

# *The Holiday Baskets Program*



The Holiday Baskets Program, a totally volunteer project, has been supplying food and gifts to people in need in our valley for over 33 years. This program is a wonderful community effort with numerous groups and individuals assisting.

People are referred to the program by social service agencies who have determined their needs. These agencies have become dependent on us to provide gifts and food cards for the neediest families in our valley. The families are adopted by individuals, the faith community, schools, businesses and other groups. The Adopting Angels buy new gifts for each member of the family.

There are always more families in need than are adopted. The gifts for these non-adopted families are contributed by individuals and groups who choose a gift tag and then purchase the requested gift. All these donated gifts are gathered at Christ Episcopal Church where they are sorted and wrapped for the individual families. Needed items that have not been donated are purchased.

We normally serve 250 families, approximately 1,000 people. In addition to gifts, each recipient in the program also receives a City Market food gift card. We have received much feedback that these food gift cards are greatly appreciated and are usually used to purchase food for a holiday dinner.

There are four ways people in the community can participate in this program: make a tax deductible donation, adopt a family, donate new toys and clothing, and volunteer at Christ Church to sort and wrap gifts. We also have a Kids Wrap Day.

