



Holiday Reflections-

“But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep.” by Robert Frost

As I reflected on all the promises that we at the Center have to keep and the miles we have to cover before Christmas, I thought ‘what do I report to you this month?’ It occurred to me that I should share happenings at the Center over this past week. We have less than two weeks left before Jesus’ birth and in order to celebrate properly we must help all of our brothers and sisters prepare for their Christmas celebrations too. In November 1,200 families came to us for food. Our rolls have continued a steady climb and we find ourselves running to keep enough food in house to continue to say “Yes”. We are so grateful for all the food drives and dollars sent to buy turkey and other meats and dairy products. This week people were lined clear out to the street by 7:45 am. We open the doors at 9:30a.m.. Monday, we served 100 families by Noon. They needed food, toys for their kids for Christmas, clothing, household items and used Christmas trees and decorations. Before Thanksgiving we purchased over \$3,000.00 worth of toys with monies that were given for Santa’s Workshop. Many of you also brought in toys for Santa’s Workshop. By Wednesday, we had to go out and purchase more toys. I wish you could be in the community room when the parents and grandparents come in to pick out three toys each for the kids. They are so appreciative. “All my son wants is a football and now I have one for him” said a mom with tears in her eyes. Another mom who was shopping for her four year old was so glad to find Spiderman Legos. “He loves Legos and Spiderman is his favorite Hero right now” she said. She is expecting a child on Christmas day. We asked if she would like a new blanket for the baby. She said, “that would be wonderful to have a special something for her”. One of our volunteers makes baby blankets for us and another volunteer knits baby sweaters. So we gave her a new sweater and blanket. She was just thrilled. She asked that I tell the ladies thank you for her and the child. We gave away over two hundred and fifty toys in two days. These are families that did not come in and sign up for Christmas adoption. Some are grandparents who would like to have a gift to give their grandkids but don’t have the money to do so.

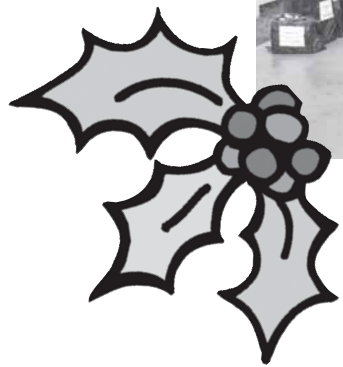
I have been reading Mr. Dickens again this year as I always have since I was a child. That scary ghost story only improves with age. I’m always glad that I work in a place that helps those in need instead of being like Scrooge when he says, “What else can I be, when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What’s Christmas time but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in’em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will,’ said Scrooge indignantly, ‘every idiot who goes about with “Merry Christmas” on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!” The Scrooges’ of the world will always be with us but thankfully they are overshadowed by those who do have the love of the Christ Child in their hearts and like the lights on our Christmas trees reach out in an explosion of love to those who are less fortunate. We wish for you and yours a warm and wonderful Holiday as we celebrate the greatest birthday party of them all. Jesus knows all those gifts that you give to others are done in His name and will continue to bless us all!

God bless us everyone and keep that holly in your heart! Merry Christmas,
Marylyn

A season of need.



... a season
Those pictured here are
for all you do in this season
the year





n of giving.
nd those who are not,
season and all through
ear:



 Thank you!

Samaritan Center Holidays for 2005

January 17, 2005 (Monday) Martin Luther King's Birthday

February 21, 2005 (Monday) President's Day

March 24, 2005 (Thursday) Holy Thursday (night only)

March 25, 2005 (Friday) Good Friday

March 28, 2005 (Monday) Easter Monday

May 30, 2005 (Monday) Memorial Day

July 4, 2005 (Monday) Independence Day

July 18, 2005 (Monday) through July 29, 2004 (Friday) Closed for Inventory, Repairs and Auction.
September 5, 2005 (Monday) Labor Day

October 10, 2005 (Monday) Columbus Day

November 11, 2005 (Friday) Veterans Day

November 23rd (Wednesday), 24th (Thursday) and 25th (Friday) Thanksgiving

December 2, 2005 (Friday) Christmas Open House

December 16th (Friday) through January 1st (Sunday) Christmas Break

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Hours of Operation

Open to Public: 9:30am-11:30am Monday-Thursday
4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday

Medical Clinic: 4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday

Dental Clinic: by appointment Only,
call (573)761-3473 for information

Staff Office Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday

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