**Loaves and Fishes Christmas Blessing**

The past two years, a small group has come together to bring a Christmas blessing to the families of our communities who are served by Loaves and Fishes. This has been a remarkable opportunity to watch God’s provision as we seek to show the love of Christ to the families in our area. The project has brought the chance for all parents with children registered through Loaves and Fishes to “shop” for a new toy/gift for each of their children, as well as a color book and crayons or markers for each child. In addition, there have been donations of other basic needs, so as the project has expanded, we’ve sought to offer the ability for families to “shop” for a ***gift*** as well as a ***need***, plus provide color books and crayons or markers for each child. Last year we were able to serve over 185 kids.

This year, knowing there is even greater need across our communities, we would like to extend the opportunity to come together as collection sites and church bodies to serve this mission. If you would like to participate, we have found it to be as simple as keeping a collection box available and sending out regular reminders of what might be needed. Here are the parameters:

**New toys/gifts ($5-$10 dollars) for all age groups, broken out by 3 and under, 4-8, and 9 and above.**

* **Toys and action figures of any kind**
* **Craft kits**
* **Balls and simple sports equipment**
* **Nail polish sets, jewelry, bath bomb sets**
* **Lego sets**

**New socks, pajama sets, slippers, blankets, hats and gloves**

**Color books for younger ages as well as adult color books**

**Crayons, fine tip markers, colored pencils, notebooks, and other basic school supplies. (These are packaged as sets and families pick up one per child. If we have enough, we’ve allowed grandparents to also come shop this table)**

**Wrapping paper & gift bags for the holidays—new or partial used rolls, all are appreciated!**

We will coordinate and organize donations on a monthly basis and send updates as to what items we have collected enough for, and what areas we need to focus more towards. We’ve found that collecting for older kids/teens--especially boys, is more difficult, and encourage any ideas to be shared to help each other! There are also willing “shoppers”, and donations are 100% applied to this mission and the children we are supporting. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Krissy Taylor at 507-380-9420 or Marcelle Warner at 507-524-3291 for more information.