MY CHRISTMAS WISH REPORT 2024

10TH YEAR!

Wow, each year we are more blessed and amazed by the kindness of so many people and organisations who are determined to demonstrate how much they care for others, wanting to make sure that local children have Christmas presents. Every year we strive to improve how we organise My Christmas Wish and this year has been a 'game changer' because we were able to use the premises of the Phoenix Resource Centre to store toys, meaning that we could spend more time during the week unpacking, sorting and choosing gifts for the each child at a more leisurely, better organised pace.

SO IN CHRISTMAS 2024 WE SUPPORTED: 110 FAMILIES

- **A bag of presents** *(for each child: a main present, a soft toy, a book, a selection box, a board game for each family, plus a few little things and sometimes knitted items/clothes age appropriate)* were delivered to a total of **229 children!**
  (The numbers keep going up as we receive more data, and some were given out after the Give Away day).
- Each family also received a **Christmas Treat Hamper** from Phoenix Resource Centre, delivered at the same time.
- **In addition 53 x £10 Primark vouchers were given to children 11 years and over, coming from monetary donations received,** amazing!
- Many thanks to **Nicky Wilson and her Mum Carol Dallas** who had been knitting all year for us and produced the most beautiful knitted sets of clothes for babies and toddlers, gift wrapped in cellophane and gift bags complete with selection boxes and sets of baby toiletries. They were stunning and very much appreciated.
- **Rushden Salvation Army and High Street Wesleyan Church** donated all the toys from their annual Toy Services this year, adding to those donated in our drop-off points.
- **Rushden & Irthlingborough Libraries plus Simpson and Weekley Estate Agents (Rushden & Wellingborough offices)** were drop-off points for donations, thanks for all concerned.
- **Free Family Swim Vouchers** were provided by Freedom Leisure to use Splash Pool, Rushden
- **10 Christmas Dinner Hampers** were also delivered, this year on 23th December, donated by a very caring group of people who wish to remain anonymous. What an amazing job they do, providing a stunning array of high quality locally sourced food items, not to mention additional lovely treats, all tailored to the size of the family they were given to.
- **Surplus gifts** - some were distributed to late referrals, some to Rush2theDen and also, Phoenix Resource Centre were able to add some of the leftover toys to shipments going to schools in Africa..

WE NETWORKED WITH:

- **Rush2theDen**, **local churches, schools, health visitors**, **businesses, East Northants Child Contact Services (CIC), Service Six, Daylight Centre** and anonymous donors.

We are so grateful for everyone who helped in any way and for the people of Rushden and the area who were once again so generous in donating the most beautiful gifts for us to pass on. Each year we are even more amazed and awestruck by all that is achieved. We have so many stories that we can share with you about people's responses of gratitude and tears when we visit. We are especially grateful to the army of volunteers who helped us choose and deliver on the day to so many, we couldn't do this without you.
We're already looking forward to and making plans for Christmas 2025, see you there!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much!

Mark and Danielle Weekley *(Wesleyan Church and Simpson and Weekley Estate Agents)*
Jeanette Maddams *(Wesleyan Church and East Northants Child Contact Services – CIC)*

Organised by: Independent Wesleyan Church
(Charity No: 1132251)
In association with Simpson & Weekley Estate Agent
and East Northants Child Contact Services-CIC

the WES church

East Northants Child Contact Services-CIC

Simpson & Weekley

MY CHRISTMAS WISH SOME FEEDBACK...

8TH YEAR!

TOYS

- A photo was sent to us of a little girl smiling, so pleased with her new pink pyjamas that were in her Christmas bag of presents. *'A very happy little girl,'* her Mum said, *'she's very grateful for everything, you've all done such a good job and made people so happy, Merry Christmas to you all and your families'.*
- Two videos were shown to us of two children opening their MCW presents. One opened a jigsaw, punching the air, so pleased to receive it. And then the smiles on the face of a three year old who opened a present of a drum and started to play it.
- One Mum was so happy she was crying, her teenage son so needed a bike, she said she was overwhelmed by our kindness. *(Also her Mum had passed away a week before Christmas, so this was a difficult time for her, helped a little by the kindness of others).*
- A Mum was so pleased to receive gifts to give to her children, she didn't have any spare money for presents this year, so this made her children's Christmas.
- One lady had been evicted from her home a week before Christmas and was staying with her sister temporarily in Kettering, and came in to choose gifts, we were able to give her new clothes for her children too, she was tearful, we gave her a hug.
- Teachers and Support Workers came to choose gifts for deserving families. They couldn't believe the high standard of new toys we had to offer to them and were thrilled to be able to pass them on to children they knew.

'My little girl opened her present, it was a hat and scarf set, she put them on, smiling and ran around the room and said 'my friend at school has the same.' She was very pleased.'

'That's amazing, I can't believe it.'

'I was really worried about not being able to give my children very much this year, so pleased they had presents after all, thank you.'

HAMPERS

'That is so lovely, please thank the people who have sent this and tell them I'm very, very grateful. I've asked my friend round for Christmas dinner to share with her, she's in similar position to me.'

'Thank you so much for the amazing food parcels and for delivering them. Sorry we didn't ask you in to say thank you, we are full of cold.'

'Thank you so much for the Christmas hamper, as well as not having much money this year, we all have Covid too and haven't been able to get out to get things. You have turned a rubbish Christmas into something amazing.'

- Lots of people were so thankful when we delivered and were very grateful, said 'thank you so much' and some looked totally overwhelmed.

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