

Isaac's Wish – To Help Homeless

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

Isaac Garcia is a Sophomore at Cretin Derham Hall. 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 are homeless. As winter approached, he began asking, “Where are they going to go? As it got colder outside, Isaac thought 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, **COS**, for help. Donation boxes were put near the school office and the word was spread to school families. They collected boxes full 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 home 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 and 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.”**

For the past 2 years we as St. Matthews have helped Isaac fulfill his “Christmas Wish”! Even last year, when there were no masses due to the pandemic, many boxes were filled with the donations left at the Parish Center! **Isaac’s Blessing Bags** has been registered as a Non-profit Organization. As a parish we want to help Isaac again!! This past year has been difficult for many! The need is even greater! We ask that you bring donations for **“Isaac’s Blessing Bags”** and leave them in the back of the church. Donations may also be brought to the Parish Center 9am – 1pm Mon – Thurs. The last day to donate will be Sunday Dec. 5th. **Isaac will speak at the Sat. mass Nov. 6th. His talk will be live-streamed at the on-line mass Nov. 7th.**

Donation suggestions for Men, Women & Children

Handwarmers Socks Hats Mittens Jackets Boots Scarves Sweaters

Bottled Water Soap Fruit Snacks Granola Bars Toothbrushes Deodorant

Combs Hair Brushes Disposable Razors Diapers Small Toys for Babies & Children