

Updated Message from Marc McTeague

As of December 6, 2012 ALL ANGELS ARE ADOPTED! Drop off your unwrapped gifts by 12/15/12!

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As of December 5, 2012 we have 34 Angels left to adopt out.  
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I promise to keep this update short. First for the good news. As of this writing, we've adopted out 250 angels. Things started out fast, but we've slowed to a trickle. Now for the bad news. We still have 146 angels left with a deadline of December 15th looming like a sword of Damocles. (I have a minor in Classic Greek and Roman that I rarely get to use.)

Not only that, some of my larger corporate clients who have adopted large numbers of angels in the past, have decided to cut back this year and not participate.

So needless to say I'm starting to wonder whether we can get the job done this year. I'm not above begging or arm twisting for that matter.

If you've already adopted some angels, GREAT! If not, but are still interested, obviously I have plenty left. Please look at the angel list at www.sachristmasangels.com and let me know who you'd like to adopt and I'll get their wish lists to you as soon as possible.

Now here's where the begging comes in. PLEASE forward the Angel message to anybody you think might be interested. The only way we're going to be able to provide a Christmas for all of the kids is if we get more volunteers involved. I guarantee once someone tries this, they'll be back.

Any questions, just drop me an email. Told you it would be short.

Peace and Respect,
Marc A. McTeague

Annual Message from Marc McTeague

I picked up the giant, white three ring binder from the Salvation Army last Thursday. How did this get here so fast this year? I'm still not done with football season (that's a good thing, North is three rounds deep in the playoffs). And I've got a million other things I could be doing. I put it on my car seat, couldn't bring myself to look through it.

Handed the binder off to our first volunteer Elf. CJ in our office always scans each sheet and gives each kid their own name and file. This takes a lot of time, but this year she ripped right through it. I had put off writing the message until she was done because frankly, I was waiting for some inspiration-just

wasn't feeling it this year. The clock's ticking, so I start looking through my prior messages, reminding myself why we go through with this each year. I pulled up the 2009 page and started to read, five paragraphs in I mention an 8 year old girl, Hannah. She wanted a blanket. I adopted her that year. I remembered going to Target and picking up a lot of things on Hannah's list, including a fuzzy pink blanket. My son Ian went with me, it was cold and raining sideways, not unlike today. The memory of that day was still vivid. Still searching for the right inspiration and words, I finally open up the white binder. It's been quietly taunting me. Guess who's on the first page? Hannah, child #001A. INSPIRATION FOUND! And once again I'm a bit of an emotional mess.

So here's the thing, I've got 577 Hannah's this year. Last year we had 639 so I know we can do this.

Another nice bit of inspiration: I've had several emails already from people asking if we're doing the program again this year and when can they get their kids. That's the thing about this, once you've helped a kid in this program, you want to do it again. Giving always seems to bless the giver just as much if not more than the givee.

I won't go on and on like I do most years, so here's the quick and dirty highlights:

*These kids are not in a great situation, and will not have a Christmas this year, except for what we do for them. The SA screens them and makes sure they aren't in any other assistance program. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT of what you buy your angel, goes only to that angel. This is the only charity I'm aware of with a 100% rate of return.

*Please go to www.sachristmasangels.com and click on the angel list. You'll link to a spreadsheet that has each angel's name/sex/age. They are divided up into households. I say households and not families because many of these are foster kids or other non-traditional situations. You can adopt as many or few as you like. A great idea is to adopt angels that mirror your own kids. Easier to shop for and a great lesson for your kids when they help. It will let your kids know just how lucky they are.

*Let me know what Angels you want and I'll send you their information sheet. Then shop, have fun, feel great about what you just did.

*On the website there are frequently asked questions and past messages that go a lot deeper into why my family and I (along with other great volunteers) throw ourselves into this. This is our 17th year, and no, it wasn't always nearly this big.

*The other thing that I'm going to ask you to do is please pass this message along to anybody you think may want to help. That's how we've been able to help so many kids each year.

*Once again, Bring-In Storage (BINS) www.gotbins.com and it's owner Greg Tuel is donating the storage Bins and providing transportation. Last year we filled up 4 and a half 16' Bins.

*One of the best fringe benefits of doing this is all the people that help each year. Many of you I only see once a year when you drop off your angel's stuff. If you drop it off towards the deadline, I'm probably stressed up a bit so remind me again why I do this and ask me if I've had enough brandy yet. I only drink brandy during this time because I'm outside in the garage usually freezing my butt off. Brandy helps.

*Almost 600 of anything is a chore. Please make sure you attach your angel tag to their stuff. The best way to do it is to gather it all in a large garbage bag and put a tag in the bag and one on the outside. It's much easier to sort that way.

A final bit of inspiration hit my twitter account today. One of the tweets said, "In this life we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love" -Mother Theresa. I'm done pretending that our program will change the world, but I guarantee that it just might change a few lives. Sure, some of these kids will just be happy to see something shiny under the tree and think no more of it. But some will understand that someone they don't even know, cares about them and believes they are important.

Thanks for reading.

Peace and Respect,
Marc McTeague