

2023 Giving Tree Donations –

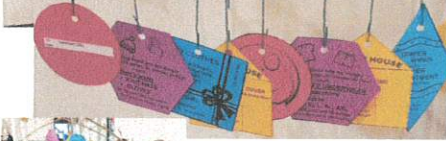
Report to St. Charles Parishioners

submitted with gratitude by Ruthanne Otto, Chair

As we begin our celebration of 175 years of St. Charles Borromeo as a parish in Pikesville, I am so happy to report that we lived up to our reputation to care for those around us who can use some extra help at Christmas. Our annual parish outreach, the Giving Tree, was an amazing success, thanks to the generosity of the people of St. Charles!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated

whether by shopping in person or donating on line, as well as those who cut, prepared, sorted, counted, bagged and delivered. It takes many special angels make the Giving Tree work each year. Thank you and God bless you!



Woman's Center West (formerly known as Pregnancy Center West)

is overwhelmed with gratitude for the generosity of our parish every year. They feel very blessed that we partner with them on behalf of the unborn. Our donations this year totaled over 2400 diapers, more than 100 packs of wipes, 11 diaper ointment, 59 bath products, almost 500 clothing items, including

109 bodysuits,
40 sleepers,
47 outfits,
54 bibs, 82
pairs of socks,
plus sweaters,
swaddlers,
caps, and
more, 2 baby
monitors, 7

thermometers, 2 soft support seats and several

generous cash donations to help purchase new cribs, car seats, and to support the sonogram program which helps them continue their life-saving work with new mothers and their babies for many months. They thank you for standing for life.

Across Sudbrook Lane at our neighbor, **Autumn Lake Healthcare at Pikesville**, 124 residents get a "somebody cares about you" remembrance for the holidays. Generous parishioners answered the call for some reading material and puzzles to occupy the mind. We work with the staff to select a personalized gift for each resident, from a cozy sweater or easy-to-wear sweatsuit to a fun baseball cap or new slippers, or maybe a little jewelry to





dress up. One person likes to do puzzle books or crafts, while another really needs pajamas. There's a warm throw for one lady's bed while a gentleman rehabbing down the hall can use some nice body wash and lotion, a little pampering for his stay. Each gift is special. One man needed a bag for his wheel chair, while another wanted a Raven's hoodie. We found a cuddly teddy



bear for one lady and adult coloring books and markers for her roommate. Whatever the request, you answered it. There are happy smiles all around when they find their thoughtful gifts on their bed on Christmas morning. The staff thanks you too!

The women at [Marian House](#) received many practical needs -- a large selection of linens -- 6 sheet sets, 9 complete bed-in-a-bag



sets, 5 blankets, 6 mattress protectors, 1 pillow and protector, 29 towels and 82 washcloths. In addition we sent 15 soft robes and 34 pairs of slippers, a few winter socks, hats, and gloves, plus 18 toiletry gift sets, a few full-size toiletry items, an assortment of small ones, and 6 shower caddies. We even received a donation of children's hoodies, hats and gloves which they were happy to put to good use. They want to thank our entire congregation for supporting these ladies as they move from dependence to independence.



We delivered 3 cars full of new items donated by parishioners -- 65 full-zip hoodies, 28 thermal underwear, 52 warm hats, 32 pairs of thick ski gloves, 65 undershirts, 54 boxers, 67 pairs of socks, plus several nearly-new heavy warm jackets that will be shared with the homeless men served by [Breaking Bread with the Hungry at St. Vincent's](#). The Catholic Community at Augsburg added some individual bagged provision kits. Fr. Ray and Mary, who runs the men's ministry program, want to thank everyone for the abundance of much-needed warm clothing for the men on the streets.

