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Subject: Foundation Contribution

Date: Tue, 6 Nov 2007 2:10 pm

Murray & Roy,

Thank you so much for the generous contribution to the St. Rocco's food and toy drive. I have been running the drive since 1998. Whatever funds are donated to St. Rocco's goes to Monsignor directly to buy food and other necessities for the church and persons in the parish who it serves. (Contributions from our benefactors resulted in a much needed ramp installed in the basement where the homeless come for meals, and new steps to replace the crumbling ones that were there when I first started this). St. Rocco's used to be part of an Italian neighborhood (close to UMDNJ) but it is now mostly African American and Third World immigrants without much in the way of prospects. St. Rocco's has a food pantry where they feed the homeless, and many of them show up the day of our party for the food we donate. They love the muffins, cookies, and sweets in addition to the more nutritious stuff we bring. One year my brother in law John was carrying a stack of muffins we bought at CostCo and this homeless guy offered to help. John handed him a stack of muffins and he took off with them. John was initially annoyed, but then realized that what he took was just food that we would have given him anyway.

Another year, a young woman was sitting out in the rain waiting for us to arrive. It was freezing cold. She had a newborn. She had been shut out of a nearby Xmas party in the projects because she was not a resident. She was living in a shelter downtown and the only Xmas party opened to all was ours. We had just gotten a stack of baby clothes to bring to St. Rocco's (we also bring any donations to the Church shelter like clothes and furniture) and this baby had NO clothes because they had been stolen in the shelter. The mother said our arrival with those clothes for the baby was her Christmas miracle. She was thrilled. Monsignor knew her and said she had been burned out of her home and had no relatives nearby. The kids who attend the party range in age from infants to teens and we have toys ranging from bikes and scooters to dolls and trucks and everything in between. A dear friend who is now a Judge serves as Santa and sacrifices his entire Saturday each year to do it. He absolutely loves it and says he looks forward to it every year. We have games and sing songs throughout the day and at the end we hand out gifts to the kids then the parents. We added gifts for the parents a few years back when we realized that every penny they get often goes to their kids, so we make sure they walk away with a little something at the end of the day. I tell you all of this to let you know that your contribution will truly make a huge difference to these kids and their families. They are all inner city kids and reflect exactly what the Roy White foundation is all about: hope for the future for kids without much hope to spare. God Bless you and thank you for making this Christmas a special one for these families!!!! Love Barbara

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