



## **St. Paul's Jingle Bus. A wonderful time spreading God's Grace**

Dear Fr. Albergate and the People of St. Paul's Church in Lakeview,

Case Manager Cathey Randolph and I want to extend our grateful thanks for the incredible generosity showered upon our St. Paul's Homecoming Center clients this Christmas. On Monday morning, Dec. 21, when we arrived for work, a multitude of brightly wrapped gifts, enough food for an Army, and a handsome live Christmas tree greeted us here at the center. Your offerings joined forces that day with other beautifully wrapped gifts from All Saints, River Ridge, to provide an overwhelming flow of Christmas cheer for our clients, both elderly single people and families. Together, we were able to provide gifts for 20 families totaling more than 50 people.

A very generous St. Nick from St. Paul's added 20 \$25 gift cards for for us to distribute to the families and single folks. The gift cards were well received!

The fragrant green tree was taken to a single mom in the Ninth Ward. She and her son, age 10, and daughter, age 12, had no Christmas tree and no gifts. There were tears from mom and awe from her children when we brought that wonderful tree into the tiny shotgun house. The family received lovely ornaments and a box of twinkling lights to decorate the tree as they chose. Then we brought in the gifts. Each person had six presents to put under the tree. But there was still another gift to come which mom did not expect -- a huge shopping bag full of kid-friendly food. The tears flowed again.

A similar scenario of bringing gifts, gift cards and food was repeated at our many stops. Even the elderly folks were surprised at the number of presents and the quantity of food.

We brought prayers too for our clients who are house-bound and/or bed-ridden, some recovering from recent hospital stays.

The case managers were the lucky folks who got to deliver your good will to our fellow citizens. We had the pleasure of seeing the grateful faces and the anticipation in the eyes of the children. The clients were far-flung: Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans East, Mid-City, Gentilly, even a Lakeview transplant to Metairie.

God bless you for your generosity to those less fortunate among us. Peace, good health and blessings to you in the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Ann Ball, case  
manager  
Episcopal Community  
Services of Louisiana