



Friday, December 22, 2023

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### 12 Days of Gratitude

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As 2023 winds down, we're bringing back our celebration of all the things we are thankful for, *"The 12 Days of Gratitude"*.

Check out this special message from Whitney Slade, President of the MLK Community Center's Board of Trustees as we kick off our series on Facebook and Instagram.



Join us in celebrating the closing of one chapter and the opening of another. Use the hashtag #MLK12Days and show us what you are grateful for this year.

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### "You Made our Christmas"

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Every parent that comes to Santa's Workshop for help is unique. This is Jake's story.

Jake came to us late this week, on the last day of our program. He works full time for a medical transport company but he's homeless. He and his wife and young daughter and infant son are living in a hotel. *"Every dollar goes first to a place to live, and then to baby formula. I couldn't even think about Christmas until now, and I didn't know what to do. My kids are my whole heart."*

After Jake chose toys for his children, he talked about how tough it's been. His monthly income is \$200 too high to qualify for SNAP food assistance. We told him he could get help from the food pantry, and from other programs like lunches and dinners and fresh veggie distribution.

Jake left the MLK with holiday gifts and bags of food for his family. He turned around as he left the door. His eyes were damp as he said,

*"Thank you. You made our Christmas."*

Thank you to all of you who make it possible for the MLK to make a difference in so many people's lives.

Help families like Jake's. Click here to give.

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### Santa's Workshop helps 1,257 kids

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This week, thanks to **Super Elf Volunteers Colleen Welsh and Sarah Maher** we transformed St. Paul's United Methodist Church into a holiday wonderland filled with toys and gifts for kids from birth to age 17.

Over the course of 3 days, dozens of volunteers helped families chose gifts that were just right for their children.

You may have donated gift cards, hosted a neighborhood toy drives, gave to a drive at your job, shopped for toys, donated so we could buy toys. However you helped, **1,257 kids will have a merry Christmas morning because of you.**

Thank you!  
Looks like you're all on Santa's Nice List.



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### Closing for our Long Winter's Nap

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The Center is closed from the end of the day on Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1st. The Center will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.

*From all of us at the MLK,  
we wish you and yours joyous holidays.*

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