Christmas is for giving!

This Christmas, 2003, was about bringing joy & assistance to the elderly and to hospital patients via our children’s caroling group performances at an elderly care center and hospital in our local community. We also participated in an annual food/clothing & toy drive for 3,000 families (low income/poverty level) sponsored by a local food pantry.

Acknowledgement:

To make all this possible, we’d like to express our thanks to Activated Ministries of California who donated all of the Christmas materials needed (E.g., Christmas CDs, tapes & booklets) which made the “perfect Christmas gift” at these Christmas programs & singing events we participated in.

Children’s caroling troupe:

With little preparation, our children, ages 1-7, rehearsed and practiced a simple medley of Christmas songs with their parents. The kids: Ella (age-1), Evan (3), Pedro (4), Kayla (2), Lawrence (6) and Laura (7) performed on 2 occasions on Dec. 18, 2003.

Without us having to pre-schedule or book in advance.

The children caroled while audience listened very closely, like grandparents. Then, each child approached each one with a gift, a Christmas booklet “Christmas To Remember” and music tape, and said “Merry Christmas” and occasionally giving a hug or kiss.

Evan (3) giving out a Christmas gift and hug!
The children gave out over 100 free Christmas gifts; the activity directors, Virginia & Lisa, invited them back for any future event. They also accompanied us to each lunch area where we sang and were very touched by the songs & out-going nature of our kids!

After the elder center, we went to the Presbyterian Hospital of Allen, a nearby city. The directors at the hospital, Heather & Crispes, arranged for us to carol in the main lobby by the Christmas tree where visitors and patients could hear & see us sing.

(l to r) Back-Claire, David & Hosy (parents)
Ella, Evan, Lawrence, Laura, Pedro & Kayla
The first performance was at the “Life Care Center of Plano, an elderly care facility, of 100-150 residents.

We contacted the Activity directors who on short notice arranged for us to sing during lunch-time.
The hospital directors and staff enjoyed the carols, and we could hear people sing all over the place & clapping after each song was done.

Helping the needy!

On Dec. 20, 2003--the annual food/clothing & toy drive was held at God’s Food Pantry in Plano. This ministry is relatively new (1997) & steadily growing. This year, it has served 50,000+ needy (poor and low-income) families & individuals. Its founder, Glen Taylor, a native American, handicapped, has a deep commitment to “feed the hungry” & never turns anyone away!

Many families showed up in the wee hours of the morning & waited patiently for their food basket and toys for their children. An estimated 3,000 families were provided for that one day, which includes children, elderly and 3rd-world immigrants.

Photo of our ‘audience” at Life Care Center of Plano (elderly care center)

Laura (7) giving a Christmas booklet & tape

In center of photo; Bill & Amy

Behind us are the lines of people at the Food Pantry. This year, we were able to donate 2,000 Christmas music CDs and Spanish Posters with the text of the Christmas story, which were included in the toy-