



Giving Tree Update

Your gifts amounted to over \$30,000! With this money, we adopted 33 families (65 adults and 102 children) from our community and were able to provide \$100 (Wal-Mart/Visa) gift cards for each child and \$50 (Wal-Mart/Visa) gift cards for each adult. We also provided grocery gift cards based on family size, ranging from \$225 for our smaller families and up to \$300 for our larger families.

Most of these families are struggling as a result of the pandemic with lost jobs and/or reduced work hours. Some have health concerns not related to the pandemic. Every family we contacted this year chose to participate in our program, which is unusual.

In addition to our 33 families, your gifts made it possible to provide financial assistance to Catholic Charities to purchase gifts for 25 children in their Shining Star program. We also gave Bishop Sullivan Center \$3,000 to sponsor 12 lunch days (\$100 each) and 12 dinner nights (\$150 each). An additional contribution may be made to help them with utilities.

Thank you for demonstrating your generosity and compassion by supporting these and 28 other Northland families! Please continue to keep these families in your prayers.

Finally, thank you to the Giving Tree Committee volunteers who helped make this program possible: Karen Ferland (chair), Teresa Daveline, Charlene Steadman, Laurie Holmes, Jill Hoover, Henry and Phyllis Font, Sherri Hennen, Chuck and Terri Schroder, Tana Davis, Joan Elgin, Joanna Shawver, Jeanine Haistings, Aimee Ward, Robin Allison, Lynn Gaston, Susan Teson, Marcy Johnson, and Dawn Spencer.

While 2020 has been a tough year for all of us, some of the families we assisted this year were especially hard hit:

- Erica, a single mom living with her grandma and uncle, lost her job in Customer Service and now has a job in Tech Support that is difficult and causing her anxiety. She was so grateful for our help.
- A family of six who has been homeless and living with co-workers since November 2019, after escaping a violent home situation.
- A single mom of three girls, who lost her job and their rental home when she was ill for over two months with Covid. All three girls also tested positive. They are renting a room in a friend's house and have no family support nearby, having moved here from out-of-state for the safety of herself and her daughters.
 - A young mother who was diagnosed with cervical cancer while pregnant. She delivered two months early so she could undergo treatment. Her husband got laid off from Children's Mercy during the pandemic.
- A sixty-year-old grandmother, who gave up her job to care for her son and grandson and is now the sole parent of this young boy. Her son, age 30, died on November 23 of congestive heart failure, just hours before we delivered our gifts to them. She is now left to raise her 7-year-old grandson and needs to find a job to support them both.