

A GENEROUS PEOPLE

December has been a very busy month for our Community Outreach efforts here at St. Paul's. The generosity of our brothers and sisters overwhelms me and I feel compelled to share a summary of all the things we have done. Here are some statistics you might like to read.

- 86 – children's Christmas gifts given to the clients of the Muskego Food Pantry
- 65 – Christmas gifts given to the residents at Muskego Health Care Center
- 4 – people volunteered their time shopping and wrapping for others
- 6 – families were given Christmas Gifts and a Complete Christmas Dinner
- 5 – donors are paying for rent totaling \$2,900 for a homeless Muskego family whose need was brought to us by the Muskego Food Pantry
- \$900+ paid towards a family's past due medical bills
- \$1,000 given towards a much needed operation for a friend of St. Paul's



Our facilities were used at no charge for 3 organizations:

- Muskego Food Pantry's Christmas Party
- Muskego Woman's Club Blood Drive
- Lifeline Health Screening in our area

I estimate that over \$11,000 went out to needy people last month. This is all to show Jesus' love towards people in our community. We also highlight our involvement with the community on our website: <http://stpaulmuskego.org/about-us/community-involvement/>

It's truly a privilege for me to coordinate these kinds of things with such a generous church family.

Sally Wallner

St. Paul's Community Outreach Coordinator

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

In addition to our care for people in our community, St. Paul's members have also generously provided over \$8000 to help people in Puerto Rico whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Maria. In the early weeks of the devastation, we sent boxes of food. This week St. Paul's members Jay and Joan Oswald who had already planned a trip to Puerto Rico, were able to meet several of the people that we are helping in the Barrancas neighborhood of Barranquitas, the hometown of St. Paul's member Diane Ludwig. Because this community in the center of the island is still without electricity, and likely will be for several more months, Joan and Jay were able to personally deliver a number of solar-powered lights to celebrate the Epiphany news that Jesus is the Light of the World. Their letter to Diane's brother who is our contact in Puerto Rico is on the next page. We await Jay and Joan's return to determine next steps.

January 5, 2018

Miguel Padilla Pagan

Barrancas Sector Matadero, Puerto Rico

Dear Miguel,

We and the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Muskego, WI, send you best wishes as you celebrate the Festival of the Kings tomorrow. Diane Ludwig has told us the importance of this festival and we hope that you, your family and each of the others in the Barrancas community enjoy your time together celebrating the arrival of the three kings to worship the Christ child, Jesus.

As we all know, Jesus is the Light of the World overcoming the darkness of sin and the devil. So today we are bringing to you additional solar lights in the tradition established when Diane visited with you in December. We hope they are valuable to additional members of your community as they patiently wait for the electric power to return to their neighborhood sometime soon. There are many people in Muskego praying that electricity will return sooner than currently expected.

When Diane returned to Muskego from her recent visit, she told us of the positive spirit being demonstrated by the community during the trying times you have endured. One of the evidences of that is your community's decision to help one of those who has suffered the total loss of his home, Miguel Padilla Rodriguez. When the people in Muskego heard Diane's report, they authorized us to bring an additional gift of \$2,000 to be used in rebuilding Miguel's home.

In addition, Diane told us of the many houses that will need repainting because of Maria's ability to suck the existing paint from buildings. As a result, the people of St. Paul's have asked us to give you an additional \$1,000 to purchase paint and painting materials to be used by members of your community.

We are hoping that these gifts show you the love the people of St. Paul's have for the members of your community and our love for our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, arose and ascended to heaven where He is preparing a place for us in heaven. Won't it be wonderful being in a place where there will be no sin, sorrow or death --- and where hurricanes like Maria will not be allowed!

Thank you for coming to San Juan to greet us on behalf of your community and giving us the opportunity to meet you in person. At a time of high activity in preparing for the Festival of the Kings you took time out to do this. We are grateful to you for doing that.

In Christian Love,

Jay and Joan Oswald on behalf of the members of St. Paul's, Muskego, WI