MY CHRISTMAS WISH REPORT 2023

9TH YEAR!

Wow, each year we are even 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. Our hearts are overflowing with joy for others.

SO THIS YEAR WE SUPPORTED: 142 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 **361 children!**
  (The numbers keep going up as we receive more data, and some given out after the Give Away day).
- Each family also received a **Christmas Treat Hamper** from Rushden Food Bank, delivered at the same time.
- **In addition £855.50 monetary donations were received.** These consisted of £500 from individual donors, £235.50 from the Wes Church Quiz Night and £120 from the Wes Church Toy Service. This, with other voucher donations, enabled us to provide **£1057** in vouchers, **69 x £10 Primark Vouchers** and **£367 worth of other vouchers**, 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** donated all the toys from their annual Toy Service this year, delivering a van full of toys to be added to those being distributed.
- **Free Family Swim Vouchers** were provided by Freedom Leisure to use Splash Pool, Rushden
- **11 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 food items, not to mention additional lovely treats, all tailored to the size of the family they are being given to.
- **Any surplus items** were given to Rush2theDen and Midland Heart Housing Association to pass on to their deserving families.

FOR RUSHDEN WE NETWORKED WITH:

- **Rushden Food Bank – Encompass Homeless Charity** *(who also provided a mini bus with driver and team to collect the gifts)*, **Full Gospel Church** where we sorted out gifts ready for choosing, **Rush2theDen**, **Mayor and local councillors, local churches, local schools, local health visitors** and **Freedom Leisure/Pemberton/Splash Pool** and **The Barn Café** in Higham Ferrers.

FOR WELLINGBOROUGH WE ALSO NETWORKED WITH:

- **Service Six, Daylight Centre Food Bank, local schools** and anonymous donors.

We are so grateful for everyone who helped in any way and for the people of Rushden 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 2024, see you there!

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

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

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