



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the holidays are coming very soon. We are so grateful to all our generous friends who help us keep our programs going for the families we serve. Each year we have a special Christmas Store for 250 families. **This year it will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.** This is a wonderful opportunity for our families to prepare for Christmas.

The families who participate receive a turkey and other groceries that they can use to make a special Christmas dinner. Every family also picks out a gift for each of their children. Last year, due to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to make over 800 children happy with a special gift to celebrate the holiday.

This year we are asking for books and new toys for children birth-12 years old. The age categories are 0-4 years, 5-8 years, and 9-12 years. Due to the ongoing violence that plagues the communities we serve, we are requesting not to receive any weapon-like toys (Nerf, water guns, action figures who wield weapons, etc.). In order to prepare for the day of distribution, we are asking that we receive donations by no later than Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. We are more than happy to pick-up donations. Please give advanced notice so we can make sure to schedule a pick-up that is convenient for you.

We know how much our donors sacrifice to make the holidays special for our families. We really appreciate any donations you can give to make Christmas magical for the children. All donations are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, or would like to set up a donation pick-up, please contact: Stephen Barker, [Stephen.barker@marillacstvincent.org](mailto:Stephen.barker@marillacstvincent.org), 773-584-4538.

Thank you so much! Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Hallagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maureen Hallagan  
Chief Programs Officer