

Christian Service Commission Agenda for December 10, 2013

Attending: Mary Alice Dowdell, Valerie Fratello, Ginny DeCoste, Mary Ann Lahive, Karen McManus, Kate Mason (submitted notes)

Epoch Center Activities

- December 19th at 11 a.m., Mary Alice will lead the Rosary and bring Winter Greeting cards as well as birthday cards to Epoch.
- **Action:** Each of us, should drop off 7 birthday cards signed “From your Friends at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish” to Mary Alice in her entry-way by December 18th. Contact Mary Alice if your drop off plans will differ.

Evelyn House Debrief (All)

The overall consensus is that the party was a wonderful success with the house *full of energy, joy and happiness*. The number of day-of volunteers seemed to be just right. We used the third floor for the adult centerpiece activity and hosted the children’s activity there as well; this seemed to be a good match. Santa and his elves were well-received; plenty of amazing goodies donated from many generous volunteers. Gifts were opened in the resident rooms. We had a roving pair of photographers that produced some great pictures. These were printed and taken to Evelyn House on the following Tuesday by Ginny Devlin. The leftover food was put into room bags prepared ahead by Karen McManus making clean up very easy. Mary Alice, at one point, was left without a volunteer to assist with gift distribution once Santa arrived at 4:00 p.m. We have plenty of plates and napkins for next year.

Ideas for next year:

- Exchange cell phone numbers; use that to connect when we need help during the party.
- Add more tags to the tree for some of the gift cards to Shaws, Big Y or Roche Brothers to purchase the extra materials needed.
- Be specific on tags. E.G. specify the number of hot chocolate packets in family size packs, etc.
- Have extra room goody bags for families that might be added to house in emergency
- Keep gifts the same
- Check number of staff attending – if there is a shift change, we need to accommodate all in supplies and goodies

Actions:

- Send thank you to all volunteers: Mary Ann to her volunteers; Valerie to bakers; Kate to Sharon Garden Club and Ward’s Berry Farm
- Kate to write thank you in bulletin and announce after Masses (this was read)
- Thank you should include 3rd and 4th grade CCD classes, bakers, gift and supply donations, day-of volunteers
- Kate to contact Chris about bulletin page with Mission statement and pictures of our volunteers.

Idea for next season: Cards for our parish homebound. How do we get the names?