

How To Describe December in Five Words

By Suzanne Carter

*Awestruck. Grateful. Heartfelt.
Faithful. Hopeful.*

Any one of these words could describe some of the moments around Clairvaux Farm this December. With Christmas as the climax, it was a month full of amazement and activity, and in a season especially known for giving, every one - residents, staff, volunteers, and donors all alike - experienced something new about the incredible potential of love to touch the lives of others. These five words express how deeply touched many of us were by the abundant generosity that overwhelmed us over and over...

Awestruck...that was the look on the thirteen faces of our children when 'just the toy they wanted!' was unwrapped... It sums up in a word the wide-eyed smiles and surprised gasps from the mothers as they watched their children open present after present sent specially and specifically for their son or daughter, amazed at the outpouring of love by so many kind and thoughtful people all over Cecil County and beyond.

Grateful. The most simple act of love in buying coats and gloves and hats can make all the difference in the world for our residents when the temperatures plunge to below freezing. These practical gifts speak volumes that someone truly cares. On one particularly cold (frigid!) day, someone drove in, and dropped off a coat that fit just perfectly at just the perfectly right time. A church had just handed out new winter hats and gloves... and as the wind banged through the doors of the Farm, often comments were made of gratefulness that they now had something to bundle up in... warmth means everything when you're cold, and gratefulness doesn't begin to describe how good it feels to keep warm.

Heartfelt... Starting at the beginning of the month, and increasing to a consistent and persistent knock on the door almost hourly, the gifts and special donations for residents came flowing in from churches, families, individuals, associations, students, and the community as a whole. 'Santa' came with his annual visit to share gifts, churches invited and transported our residents to banquets and special

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I cannot believe the generosity, the compassion, the heart, and the time that people, strangers, did for our families. The children have received many gifts from many people. My heart melted and the tears fell watching them open their gifts. Happiness and pure joy on their faces. "Thank you" is no where near enough to express our gratitude for what the people have done for these children at Clairvaux Farm. For all of you that have donated your time, and your hearts to us and our children

Thank you and God bless.

Rachel

2004 National Homeless Persons Memorial Day March & Rally - Elkton, MD

We remember: those who have died in 2004, those who struggle this day to survive, the overwhelming need for affordable housing and a living wage for all persons, our passion for justice and peace, and faith in the promise of God.

