

Summary:

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) delivered its 43rd Jingle Bell Express program on December 9-10, 2022, as a 2-day event resulting in service to 2,476 children in need. Thanks to the support of CCSC covenant congregations, big-hearted donors and dedicated volunteers, the number of families served from the previous year almost doubled from 500 to 955, returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Jingle Bell Express has always been designed to address the holiday needs of struggling families. This unique event continues to be impactful in these important ways:

- The program offers three layers of service (toys, books and food) to address play, literacy and hunger.
- Parents completed a toy preference survey during the registration process. These selections were utilized to promote gift donations and to guide volunteer personal shoppers in assembling gift bags in December.
- Each family received a \$50 grocery gift card to help address food insecurity, high food prices and economic challenges.
- The program serves as an effective entry point for many CCSC volunteers and donors.

Program Delivery Method:

The drive-thru event provided 2,476 children (infancy to age 15) with new toys, new books, wooden toys and stocking stuffers. In addition, each of their 955 families received a grocery gift card.

- 98% of the families (955 of 973) who registered for the event attended and were served
- Gender: 51% of the children registered for the event were female; 49% male
- Ethnicity: 96% of registered clients were Hispanic/Latino; 2% Black/African American; 2% all other ethnicities
- The program was offered to families living in a variety of zip codes; heavily represented areas included Gulfton/Sharpstown/Braeburn neighborhoods

Program Highlights:

- **Bellaire United Methodist Church** continues to be a significant host site offering space and resources to operate Jingle Bell Express alongside other church programs.
- **Fifteen dedicated volunteers served on the Jingle Bell Express committee.** The program is successful thanks to their dedication, meticulous planning and commitment to CCSC. More than **400 volunteers** served throughout all phases of the event, contributing **2,100 hours of volunteer service.**
- Thanks to a generous grant from the **Ladies for Literacy Guild - Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation**, each child received at least two books to help foster the love of reading.
- **St. Luke's United Methodist Woodshop** provided handmade wooden toys for our youngest clients; **Faith Lutheran Church** provided handmade baby cradles; **ChristChurch Presbyterian** provided storage space for toys and books prior to the community event.
- Donation drives hosted by member churches, schools, businesses and groups, and big-hearted individual support resulted in an abundance of high-quality primary toys matching parents' toy preferences.

**CCSC believes in sharing Christmas!
Thanks to everyone involved for contributing
to the success of Jingle Bell Express 2022!**

