

## ST. COLUMBAN GIVING TREE



For many years The Giving Tree has been a part of St. Columban. Each Advent season you expect to see the tree in the Gathering Space filled with multi-colored tags. And, if you're like most people, you enjoy picking a tag or two and shopping for that perfect gift to help make someone's Christmas extra special! The Giving Tree continues to be successful year after year due to the dedication of many people throughout the parish. It is certainly a team effort! Parish staff, school staff and students, Knights of Columbus and parishioners work together to make this ministry successful and to make Christmas truly special for those in need. Each year families, adults and children throughout our community are supported by the parishioners at St. Columban and that support does not go unnoticed. The agencies we give to are overwhelmed by what we do. Last year we provided gifts to 15 agencies supporting 52 families and 1,433 individuals. Thanks to everyone for your efforts and continued support!

Organizations we help and their Mission Statements:

- **Loveland InterFaith Effort (LIFE) Food Pantry** ~ The Loveland L.I.F.E. Food Pantry is a faith-based organization that provides food, financial assistance, and services to needy residents within the Loveland School District and to members of supporting congregations, who qualify under Federal guidelines of "persons in need" encouraging self-sufficiency in individuals and families.
- **Joseph House/VA** ~ Joseph House meets the needs of the homeless veterans within the community suffering from addiction and provides them the support they need to maintain a life long commitment to recovery and to thrive in the community.
- **Glad House** ~ GLAD House is a certified mental health and prevention agency that works with high-risk youth who have been impacted emotionally and behaviorally by a family member with an addiction.
- **Loveland Health Care Center** ~ Loveland Health Care is a newly renovated nursing home community dedicated to bringing comfort and recovery with a personal touch and without the institutionalization that most other facilities embody.
- **Ethel M. Taylor Academy** ~ Ethel M. Taylor Academy is a neighborhood school and Community Learning Center - "Building a better future, one student at a time". It serves as a hub for community services, providing students and families access to health and social services, as well as recreational, educational and cultural opportunities.
- **The Loveland Initiative** ~ The Loveland Initiative was founded in 1996 by a group of neighbors with the mission of providing educational support and assistance to underserved children and their families.
- **Caracole House** ~ Caracole's mission is to provide housing and supportive services to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.
- **St. Leo's** ~ St. Leo's is a welcoming Catholic community, grounded in Eucharistic prayer, celebrating diversity and sharing God's love through ministries of serving and being present in urban neighborhoods, while focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. We collect personal care items and diapers for their immigrant and refugee population.
- **Mary Magdalen House** ~ Mary Magdalen House is an oasis of hospitality providing a safe and pleasant place for persons in need, to shower, shave, brush their teeth, use a toilet, have clothes laundered, have use of a phone and have a place to receive messages and mail.
- **Swan House** ~ Swan House houses women who have been battered and abused, homeless women, and women that need a new start in life.
- **Bethany House** ~ Bethany House Services empowers homeless and at-risk families with the solutions to achieve housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency.
- **First Step Home** ~ First Step Home helps women break the cycle of addiction and abuse so that they can become self-sufficient and provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children.
- **St. Vincent de Paul** ~ St. Columban works with St. Vincent de Paul to aid those in need, offering essential items through clothing drives and other events throughout the year.
- **Florentine Gardens** ~ A private, 70 bed skilled nursing facility in the Loveland area offering a full-service nursing care center including short, recuperative stays or long-term care
- **Interfaith Hospitality Network** ~ Provides emergency shelter and housing programs for homeless families in Cincinnati and surrounding areas. Also provides the tools, resources and support that families need to overcome homelessness and achieve long-term stability.