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2016 – YEAR END REPORT

Dear Friends,

Wings of Love & Care is blessed with incredible volunteers and a small group of donors. **It is important you know YOU ARE VITAL to this ministry.** Because of you, **13,554 people were served in 2016.** Thank you for showing love and care to families and children in St. Louis.

Your **Food Distribution Program** served 13,136 people in 2016. More than 68,400 pounds of food filled the cupboards and fridges of families in need. We were blessed to continue providing meat on a regular basis as well as fresh vegetables, fruit, canned goods, dry goods and desserts as available. Your giving made this possible! Our faithful volunteers continued to package the food each week and keep the Center clean and organized.

We are thankful to be able to continue the weekly **After School Program** and also offer **Summer VBS** to the children in the community. These programs have really helped us build relationships with the children and families and provided a safe place for the children to come work on homework, learn about Jesus, receive a meal and benefit from many recreational activities. This year we also added Summer Outings. The children were **THRILLED** to go to St. Louis City Garden, Benton Park, picnics and the movies.



We approached several of our **Children's Programs** differently this year. After learning 100% of students who attend *Confluence Academy* live below the poverty line, we transitioned to focus several distribution events on children in that school. We have been honored to work closely with the school counselor to provide backpacks, school uniforms & supplies; coats, hats & gloves; and a unique Christmas Party which included dinner with the entire family. At the Christmas Party, the parents received 4-5 gifts per child and other household goods. Santa and Mrs. Clause even came to provide one of the gifts! Volunteers bagged up all but Santa's gift, so the parents could take them home, wrap the gifts themselves and give the gifts to their children with dignity on Christmas morning.

In addition, the children who attend the Wings After School Program also benefited from these outreaches.

We hosted the annual **Thanksgiving Food Distribution** and **Christmas Food Distribution** as well, providing families the opportunity to prepare and enjoy holiday meals at home.

In total, you provided the following services in 2016:

- 118 Children received new School Uniforms
- 93 Children received Backpacks & School Supplies
- 81 Children received Coats and dozens Hats & Gloves
- 100 Adults received Coats
- 216 Families received Thanksgiving Groceries
- 79 Children received 4-5 Christmas Gifts
- 150 Families received Christmas Groceries
- 9 Weeks of Vacation Bible School /Special Outings
- 47 Weeks of After School Program with special activities for all Holidays
- 13,136 People (4,788 Families) received 68,444 pounds of food from weekly Food Distributions



Your donations provided services to the children, but **YOU provided DIGNITY** to the parents.

Individuals, families, churches and businesses expanded our capacity to do more in 2016 than ever. Many thanks to Cardinals Care, Faith Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church of Macon, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Heartland Baptist, Life Church, Monarch Jewelry, St. Charles Assembly, St. Vincent DePaul, The Crossing, The Loft, Twin Rivers, Washington University, and many individuals and families who volunteered and gave in 2016.

We received an email from the school counselor regarding several parents and children who came to her overwhelmed by your generosity. Part of her email read: ***“She was in tears, very grateful for everything she received. She is a single parent of two handsome boys. In tears, she kept repeating everything she got, not only for her kids, but her household gifts. Things she really needed. She mentioned several times that she would never be able to afford what she received. During our entire conversation, she kept referring to you as ‘angels of God’; she was grateful for the family that picked her. She had never experienced what she experienced that day. We were all in tears!”***

Refurbishing the building also continued in 2016. Several volunteer teams served throughout the year on several service days cleaning, painting, organizing storage rooms and much more. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of many who helped completely remodel the entrance to Wings. Twin Rivers Church installed a new black rod iron fence. Vee Jay Cement Contracting poured concrete for a new patio. Chesterfield Valley Nursery installed a large retaining wall and flower bed around the flag pole and more. Everyone worked together to create a more welcoming entry for clients.

THANK YOU for restoring dignity, providing encouragement, meeting basic needs and providing many blessings to families in south St. Louis with great love and care.

We hope you will continue walking with us in 2017 to provide services with dignity through donations, volunteer service and gift-in-kind donations. God bless you!

By His grace,

Sue, Pat & Team

Sue & Pat Bradley & Team

