

Conversation with the Mayor - January 4, 2010  
Vicky Daly

## **A Postscript to Christmas**

Just a few weeks ago I was urging you to use time in this brand new year to do good things for friends, neighbors and for friends you haven't even met yet. That recommendation stands, but I thought you would like to know what was already happening in Palmyra during the holidays. You are going to be impressed.

John Graham and Tim Walker once more staged the Koncert 4 Kids at Lock 29, raising \$1214.00 to support the Giving Tree Project at St. Anne's Church, supplementing donations by parishioners. Approximately 60 families including residents of a halfway house in Newark, were provided food, clothing and toys thanks to the Koncert. As in the past, Breen's helped make it happen. Nicky Pridanchi, who has overseen the program for six years, is quick to point out the cooperative spirit and actions taken by representatives of local agencies and churches.

Amber Jenkins and Sandy Buckingham oversaw the Toys for Tots USMC at the American Legion. That effort raised \$1427.00, all of which was used to acquire toys. Folks attending the event brought enough toys to fill three large boxes and had a great afternoon while doing good works as they have every year.

Western Presbyterian Church placed Angel Trees all over the community, including at the high school. 107 families with a total of 295 children had a merrier Christmas because of them. This, too, is an annual event, involving more people each year to support the increasing number of beneficiaries.

Marya Vande-Doyle and friends staged the Second Annual Green Angels Gently Used Holiday Toy & Book Free-Cycle at the Palmyra Community Center. 150 'guests' took part and bags of toys were provided to 250 individuals. A donation of \$1.00 or a canned good per person was asked. \$80.00 was raised to further the program. Three tubs of canned goods were donated to the Palmyra-Macedon Pantry and the Pal-Mac Backpack Program which ensures that children have nutritious food on weekends.

New and gently used children's clothing was, and continues to be, made available at no cost to children through the Children's Clothing Cupboard, which is housed at the Methodist Church. Hours match pantry hours at Zion Episcopal, Monday and Wednesday, 6:30 – 9:00 PM. Since its opening in November, 102 children in 49 families have been served. Donations to the Clothing Cupboard can be left at the Palmyra Village Hall, Kings Daughters Library and the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Dutch Reform Churches.

Personally, my husband and I saw the generosity of local people as we rang the bell on behalf of Pal-Mac Rotary for the Salvation Army at Breen's this year. The quiet, folding money was good to see, but so, too, were the very small children painstakingly fitting a nickel or dime, penny even, into the slot on the bucket. The experience of doing that will stay with them and become a part of Christmas ever after. It's a pretty good bet, too, that parents who take the time to stop to have their little ones do that, set an example of giving other times of the year.

I hope that you feel even better about living in Palmyra after reading this conversation. I felt good writing it, but know, with absolutely no doubt, that it is not an exhaustive list. All the

churches, the service clubs, and people individually in this community are doing like things. Please take this as an example of who we are and what we do. So if I have missed you, forgive me and remember that it is said that charity is best given anonymously.

Post PostScript – Don't forget to shovel or snowblow your walk. Consider putting in the extra time and effort to do your neighbor's stretch, too. It is going to be that kind of a winter and we want the kids to have a safe route to school. Thanks.