



## Saint John School Christmas Outreach

This Christmas season, our Saint John School community will continue to share our abundance by answering our call to shelter the homeless. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes are asking our students to continue to be disciples of Jesus by leading us in a school-wide outreach to collect items for gift bags for homeless children living at Father Joe's Villages in San Diego.

Father Joe's Villages shelters nearly 900 homeless adults and families nightly and helps our neighbors every day by providing transformational services that help break the cycle of homelessness and poverty by promoting self-sufficiency.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be purchasing gift bags and incidentals for this project with money they've raised through a campus recycling program they set up. Each week the students collect bottles and cans and cash them in with the goal of raising enough money to make their outreach projects possible!

On Monday, Sister Mary Kiely of Father Joe's Villages came to our school to tell our students about the work Father Joe's Villages does and she inspired us to help our homeless neighbors, many of whom are children. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade is asking each class to bring in gifts for the children they heard about from Sister Mary. Please only give new items. If you would like, feel free to also purchase bags of candy, so that we may include treats in their bags!

- Preschool - Very small stuffed animal (Beanie Baby size)
- Kindergarten - Box of colored pencils and a hand held sharpener
- First grade - Matchbox cars or combs and brushes (or similar type boy or girl gift)
- Second grade - Uno cards, playing cards or girl hair accessories (or similar type boy or girl gift)
- Third grade - 5x7 drawing pads or journals
- Fourth grade - Crayons and coloring books
- Fifth grade - Jump ropes or puzzles
- Middle school - Toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap
- Anyone - Candy

Your gifts will be collected up until Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> in each classroom. 4<sup>th</sup> grade will then combine everything into gift bags that will be delivered to Father Joe's before we leave for Christmas break. (If you want to donate more, you may purchase any items from the list.) "Socks for the Season" collected by our 1st Grade will also be included in the gift bags! Sock collection boxes are located outside the office and the 1st grade classrooms.

*Let's spread some JOY this season by serving Jesus and others before ourselves!*

