

Believe in the magic of Christmas

CHRISTMAS GIVING 2018

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

Wednesday, December 12th, 2018 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!

Dear Angels and Friends, as we say **GOODBYE to 2018 and HELLO to 2019**, I thought it only appropriate to share with each of you our amazing *Christmas Giving Celebration for 2018*. This year we held our Christmas Celebration at Pasadena Community Church, the Gymnasium, and it could not have been a more perfect setting for our Annual Christmas Giving Celebration. Every person who walked through the doors was in AWE when they saw the room! It was “magical” and if you weren’t in the Christmas Spirit when you walked through the doors, you were when you left! The Gymnasium was filled with presents that circled the room, beautifully wrapped with every child’s name and wish list filled.

Thanks to our Angels, our family and friends, some local businesses and organizations with generous hearts, children of all ages from the tiniest little baby to some of our youth aging out of the system will celebrate Christmas Day and have a memory to brighten their day and **BELIEVE in Santa Claus**. This is only thanks to the generosity of individuals who adopted children and families less fortunate. Thank You for shopping, wrapping and helping to deliver the hundreds of gifts to our community partners who will be making the delivery. 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! This year, there will be over 250 children and youth in our community who will have a Christmas morning they will remember for years to come opening their presents with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts; and what an amazing feeling that we made it happen!

Special thanks to Pasadena Community Church for doing an outstanding job of hosting this event. Anita Marshall and her amazing staff of Angels did an amazing job on the food, presentation and many of the decorations that made the room a Christmas Place!. Everything was perfect and that was a day WE all felt truly **Blessed**. The Angels want every child to have HOPE for a better tomorrow and that is why we do what WE do! There are so many children that have struggles and pain every day in their lives and although we cannot touch all the lives of those children, we know that we are making a difference, if only one child at a time. These children need HOPE, they need JOY and they need to know there are people in this community who care for them and want their days to be better days. So, God Bless each of you that have made this happen!

Thank you to our community partners for sharing the stories of why this day is so important for these children and families. Your stories helped all of us to realize how we are making a difference and the impact we are having for these children.

This year the Angels were blessed with a wonderful and prosperous year that made it possible for us to touch the lives of so many children. Here are some of the ways we made Christmas:

- **Eckerd Kids** - There will six families selected from Eckerd Community Alternatives that will have a wonderful and blessed Christmas from the Christmas Tree, all the decorations, Christmas Dinner and the wish list for all the children in that family.
- **Ready for Life** - some of the new youth who are entering into the Ready for Life program who are aging out of Foster Care who struggle this time of the year with loneliness and fears of what lies ahead for them will receive a \$50 gift card to buy something special for themselves that they might otherwise not be able to have if not for our assistance.
- **Healthy Start PAT+** - New moms who are struggling to be good moms and in need of encouragement and assistance for their babies who are unable to provide for themselves much less have presents for their child on Christmas Day, we give **HOPE**
- **Friends of the Children Mentoring Program** - The children who are at most risk who have been assigned a mentor on their life journey from elementary school age to high school who need something to look forward to on Christmas Morning that will make them feel special, the Angels made it happen!
- **Directions for Living** - Families living in a motel until they can get back on their feet who will have nothing Christmas Morning if not for the Angels,
- **Pinellas County Sheriff's Office CPI** – A child who is struggling, afraid and alone who is most in need of an Angel to watch over her, we will surround her with letting her know there are Angels who care!

ANGELS give **HOPE**, **YOU** are the reason these children will have a day to remember! **YOU** should be so proud to be an Angel. 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 years to come.

As the Founder of Angels Against Abuse, I feel such pride and accomplishment for 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 2019 full of blessings and hope for 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

