

Tricounty Family Ministries and Star Gospel Mission Send Thank-You's to St. Philip's

Dear St. Philip's,

A very special "thank you" to everyone that took the time to purchase gift cards for families at our 29th Annual Community Christmas Party. Not only were these cards a wonderful surprise to families, but the excitement of being able to purchase a few special items at local discount stores was a huge hit. A few families said they would purchase little gifts to wrap and put under their trees. Others said the cards would help purchase a ham for Christmas dinner. Some said they wouldn't have a Christmas if it weren't for Tricounty Family Ministries and the wonderful people that donated the cards.



One special moment at the Christmas party really touched my heart along with several others. I noticed seven-year old Samuel was standing in the toy room leaning against his mother. He had selected several little toys, but seemed very sad. I could tell he was undergoing some sort of cancer treatment because he had lost all of his hair. I invited him and his mother to come to my office to take a break. He sat in one of the chairs next to his mother and we talked about Christmas and Santa Claus. I asked what he really wanted for Christmas. He was very shy and only answered when his mother prompted him to speak up. He said he had wanted a special game-box for several years, but his mother didn't have any money to buy one. I told him to never stop praying and believing that special wishes can come true.

I gave Samuel's mother several of the St. Philip's gift cards and supplemented them with other special Christmas donations. Samuel got his wish for Christmas. This little boy suffering from cancer learned to believe and that wishes and dreams do come true. Tricounty Family Ministries is so thankful to partner with St. Philip's through volunteering, food and coat donations, monetary donations, and most important of all the love the congregation has for "the least of these." You have made a difference!!

Brightest blessings,

Sue Hanshaw
CEO, Tricounty Family Ministries

To all St. Philipians,

On behalf of all of our male residents here at the Star Gospel Mission, I want to thank the St. Philip's outreach committee for their generous gift of a variety of \$25.00 gift cards given for the men to use to purchase items that their very limited incomes would otherwise not enable them to purchase. The men were very grateful for this act of generosity and Christian charity!

In asking several men how they had used the cards, most indicated that they purchased several personal items such as blue jeans and work shirts. One man came to my office with a big grin from ear to ear showing off his brand new work boots. Just the day before he was given the card, he was telling me how he desperately needed a new pair, and here's why ... when he said, "Look at these," I looked down to see that the entire front portion of one shoe had been wrapped in duct tape to keep out the dirt and water! Needless to say, he couldn't have been happier to receive his \$25.00 gift card to Walmart!

Faithfully,

The Rev. Bill Christian
Pastor and Executive Director, Star Gospel Mission