***2022 Highlights and Thanks***

***“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.”****Helen Keller*

We are wrapping up our program for 2022 and feeling grateful, thankful and so proud of all we have been able to accomplish.  For the past few months, we have witnessed the generosity of each of you, as you organized giving trees, shopped with those wish lists, wrapped and tagged and bagged -  and while we don’t get to see the end result - we imagine the smiling faces on the children as their families share your generosity over the holidays.  Our impact this year includes 1083 children sponsored with personalized gift bags, hundreds of toys donated for our partnership with St John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hispanic Community in Bernardsville. We know the needs have increased and we are pleased that we could do more this year.

* To our longtime supporters who sustain our work and partner year after year,  thank you for saying yes again and again!  To our new supporters, you found us through online searches or contact from a friend and helped push us over our goal - which was to support more children than last year.  Thank you for working with us!
* To those of you who supported us financially - we were able to meet all the needs of the agencies we partner with and send support to a local church for their toy drive as well as another toy drive in Paterson, expanding our giving this year.
* To our food drive donors -  you supported our spontaneous food drive as you delivered your gifts to the firehouse -  several car loads delivered over 800 pounds of donated items to the food bank this year.

We are a volunteer driven program - and we thank our volunteers who wrapped and bagged gifts at the firehouse and in their homes - sent letters asking for support, shopped when needed and made deliveries to our agencies.  A special thank you to the members of the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department who lend us their facility and the Heineman family for the use of the truck!

We are pushed to do more when we see the gratitude on their faces and hear the appreciation of our 19 agency partners across the state and in the Bronx!!  We admire your dedication and commitment to the children and families you serve.

Many of you tell us this is the highlight of the season and we would agree.  We will be in touch in 2023 -  we will use what we learned in 2022 to begin planning for next year and look to widen our impact as we know the need will still be there and we know we can do as much as we did this year and maybe more!

Sending heartfelt good cheer and wishing you all a very Happy New Year. Back in touch in 2023.