St. Mary’s Guild and Outreach Report

By Amanda Jackson, Clerk & Guild Secretary

It was a good year for St. Mary's Guild having had both our best Rummage Sale and Annual Bazaar in recent memory. We were also able to donate money and goods to more non-profits than ever. The Scholarship Committee was blessed to provide 4 $1000 scholarships to some very deserving students this year. Item donations this year included $400 to L'Chayim, $1600 to Lodi House, $100 of yarn to St. Mary's church for their knit/crochet outreach program, $100 to the Galt Library, a King Size bed to a local family, $50+ of books to the Bryants who have a free book program for children, $60 of arts and craft supplies for the children at Happy Trails, $1000 to Union Gospel Mission, $2000 to Disabled American Veterans, 35 goodie bags, 20 activity books, flowers and 4 large boxes of baked goods to the residents and staff of Rancho Seco Care Center, 20 Project Christmas Child shoeboxes, 110 pounds of potatoes for Thanksgiving baskets and we helped Maranda donate canned corn through her school for those same baskets. We also donated monetarily to the Rivercity Food Bank, the Sunshine Food Pantry and Shepherd's Love. We were also able to complete 6 bins for Project (RE)Start.

Our successes this year were in how great an impact we were able to make in our community thanks to the hard work of our small but dedicated congregation. The Rummage Sale was quite the labor of love, earning $1600 for our operating fund but leading to the donation of over $5000 of goods to many deserving non-profits. The Bazaar Committee made the, some might say, insane choice to remain open for extended hours this year, hoping to raise just a little more for the good works we wished to do in 2026 and the end result was over $1000 more than last year, partly due to having our best performing raffle yet. We had the privilege of being interviewed during those extended hours by Idaly Valencia from the Galt Herald, who featured us in the paper several times in 2025. Even our sales at the Galt Saturday market this year far outweighed the cost of admission and gave us the opportunity to meet many newcomers to Galt. Our hard work in 2025 made a difference. Thanks to the success of our Bazaar, the Guild will be able to go ahead with making monetary donations to 5 new non-profits voted on at the last meeting of the year. We chose Lodi House, L'Chayim, Episcopal Relief and Development, Galep and Stanford Sierra Youth & Families.

We know it can feel overwhelming, the amount of darkness in the world right now seems like it can so easily extinguish the small flame of our church. It may seem like our efforts won't matter in the grand scheme of things. But no act of kindness, no matter how small, is wasted. With all the suffering and unkindness we are faced with, it matters even more to be even the smallest light in that darkness. Because of the faithful, loving

tenacity of our congregation, we made a difference. Whenever it feels like our hard work doesn't matter, remember that hundreds of families received much needed food this year, they were able to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, 4 kids who may not have been able to afford their first semester started college this year, 50 children received a free book this year, 99 long term care residents received gifts and cheer this year, and many countless others were helped or touched or inspired this year, because of us. Because of your love and empathy and passion for charity, we did all those things. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for every big and small way you helped do so much good.

More recently we also began talks with a local group working on preparing organizations for how to protect themselves and others in the event of ICE raids, we're hoping to let them use our space. Thank you for taking the time to read about some of the things we've been doing.