

In Closing

Bringing Hope and Faith to Our Community

Dear Friend,

As you read the articles in this issue, I believe you will find that the heart of Christian Community Action's ministry is HOPE. A hope that encourages and brightens and is infused in all that is done by the staff and volunteers at CCA. It is a gift that we will be sharing during the holiday season to those in our community who have little about which to feel hopeful.

For over 45 years, CCA has been walking side-by-side with, and providing strength to, those facing fear and uncertainty. CCA provides practical help for the hungry by offering food and warm meals and open-handed assistance for those who are on the verge of losing their home, all the while, serving each individual who seeks our help with respect and dignity.

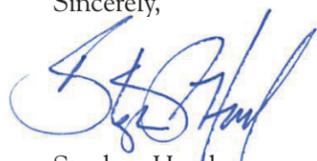
Throughout the year, many come face-to-face with desperation while trying to find their next meal and food for their family. Others have wondered where they might be sleeping. Most of these concerns are due to a job loss or a medical emergency. In the midst of their desperation and search, they have found CCA. At CCA they have found not just relief, but an extended hand-up and a servant's heart.

Although we see this scenario year-round at CCA, this time of year offers us the opportunity for special programs to provide relief and care for those struggling. We help families secure toys for their children and provide food for the holidays. When we provide gifts, we include wrapping paper so parents can personalize the touch for the child—we are treating each individual with dignity allowing it to be "owned" by the parent, NOT simply a hand-out.

Giving and serving others is what we are called to do. However, that could not happen without your generosity to CCA with your holiday gift. I hope that you will join us in serving others in our community with a gift to Christian Community Action.

May the gifts of joy, peace and love be yours.

Sincerely,



Stephen Hood
CEO & President



Job seekers connect with CCA & Goodwill Job Connection

On Oct. 17, CCA along with Goodwill hosted its third job fair for local companies and residents. CCA officials were thrilled to see the number of attendees continue to grow at each hiring event. We are so grateful to help all attendees facilitate employment. Twenty-three local companies attended and conducted interviews with 58 job seekers. Three immediate hires were made, and several follow up interviews were scheduled.

As one job seeker left the building he shared, "Boy do I need help to get all this in order for my interview." A CCA worker quickly jumped to his side and shared the life skills program and the help provided with resume writing and interview planning.

CCA is focused on moving people from instability to a place of stability and security. Education and employment offered through the life skills program provides the steps needed for that journey.



Christian Community Action

In the name of Jesus Christ, Christian Community Action ministers to the poor by providing comprehensive services that alleviate suffering, bring hope and change lives.

200 South Mill St. | Lewisville, TX 75057
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Christian Community Action

A Christian non-profit helping to bring hope and change lives.

November 2018

SPECIAL Holiday EDITION

The Gift of Giving

Christian Community Action has been providing toys for children in need through the Giving Tree program for over 10 years. The program was established to ensure that parents who were struggling had the opportunity to give their children toys and gifts at Christmas. The Giving Tree program was designed to lift parents up at

a time when they were burdened by the daily pressure and stress of living life in crisis and trying to just make it to the next day. The program gives parents the chance to celebrate the season by allowing them to participate in the time-honored tradition of providing gifts to their children for Christmas.

This year, we will be serving

1,600 children in need. The gifts are donated from individuals sponsoring children through the CCA Giving Tree. Toys and stockings are also purchased from cash donations. CCA's Giving Trees are located at Stonebriar Mall and Music City Mall, as well as local businesses and churches. Each tree contains

(continued inside)

The Gift of Giving *(continued)*

ornaments with the age and gender of the child, as well as the toy that was requested. The gifts are then brought to CCA where they will be distributed at Santa's Workshop where parents are provided the gifts, along with wrapping paper, bows and ribbons. This year the toy distribution event will be hosted on Dec. 18 through Dec. 20.

"Christmas is a time to give. We give hope to families while allowing them to maintain their dignity and have Christmas experiences like those around them," Daphne Adams, CCA family services manager, said.

Gifts and toys are needed for children of all ages including teens and can include gift cards. Value of the gifts are between \$25 and \$50 per child.

Helping to make Christmas special for children in need is another way that you can make a lasting difference in someone's life. Toy and gift card drives as well as monetary donations are needed today to ensure that all these children receive a gift. To coordinate a toy drive or sponsor a child this Christmas season please contact Thelma Cantu at 972.219.4382 or Thelma.cantu@ccahelps.org. Civic clubs, churches and companies have been so supportive to sponsor 10, 20 or even 50 children.

If you would like to financially support CCA's Christmas drive visit us online at www.ccahelps.org. You may also designate Christmas Program on your check donation.

If you would like to support CCA by purchasing a gift for a child you can find Giving Trees at the following locations.

Stonebriar Mall, Frisco
Music City Mall, Lewisville
Old Navy, Vista Ridge Village, Lewisville
Old Navy, Robertson's Creek, Flower Mound
Walmart, FM3040, Lewisville
Walmart, FM407, Highland Village
Walmart, Main Street, Lewisville
Twisted Root Hamburger, Lewisville
Chick-fil-A, Main Street, Lewisville

Please note that you may also drop off gifts at the Giving Trees at **Stonebriar Mall** or **Music City Mall** during the following times:
Monday through Saturday, Noon to 8 p.m.
Sunday, Noon to 6 p.m.

Gifts may also be delivered to CCA at 200 South Mill Street in Lewisville from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact CCA at 972.219.4389.

Blessing Angels of All Ages

One of the most special groups of Angels that CCA serves throughout the year are the Golden Angels, which includes adults, 65 and older. Every Monday throughout the year, CCA opens its door to between 50 and 60 older adults to provide care and services as well as a social time for the group to participate



in games and activities. The CCA Pantry is also open at this time for the Golden Angels to shop and select their food for the week.

During the holiday season, CCA also hosts a Christmas party for the Golden Angels where food, gifts and entertainment are provided. The Golden Angels are given a wish list from which they can choose items they want and need. The list is then shared with CCA supporters who adopt a senior and provide the gifts that are selected. These items typically include things like sweaters, socks, puzzles, toiletry items, etc. The gifts are then wrapped and presented at the Christmas party.

Peggy Swann, family service specialist, has been coordinating the party for many years. "It is such a special experience for this dear group

of people," Swann said describing how the party is the highlight of the season for some of the Golden Angels. "We have a delicious meal, live entertainment provided by a tap dancing group, and a visit by Santa." "CCA continues to support and ensure that the seniors in our area are provided with food as well as an environment that gives them the chance to interact socially," Stephen Hood, CCA President and CEO, said. "The Christmas party is a special time of friendship and fellowship that allows our seniors to be part of holiday festivities."

To learn more about the Golden Angels program, adopting a senior, or assistint with the Golden Angels Christmas party, please contact Thelma Cantu at 972-219-4382.

Nourishing Hearts and Souls with Holiday Meals

When you think about the holidays, it's hard not to think about sitting down to a holiday meal that includes special dishes that are traditional favorites.

With your generous help, CCA will give our Angels the opportunity to create a holiday meal and enjoy the blessings of the season. Rather than receiving a prepackaged box of foods, CCA clients have the freedom to select the items they want from shelves that are fully-stocked with holiday favorites that include turkeys, stuffing mix, ingredients for pies, canned yams, and much more.

"Our Angels appreciate the freedom to shop. They enjoy selecting the food that they want to serve and prepare," Trent Smith, CCA's food distribution manager, said adding that this helps maximize CCA resources and eliminate waste, as people will take only what they want.

Smith said that CCA is prepared to help approximately 550 families

each week during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. While the CCA Food Pantry will continue to be restocked with seasonal favorites, the need for perishables like milk, butter and eggs increases. "Families are needing holiday and seasonal foods," Smith said, "But the need for staples like butter and milk also increases this time of year."

CCA is impacting thousands of lives in North Texas by ensuring that families are provided with fresh, nutritious food but also the seasonal foods that are enjoyed during the holidays. "The CCA pantry has grown to be the largest client choice pantry in North Texas," Stephen Hood, CCA President and CEO, said. "It's the crown jewel of food pantries and one that we are proud to say has distributed 1.2 million pounds of fresh produce this last year. We know that this holiday season, the pantry will provide not only the key staple

items that families rely on, but also those special holiday items that make the season complete."

If you would like to contribute to the CCA Food Pantry during the holiday season, please feel free to give directly to the pantry by giving online at www.ccahelps.org or designating CCA Food Pantry on your check. If you would like to coordinate a food drive for specific holiday items, please contact CCA at 972-221-1224.



CCA REJOICES

It's all about community! On Sept. 23, the annual Rejoice! Concert was hosted by Trietsch Memorial UMC and presented by singers from local churches and choruses. The concert also featured special guest artists Sir Earl Toon, formerly of Kool & The Gang, and Gary Edwards, finalist from The Voice. It was such a blessing to have both perform. A special offering was taken up during the event, with all gifts going to CCA. All in all, it was a wonderful event to celebrate and worship the Lord as a united community.



Special thanks go out to the following for contributing to the program:

- Kitty Barnard, Faith Lutheran Church, director
- Dr. Patrick Bradley, Westside Baptist Church, director
- Karen Chraska, Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church, director
- Joni Jensen, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, director
- Trietsch Memorial Orchestra, Instrumentalists
- Westside Baptist, Instrumentalists
- Staff and congregation of Trietsch Memorial UMC for hosting the event

North Texas Giving Day

Wow!! We are grateful for the tremendous support we received on North Texas Giving Day. Because of your generosity we were able to raise a total of \$28,637, which is an increase from last year. The gifts will go a long way in providing help to local families. Keep in mind that \$30 feeds a family four for the week; \$60 provides an individual with educational opportunities and life skill classes and \$125 provides case management services for people looking for help. The donations raised from North Texas Giving will certainly impact those who are living in crisis. Thank you again for supporting CCA!!