

Isaac's Wish — To Help Homeless

“My name is Isaac. I want to help the homeless!”

Isaac Garcia is an 8th grader at COS. Shortly after his family moved from IGH to near Mounds Park, Isaac noticed the many people walking to a church in their neighborhood. This church offers services to those who were homeless. As winter approached, he began asking, “Where are they going to go? What will they do?” As it got colder outside, Isaac thought more and more about the people he saw every day. He thought about what he might be able to do to help them. He wrote down his thoughts and titled it, **“Isaac’s Christmas Wish” ...I’m, going to do my best to work at getting donations and make sure the poor people will at least have one night of warmth and some food this Christmas.”**

Isaac met with the people at the church near his home to find out what kinds of things would be most helpful for the homeless people who came there. Then he began asking for donations of money and supplies so he could assemble **“Blessing Bags”**. Each bag contained a collection of items such as hand warmers, bottled water, fruit snacks and granola bars. Small but useful things. Isaac turned to his school community for help. Donation boxes were put near the school office and the word was spread to school families. They collected boxfuls of socks, hats, mittens, jackets, and boots, as well as personal care items like soap and toothbrushes.

His goal date was the week before Christmas. Entire rooms in his house were full of the things he had collected. When he arrived at the church all the donations were laid out on tables. People were invited to take what they needed. The shelter was full on Christmas. Over 100 people were there for dinner. Families with children, including babies. One man in a wheelchair came to Isaac to shake his hand and say thanks. Isaac was touched. Isaac plans to do this each Christmas. **This is my Christmas wish this year. – Love Isaac**

We at St Matthews would like to help Isaac fulfill his “Christmas Wish” this year. We ask that you bring donations for **“Isaac’s Blessing Bags”** and leave them near the Scrip table. The last week to donate will be the weekend of Dec 7/8. **Isaac will speak at the masses Nov. 2nd & 3rd.**