

Christmas Basket Project Update – November 2020

In our October mission moment, I talked about getting ready to support our annual Christmas basket project. Well, in the “year of covid-19” one thing we have all learned is to be flexible. Although we have developed a very solid plan to pick up, organize, pack and distribute the Christmas baskets we lack one important ingredient...the groceries.

Our partner in this project, Hollywood Market, has advised that they will not be able to guarantee any quantities of “any” product at this time. Their deliveries are running 12-24 hours behind schedule and they are only receiving 30-40% of their orders. The issues they are dealing with are manufacturer supply, distributor staffing levels and a number of other roadblocks. We know the folks at Hollywood and we are certain that if there was any way for them to supply our needs, they would absolutely do it.

So here is what we know...god is and always will be in control! Trusting in that truth, we will change course, adjust, and still help 100 families in the Rochester area have a safer, happier Christmas.

With your help, and support, we will raise the funds that will allow us to purchase 100 gift cards through Hollywood market in the amount of \$150 each. The cards will be provided to Neighborhood House for distribution to their clients. Hollywood Market agreed to sell us the \$150 gift card for \$135 ...that is a 10% discount and will allow us the opportunity to help even more people.

I know this is not the way any of us would like this project to operate. We have all grown to love the hustle and bustle, the packing night, the distribution day, and the opportunity to know we have truly helped our neighbors. But...this is the reality of our current situation.

Looking on the positive side, here are some things to consider: this plan allows the client more flexibility in their purchases, (who really needs to large cans of yams). At a time when we are seeing a spike in the covid-19 numbers, this plan ensures health and safety concerns are top of mind for both the clients and for St. Paul's members. And finally, this plan still accomplishes the goal of serving others in a time of need.

On behalf of the Missions Council I thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Larry Hice

Missions Council Chairperson