Society of St Vincent de Paul
St James Cathedral-Bl Rosalie Rendu Conference

Thank you for your support this Christmas!

This December, we received $3,775 from St Jude's Advent Giving Tree. We also had $1,328.94 in anonymous donations of gift cards for a total of $5,103.94 to distribute to those in need. We were able to help 31 families (38 adults and 60 children), 3 families with 4 or more children, and 28 smaller families. Some cried with joy and hugged us when they received this unexpected gift.

Here are their stories.

- One father has a toddler with cancer. One large family has a young daughter that has recently undergone a bone marrow transplant for cancer. Trying to work has been difficult for these parents. One new mother with a large family herself just took over caring for her sister's children following the sister's death from cancer.
- Many parents have had their work hours cut or become inconsistent from week to week. Some have been laid off and unemployment has run out without them finding a new job. For some, day-care hours do not align with the positions that are available.
- Some are single mothers who have managed to have long-term employment or a career beyond entry-level employment, but it doesn't take much to push them over the edge to financial hardship, especially with the child-care issues and rising rents that nearly all of our families experience. A major car repair was about to cost one of these mothers $1500 when we brought our gift cards.
- For others, being on maternity leave or having complications with a pregnancy left them short of funds. One had trouble working while the newborn was in NICU.
- Some struggle with behavioral and emotional issues in their children. One has an autistic child. Another had a flooded apartment that increased the serious emotional issues and resulting behavioral issues in one of the children.
- Some are refugees or immigrants. One father who has been in the country for many years but is still not a citizen is scared to show up to renew his work permit. Another experienced delays in background checks because of the government shutdown. Another recently found housing after being in a shelter.
- On a happier note, one mother with a young son successfully brought down a $12,000 rent debt to remain housed and now has stable employment in a good job.
- Unfortunately, as usual, far too many of our families are escaping domestic violence. Many receive no child support because they are afraid that the abusive parent might find them through the system. One such mother's only income is as a paid caregiver for her own mother, who fortunately now lives in the same building. Another who has serious medical issues and recently escaped abuse thought that her young son would have no Christmas--until we arrived. Even with all of these struggles, some are in school—training for better jobs and hopefully better lives for their families.

All this was made possible thanks to your generous help. But did you know that each month, we fall far short of what we could do if we had more funds to distribute to neighbors in need? We currently receive about $12,500 in donations each month. Our goal in 2026 is to double that to $25,000 a month! Would you consider making a monthly gift to St. Vincent de Paul in the coming year? Use the QR code at right! *Information*, Blake Steller, blsteller@gmail.com.