

# Generosity Update

*Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Luke 6:38, The Message*

## Christmas Is For Giving

Our Christmas Eve offering for missions totaled more than \$15,400, which will be divided among Allen Community Outreach, Change the World Weekend, Habitat for Humanity, the House of Hope, and Project Transformation. One usher received in the collection a bag full of coins, totaling well over \$40. Later, we learned one family's children collected coins in their Christmas jar for the past 12 months in hopes of touching the life of a neighbor. The Christmas Eve offering is becoming an annual way of experiencing God's giving nature. We remember that at Christmas God gave his only Son that we might have eternal life. Through our giving, we are most aligned with a God whose nature is to give. Consider starting your Christmas jar now and bringing it to worship on Christmas Eve 2015.



*"I can't believe how generous you are...I will never forget this Christmas!"*

## Christmas Is For Serving Congregation Accepts The Challenge

With tears in her eyes, she said, "I don't know how to begin to thank you. I can't believe how generous you are!" These were the words of a local mom waiting in line in the FUMC parking lot this past December as her car was being loaded with Christmas gifts for her children.

She was among hundreds of families that experienced warm hospitality and loving encouragement from Allen Community Outreach (ACO) during their annual Christmas toy distribution at our church.

December is a time of celebrating the story of incarnation: God becoming one of us. For most people, the real presence of Christ is only experienced as followers share, give, and love.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, FUMC Allen members shared generously, collecting teddy bears for children in crisis, giving gifts to local kids through ACO's toy drive and to the children of the House of Hope. Church members adopted families of the Trinity River Mission Project and gathered with them to wrap presents and enjoy each other's company.

All these projects were part of FUMC Allen's Change the World Christmas Challenge.

December is truly a month of giving, and this congregation surpassed any other Advent in recent history.

As the mother drove away, she said, "I will never forget this Christmas. It will be the best ever."



Volunteers delivered 30 stuffed bears--collected during SHARE A BEAR, BEAR A CARE--to the homeless and needy during breakfast at Dallas' Cathedral of Hope.



More than 100 volunteers, in partnership with area police officers and Meals-on-Wheels, gathered on Thanksgiving Day to package and deliver 960 Thanksgiving meals for residents of Collin County.

What a day of living out true gratitude for life's many blessings.

## Christmas Challenge Summary

FUMC Allen adopted 9 projects in November and December and challenged our congregation to Change the World this holiday season.

### KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

70 volunteers donated a total of 140 hours of their day to package 24,624 meals for families in Honduras.

### STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS

The Military Support Group mailed 23 Boxes containing 290 stockings weighing 642 pounds shipped to 8 distribution sites. Contributions helped to cover the \$1,010 needed for postage.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

More than 100 volunteers gathered on Thanksgiving Day to package and deliver 960 meals for residents of Collin County.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Last quarter, 21 individuals rolled-up their sleeves to give blood. These donations have the potential to help save up to 63 lives.

### TRINITY RIVER MISSION

Volunteers partnered with 10 families who worked hard to participate in this program. Our involvement enabled these deserving families to have a blessed Christmas.

### SEND HOPE

Children's Creative Playday families and others filled 160 bags with Christmas gifts for the children of the House of Hope in Honduras.

### JUNTOS SERVIMOS

In January, 68 blankets were hand delivered to families in Juarez, Mexico.

### SHARE A BEAR, BEAR A CARE

Volunteers delivered 4 large bags filled with stuffed bears to the Fairview police, Living Life Church, the Cathedral of Hope, and the Allen police.

### ALLEN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

537 children, teens, and senior adults representing 239 households had a happier Christmas as a result of the ACO Adoption Program.

## Set Up Your Online Giving For 2015

The generosity of FUMC Allen reached a new annual high with almost \$2.2 million dollars given to the mission and ministry of our congregation.

Online giving can make your contributions easy and consistent. And setting up your online giving is as easy as visiting our website: [fumcallen.org](http://fumcallen.org). Click on the **DONATE ONLINE** link at the top of the home page. You can make one-time contributions on the site or set up a recurring gift.

## 2014 TOTAL GIVING

