

## Ways We Can Serve

December 2017

### December Special Offering – Two-in-One (Methodist Children's Home and Providence Place)

In December, we have the opportunity to support some wonderful ministries dealing with children. The Methodist Children's Home in Waco, Texas, has helped troubled children (ages 12 – 18) for 126 years. It is a place for children to heal and grow in a loving environment. Young children thrive in homes of loving foster parents. For over 30 years, MCH has had a field office in Albuquerque. The Outreach Office oversees two programs – "Family Solutions" and "Nurturing Parent" – which offer training and support for local families. In addition, case managers are being trained to offer the "Grandparents as Parents" Program. A second Methodist-supported haven for children is Providence Place in San Antonio, Texas. *"Providence Place loved me and helped me make the best decision for my child without any pressure,"* said one birth mother in the open adoption program. Providence Place also helps young adults with physical and/or cognitive disabilities develop their full potential and learn to live on their own with minimal assistance. All of these fine ministries rely on our donations. Please give extravagantly!!

### St. John's Mobile Food Pantry – Saturday, December 16

St. John's, in partnership with Roadrunner Food Bank, hosts a mobile food pantry to families in need every 3rd Saturday of the month in the Family Life Center. We provide 50 pounds of food for 50 households. Costs for the mobile food pantry are \$175/month so any donations are appreciated. Contact Bonnie Schwarting at [bschwarting@cablone.net](mailto:bschwarting@cablone.net) to volunteer.

### Project Share

We will not host a dinner in December but will begin again in January. Project Share is open for dinner six nights a week and serves 40,000 meals each year to Albuquerque's homeless and hungry. Project Share is now a program of St. Martin's Hospitality Center so the amount of people served is larger. This means more food, more money for food, and more servers. We are especially in need of people to commit to helping as servers. If you can help in any way during the year, please contact Tim Nuzum at [tnuzum@stjohns-abq.org](mailto:tnuzum@stjohns-abq.org).

### The Storehouse (food collection)

In December, let's all join together to collect as much **spaghetti (or any type of dry pasta) and pasta sauce (in cans, not jars)** for The Storehouse. Please place your donations in the shopping carts, located in the Hospitality Center and the "SERVE" area in the Family Life Center. And, if you can't recall what we're collecting from month to month, just feel free to purchase any non-perishable food items; your donations will be gratefully accepted at any time. Thank you! For questions, please contact Mary Beth Spletzer at [mbspletzer@gmail.com](mailto:mbspletzer@gmail.com).

### Casa Esperanza – December 6

St. John's will be providing dinner on Wednesday, December 6, at Casa Esperanza. We will be serving Soup & Salad. Please stop by the Hospitality Center to sign up for a food item and/or volunteer to help prepare and serve. Thank you for your overwhelming generosity. Special thanks to all who donated and served in October. If you have any other questions, please contact Jenn Shields at [jennshields200@yahoo.com](mailto:jennshields200@yahoo.com).

### Wings for L.I.F.E. International Christmas Party Potluck and "Go Shopping" – Monday, December 18

Wings for L.I.F.E. is looking for **new and slightly-used items that could be re-gifted** for the "Go Shopping" event, Monday, December 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Family Life Center. The adults and children will be able to pick out gifts for siblings, parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends. This fun night will allow us to reflect on the joys of the past year, put us in the spirit of Christmas, and spend time with families and new friends. Donations of gifts, bags, bows, ribbons, wrapping paper and tape would be most appreciated, as we try to help the children wrap their gifts for loved ones. Join us for this special Christmas Party for people who may not have Christmas gifts otherwise! Bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. If you or your children need Christmas gifts, please also join us. For more information contact St. John's member Ann Edenfield Sweet, 505-554-6698, or [AnnEdenfield@WingsforLIFEInternational.org](mailto:AnnEdenfield@WingsforLIFEInternational.org).

*"Do all you can for as many as you can for as long as you can!"*

John Wesley quote paraphrased

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### Casa Esperanza – 12 Months of Giving

Being away from home for months is difficult, but knowing people care makes all the difference. If you want to help families dealing with tragedy, please donate the following items to Casa Esperanza during the month of December: **toilet paper, Kleenix, and napkins**. Bring your donations to the Hospitality Center or the “SERVE” area in the Family Life Center through the month of December. Thank you for your overwhelming generosity. If you have any other questions, please contact Jenn Shields at [jennshields200@yahoo.com](mailto:jennshields200@yahoo.com).

### United Methodist Women – Zuni Elementary School

UMW will be collecting **children’s winter coats, sizes 6X through Youth 14**, starting now and running through the end of February. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, bring your donations to the church office, Hospitality Center in the Narthex, “SERVE” area in the Family Life Center or put them in the UMW closet in the SonShine Café. *Thank you!* Contact Angie Young at [dajsover@wans.net](mailto:dajsover@wans.net).

### Campbell's Labels, Box Tops for Education, and Tyson Project A+ (on-going)

McCurdy Ministries, a United Methodist supported ministry in Espanola, now participates in the “Tyson Project A+” Program. On Tyson frozen products, you will find “Project A+” labels to cut and save. Each submitted label earns 24 cents for McCurdy! Please continue saving “Labels for Education” from Campbell’s products. McCurdy hopes to collect enough labels to purchase another van before Campbell’s suspends the program at the end of 2017. McCurdy also asks that we continue saving “Box Tops for Education.” Please place all three types of labels in the collection box located in the Hospitality Center. Thank you!

### Albertsons “Stamps” (on-going)

Do you shop at Albertsons? We will be collecting the stamps Albertsons is awarding and will redeem them for pots and pans to be given to Family Promise to aid families who are moving into permanent homes. You will find a box on the Hospitality Center counter to receive your stamps. Thank You!! Happy shopping and stamp saving. Contact: Nancy Shefelbine at [NJGShefelbine@comcast.net](mailto:NJGShefelbine@comcast.net).

### All-Church Assembly of Hygiene Kits for Healthcare for the Homeless.

On January 28, St. John’s will have the opportunity to participate in assembling hygiene kits to be distributed to the homeless. To get us started on these kits, we are seeking donations of **toothbrushes, socks (men and/or women) and travel-size toothpaste and deodorant (men and/or women)**. Please drop off these items at the Hospitality Center in the Narthex or the “SERVE” area in the Family Life Center. Contact: Donna at [donnabruce@comcast.net](mailto:donnabruce@comcast.net).

**Note:** If you see a need and would like to donate funds to any of the above listed projects, make your check out to St. John’s UMC and please be sure to write the project name in the memo field of your check.

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John Wesley quote paraphrased