

Dear Friends,

In these challenging and uncertain times—marked by floods, job losses, and economic hardship—it's deeply encouraging to witness the generosity and compassion within our community. Time and again, you've stepped up to support one another, and your involvement in our Christmas project has brought joy and relief to so many. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

As we prepare for the holiday season, we're reaching out early to solicit monetary donations, which will help us plan. Early contributions allow us to budget better, determine how many families we can assist, and ensure we have enough resources to create a joyful Christmas for everyone in need. Last year, we sadly ran short on toys for children—we hope to avoid that this year with your help.

A significant portion of our support comes through our **Giving Trees**, and we warmly invite individuals and organizations to participate by selecting gifts from these trees—or by shopping wherever is most convenient for you, including Amazon. We're also seeking **gift card donations** for items like baked hams, turkeys, groceries, and cards from **Walmart, HEB, or Target**. These can be mailed directly to us and will go a long way in meeting the needs of our families.

Though our nation faces many hardships, we hold on to hope. For children, receiving a Christmas gift can bring a sense of normalcy and comfort in an otherwise uncertain time. Beyond toys, there's a growing need for **practical items**—like shoes, socks, and warm blankets for little ones facing the winter chill. Our **elderly neighbors** also need support, often silently enduring the cold without essentials like heaters or warm bedding.

This year, more than ever, your donation can make a lasting impact.

Together, we can bring dignity, warmth, and hope to those in our community who need it most. Your support matters, and you can trust that every contribution will go directly toward helping families stay healthy, stable, and cared for during this season of giving.

To learn more or to give, please visit:

 www.hillcountrychristmas.org

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dianne Gattuso

Director, Hill Country Christmas Bureau

Will you help us make this Christmas season brighter for those who need it most?