



CHRISTMAS GIVING 2017

ANGELS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY – THANK YOU FOR MAKING MAGIC IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY CHILDREN!

Dear Angels and Friends, as we say **GOODBYE to 2017 and HELLO to 2018**, I thought it only appropriate to share with each of you our amazing *Christmas Giving Celebration for 2017*. Thanks to the support we received from our Angels, children of all ages from the tiniest little newborn to our youth aging out of the system, children of all ages will have the opportunity to experience Christmas and **BELIEVE in Santa Claus** Christmas Morning. This is only thanks to our amazing Angels who participated in our Christmas Giving Program who took time from their busy schedules to either adopt a family, or a child or youth and make their wish list a reality! Thank you for shopping, wrapping and helping to deliver the hundreds of gifts to our community partners for delivery to these children. From the bottom of my heart, “*thank you*” for giving light to some of their darkest days and putting Magic in their lives, if only for a day! December 13th, 2017 was our Angel Christmas Giving Celebration at the St Pete Yacht Club and it was a day to remember! When you walked in the room, there was not one place in the room where gifts were not occupied. Every wall, every tree, every table was filled with gifts wrapped individually for every child. If you were not feeling that Christmas Spirit when you walked into the room, you had it when you left! There will be over 300 plus children in our community who will have a Christmas morning they will remember for years to come who will be opening their presents with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts; and what an amazing feeling that we made it happen! The Angels want every child they advocate for to feel **Hope, Joy** and **Believe** that all things are possible when Angels are watching over them who care. Our ability to accomplish this is only thanks to each of YOU and your generous hearts!

One of the highlights of our Annual Christmas Celebration is having our Community Partners share with our Angels and guests the impact we are having in our community. Every leader that took the microphone and shared something special with the group made you proud to be an Angel and we each realized the impact we are having on these children and families who have suffered so much and have so little to smile about. On behalf of the Angels, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them personally for taking time from their busy schedules this year to be present and share stories and examples of how we are making a difference. For the givers and the receivers, it was an amazing time of sharing with one another that gave each of us an opportunity to understand why we do what we do for these children all year long.

Whether it was one of the six families we adopted from Eckerd Community Alternatives that included all the trimmings, for the Christmas Tree and Decorations, to the Christmas Dinner and presents for every child in that home getting their wish list filled; or the youth aging out of Foster Care who struggles this time of the year with loneliness who receives a gift card to buy something special they might need or want that is made into a special gift package with a personalized card handwritten to them personally letting them know there are Angels who care; or for those moms who are trying to make it right for their babies and become the mom every child longs for and needs learning toys and clothing for their little ones Christmas morning, or a child who works with a mentor who follows them on their life journey from elementary school age to high school who is that one stable person in his or her life; or a child at risk of entering the Foster Care System, the Angels want to make a difference in their lives and give them hope for a better tomorrow. There are no words to express this gratitude except to say, from the bottom of my heart “thank you” for what you have done to make their day a day to remember for a lifetime.

Wednesday, December 13th, 2017 will be a day that Angels Against Abuse will remember as a very special day because it was a day that each of us know and **BELIEVE** there is good in the world and good people all around us. Angels help you **BELIEVE** in miracles and everybody needs an Angel in their life and especially the children and youth that the Angels advocate for!

As the Founder of Angels Against Abuse, I feel such pride and accomplishment of the difference that the Angels have made in the lives of thousands of children and youth in our community, but **NONE** of this would have happened without each of you and the many individuals, businesses and organizations in our community who believe and support what we do!

I hope that each of you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and pray for a fantastic 2018 full of blessings and hope to each of you. When you close your eyes tonight, give a thank you to yourselves for being such a blessing in the lives of the children we advocate for. It takes all of us to make a difference.

God bless each of you and thank you for all you do! Happy New Year!

Sandy Kearney, Founder
Angels Against Abuse, Inc

