

Thank You So Much for a Fabulous 2009!

Thank you, to Nativity parishioners, ministries of Nativity, Nativity Catholic School & Nativity Faith Formation families and to local businesses and organizations in the community for allowing **Nativity Outreach** to spread your generous gifts throughout Brandon and Hillsborough County.

The Nativity Food Bank distributed **1,910,701** pounds of food and essentials to 54 programs on a regular basis and 25 occasionally in 2009. Your stewardship through food donations and financial support enabled us to bring joy to many.

Through your generosity **535,034** pounds of food was distributed at our **Nativity Food Pantry**. We served 6,335 families which included 513 babies during 2009.

The **Nativity Food Bank** distributes food and essentials to weekly recipients and also assists several other miscellaneous programs throughout the year. These include food provided to several special programs at Nativity such as the Peanut Butter & Jelly Ministry to feed the homeless, the Alliance of Two Hearts for meals prepared for the elderly at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and food and essentials provided to the St. Cloud Migrant Camp, plus an additional 15 other ministries. We distributed **238,783** pounds to these miscellaneous ministries in 2009. An additional **1,671,918** pounds was distributed from the Food Bank to those ministries and organizations receiving food on a regular weekly basis including the Nativity Food Pantry. This gives us a grand total of **1,910,701** pounds in 2009.

Among the regular organizations receiving assistance are several of our neighboring Catholic parishes and/or their SVDP Food Pantries. These are Blessed Sacrament, Most Holy Redeemer, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Resurrection, St Anne, St. Clement, St. Francis/San Jose Mission, St. Mary's Mission, St. Peter Claver and St. Vincent de Paul at St. Stephen.

Although many of the organizations we supplement feed their homeless neighbors, several have that as their main mission: Thorn Ministries, The Homeless Veterans Program, River of Grace and Daystar concentrate on this ministry. This year **92,516** pounds of our total food distribution from the Food Bank was donated to feed the homeless through these programs.

In addition to our helping feed our neighbors in Brandon and Hillsborough County, we have extended our generosity to the animals. In 2009, we donated 144,740 pounds of pet food to Durant High School Ag. Department and to Cat Call.

The food and essentials of life, generously made available through you, could not be distributed without the help of the 115 volunteers of **Nativity Outreach**.



BEAUTIFUL, BLESSED THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

Thank you for helping **Nativity Outreach** to bless each of our guests with a bountiful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas. Through your generosity we were able to provide amply for the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for 295 families. This figure included 926 adults and 26 babies. Our volunteers handled **27,012** pounds of food for the two distributions. When you consider that every pound is handled four times, these were monumental events.

We were also able to distribute gift certificates at both distributions. The donated gift cards allowed us to give a gift card to each of our Thanksgiving families to purchase turkeys, and the donated gift cards from our "Adopt a Family Gift Card Tree" enabled us to give gift cards to all our Christmas recipients. The gift cards given from your families to the Food Pantry families brought joy to many. This is such an overwhelming gift of personal entitlement. When you give this opportunity to a person in need, you give them far more than money, you give them dignity and the freedom of choice. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated. Your generosity was overwhelming.

In addition, 142 children of our Food Pantry guests received gifts for Christmas at our St. Nicholas' Toy Shop. This too was a beautiful, blessed event. All our families left with bags full of gifts for their children. Also, there were a few remaining toys which we were able to share with needy families at the St. Cloud Migrant Camp.



A special thank you is extended to our parishioners, students of Nativity Catholic School, the Nativity Women's Guild, and Girl Scout Troop 1522 who donated toys and bicycles for the Toy Shop. They were spectacular. We appreciate the opportunity to present your donations to our Food Pantry guests and wish that each of you could be there to share their expression of gratitude.

This is being written on behalf of the 115 volunteers of **Nativity Outreach** who partner with you in this blessed ministry. However, we do want to take this opportunity to thank each of them for all of their efforts throughout 2009. Without their energy and spirit, your gifts would not be given, at least not with the Christ-filled spirit that these volunteers bring to this ministry. Their willingness to give of their time is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for allowing us the joy of giving on your behalf.

**The Nativity Outreach Food Pantry &
Food Bank Volunteers**

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