



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH • HELP • HEALING • HOPE

Dear Ministry Partner;

I have this small little plaque in my room that says, “*Leave a little Sparkle wherever you go.*” It caught my eye when I was in the store and just had to have it. It reminds me to spread the ‘sparkle’ Vis-a’-Vis the joy of the Gospel to everyone I meet. At Grace Mission through our many volunteers, donors and groups I see a lot of ‘sparkle.’ I want to share with you a *glimmer* of the wonderful things I see at Grace Mission.

One volunteer brings in 10 to 12 bunches of bananas every week. We like to serve fresh fruit whenever we can because our vulnerable population cannot always eat healthy. This volunteer is one of our Wednesday lunch volunteers and lately his work schedule changed so he can’t join us in serving the meal but he continues to faithfully bring us bananas every week. That’s a lot of sparkle!

One Leon County school administrator stands at the end of the school cafeteria line during the lunch hour and brings us milk each week (the small milk cartons that the children don’t want to drink). Normally the children might throw out those small milk cartons so instead of them being thrown out he faithfully collects them and brings us the saved milk each week. Awesome Sparkles!

One church has made it their mission to provide coffee for us so we have coffee each month. Not just one can but 10-15 large cans of coffee (we go through a lot of coffee when we serve 100-150 people per meal). This saves us money since that is an item we usually had to buy. Another church heard of our need for socks and has provided us with enough socks to get us through to the end of the year! Another organization comes in each month and asks us what we need. Isn’t that wonderful! They take our list and purchase those items we need. Sparkle on!

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Grace Mission members are encouraged to help others despite their own dire circumstances. They decorate *Make a Wish Letters* – this will be our third year of writing 1,000 letters to the *Make a Wish foundation* with Macy's matching each letter with \$1.00. That means the past two years we have donated \$2,000.00 to the Make a Wish Foundation and we plan on reaching our 1,000 letter goal this Year. *Let it rain Sparkles!*

I don't want to leave out the many volunteers that simply show up to serve a meal, offer a smile and kind word to many that are struggling. Your kindness and generosity of your time does not go unnoticed. To the many donors who willingly support this ministry financially – thank you. *Sparkles are everywhere!* To my terrific and hardworking staff and Advisory Board. Thank you for listening to my crazy ideas, working long hours without complaining, listening, laughing, praying and talking...simply sharing your life and faith with me. You are all *sparkles from heaven!*

In this season of everything that twinkles, glows, and is shiny remember to add your own 'sparkle' to the holiday season by spreading the joy of the Gospel to everyone. Merry Christmas and thank you for your support!

Have a glorious celebration of His birth,

Pastor Amanda+