blessed knowing what a blessing you are! ■

"Because of friends like you, Christmas was a special time for Gracie and her family..."



Your help is needed more than ever before

While enjoying many blessings, America's families are still facing poverty and food insecurity. This means many have to skip meals, buy less nutritious food, and rely on emergency food sources. In 2014*...

- 46.7 million people (14.8% of the population) were living in poverty.
- 48.1 million Americans lived in food-insecure households, including 32.8 million adults

and 15.3 million children.

- 17.4 million households (14% of households) were food-insecure.
- Texas is fifth on the list of 14 states showing statistically higher (17.2%) household food insecurity rates than the U.S. national average of 14.3%.

You mean so much to so many families living in poverty and struggling with food insecurity. Thank you for giving them a hand up!

*"Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics." Feeding America. Accessed September 2016. <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/hunger-and-poverty/hunger-and-poverty-fact-sheet.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/>

The best gift is... you!

Over 25 years ago, Vicky Davila first came to serve in CCA's Food Pantry during the holidays. But she soon learned there were so many more ways to help lift families out of cycles of poverty.

"I didn't know the full scope of what CCA did," Vicky recalls. "It was a little while later that I learned they were there to help the community, period."

Vicky jumped in anywhere she could, managing to squeeze in hours of volunteer time in CCA's Youth in Motion elementary school program and Kids Eat Free summer program, all while raising two kids *and* working full time!

The holiday season was always a special time for Vicky because she was able to help her neighbors in the hardest times of their lives. There was one Christmas she'll never forget:

"I had one client who came for the holiday season. She'd never had to ask for help, but she decided to do it. So CCA was able to help with utility bills and also toys for their kids for Christmas. CCA tries to help people see light at the end of the tunnel and help them until they can get back on their feet."



Want to be a hero like Vicky this holiday season? Contact our volunteer department at (972) 219-4372. YOU are the best gift you can give your neighbors in need!

You are making a difference

Your gifts made it possible this year for an average of 507 of our neighbors per week to get help with the basic needs of life at Christian Community Action.

In 2016 alone, your compassion enabled 15,723 of our community's poor to access quality, nutritious meals through CCA's Food Pantry.

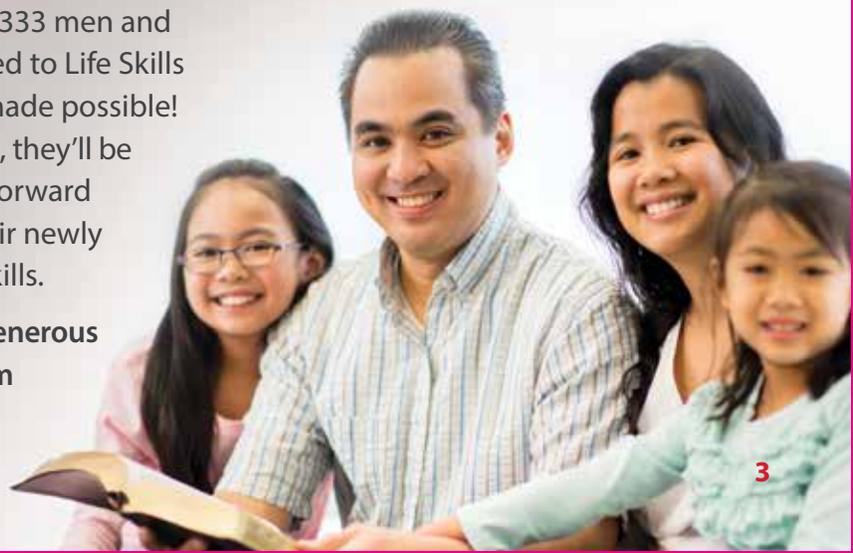
And because of your support, children in need of school clothes—828 in all this year—were able to receive what they needed.

For those struggling with life's deepest issues, you opened the door for CCA chaplains to share Christ's love with 169 souls through counseling and prayer.

Imagine how different the future will be for the 333 men and women referred to Life Skills services you made possible! With your help, they'll be able to move forward in life with their newly learned soft skills.

Without the generous donations from

friends like you, all of these families would never have found help during their time of need. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus during the holiday season!



Your legacy gift can change generations to come

When you make a legacy gift or transfer charitable assets to Christian Community Action, you'll give families in crisis a hand up out of poverty that will change future generations.

Your gift of stock, property, life insurance, or gifts from your will or trust will leave a legacy enabling CCA to help serve those in need for years to come. And, if you'd like to remember or honor a loved one by making a gift to establish their legacy of compassion and care, it couldn't be easier! Please call (972) 219-4318 to request more information.



A NOTE FROM CHASZ

Chasz Parker, President and CEO



Dear Friend,

When he taught spiritual truths, Jesus emphasized that we must take care of each other's physical needs...

"Jesus said to him, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.'" – Matthew 19:21 (ESV)

Christian Community Action is nothing more than Christians in the community taking action. We're dedicated to taking care of our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ so that they may see His love.

"We're dedicated to taking care of our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ..."

But our vision means nothing without friends like you fueling it—especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The holidays—when people should be full of joy—can become an overwhelming nightmare for a family facing food insecurity, unpaid bills, and hopelessness.

Your generous gifts offer the hope and love of Christ this holiday season to our neighbors who are suffering and need a hand up.

As the holidays enter our lives again, I pray you'll be blessed knowing that you are making the season bright for so many more families in need!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chasz Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive.



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