



January 25, 2012

Tara Howard  
Rosenow Spevacek Group  
309 W 4th St.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Tara,

On behalf of Share Our Selves and those we serve, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous support of our Adopt-a-Family program. This was the 42 nd year of the program, and due to your kindness and that of many others, we were able to provide Christmas gifts and dinners to over 1,389 families, including over 4,402 children.

The families we serve in the Adopt-a-Family program are provided by 65 Santa Ana and Costa Mesa public schools and local family resource programs. These are school districts with large impoverished populations, and the children they recommend are typically the neediest children at their schools.

The families, for the most part, can be characterized as the working poor. They provide the everyday services that many Orange County residents rely on. They are nannies, housekeepers, gardeners, food service workers and car wash attendants. Many live doubled, or even tripled up in small apartments. Others live in garages or motels. They simply do not have the resources for special occasions like birthdays and Christmas. For these families, a "traditional" Christmas wouldn't have been possible had it not been for your generosity.

I think the words taken from two thank you letters best express the appreciation these families feel:

*From a parent: "Thanks for everything, by that I mean the presents. I really appreciate what you guys are doing. Now I know I'm going to have a great Christmas and I hope you all have one too. Thanks again. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"*


*From a child: "We might not know who you are or what you look like, but we do know that thanks to your kindness we are going to have Christmas."*

As those of you who came to the Orange County Fair and Expo Center on December 22nd and looked inside know, the outpouring of support for this program was overwhelming. Thank you again to those of you adopting families and to the volunteers who worked tirelessly packing and sorting boxes.

It is your message that is one of hope, caring, and service that impacts both present and future generations.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit Share Our Selves, I invite you to come in for a tour and see first hand our programs at work. For a tour, please contact Elizabeth at (949) 270 - 2137.

Sincerely,

  
Vanessa Ontiveros  
Adopt A Family Coordinator  
SOS Tax ID #95-3222316