



January 2018

Email: Newsletter@cuqca.org

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Christmas Cheer and Cans of Food



Look closely at the photo on the left and you'll see "Henry" greeting visitors from his yard across the street from Tabernacle Baptist Church in Moline.

Most stop by from Thanksgiving through the holidays to marvel at the 30 foot Santa and collection of cheerful inflated characters at the home Henry shares with Scott Hildebrand.

But every year, more visitors arrive with cans of food for the hungry who are served by Churches United of the Quad City Area's ministry. Scott packs up the donated food and takes the cans to the church on the corner of 26th Avenue and 15th Street where Rev. Mel Grimes, Churches United interim executive director and board member, is pastor. "Rev. Grimes has always been good to me," Scott says. "He was the first to welcome me to the neighborhood."

Scott recalls over 900 canned goods were donated the first year he put the sign up and the basket out to encourage gifts for food pantry shelves. "Last year, I posted the event on Facebook and got 2,257 cans," he says. "People want to donate. I've seen parents give the cans to kids to put in the basket so they'll learn what giving is about."

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Last Christmas Eve, Scott discovered 17 cases of canned goods and a blanket for Henry in the basket.

"I've been asked what I'd do if someone steals the food," Scott says. "I say if they take it, they must be hungry." A young woman drops off an orange tote with cans and boxes of dry mixes ready to give to families in need of basic ingredients for a hot meal. "Thank you," Scott says.



Greetings from Winnie's Place! Many thanks need to be shared for all the wonderful donations that were provided over the Christmas season! You all blessed families with Christmas gifts. From couches, dressers, rugs, coffee pots, pots and pans, dish sets, vacuums, pan-n-plays, towels, blankets, toys, and food, to bus tickets, pajamas,



personal care items, Bibles, and adult coloring books, you blessed the shelter with needed items. Please enjoy the picture with Santa. You also provided gifts that



were used for each person at the Santa Party. This was the largest party that we have had and it is such a blessing for all. It is so good to spend time with the clients. That is nothing but fun time!

Keep in mind that this ministry could not exist without the donations that you all provide! There would be no way to put all the expenses (daily food, personal care, paper products, linens, cleaning & laundry supply needs) into the budget and survive. You all make this ministry happen each day! Thank you so much!

Because of Him, Kit

Winnie's Place needs cereal, oatmeal, tea, coffee, creamer, egg noodles, crackers, cold reliever for all ages, pillows, blankets – twin size, baggies – 2 gallon size, trash bags, radios, juice, Kool-Aid, sugar, canned fruit, sour cream, cheese, pizzas, frozen potatoes, hamburger, roasts, butter, and hearty soups.

“Where do I go for help?”

CHURCHES UNITED IS HERE

25 food pantries † 3 hot meal sites † Winnie's Place emergency shelter

Visit our website at www.cuqca.org † Call us at 563-332-5002

Your gift TODAY gives HOPE for tomorrow

Grantors Funding Our Ministries THANK YOU!

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Copies of the **2017-2018 Directory of Churches**, published by Churches

United of the Quad City Area with grant funding from

Friendly Thrift Center, can be purchased at the

Churches United office, 2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205, Bettendorf.

Member Church Events & Classifieds

Programs at Benet House Retreat Center at St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island:

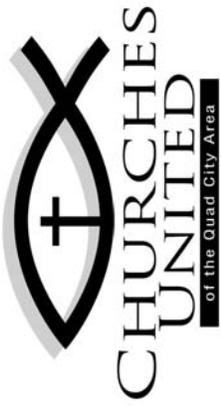
The Word Among Us, Monday, Jan. 22nd, 1-2:30 p.m.

Taize Prayer, Thursday, Jan. 11th, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Silent Directed Retreat: And Jesus Said to Them, “Follow Me,” Sunday, Jan. 14th and Wednesday, Jan. 17th.

Valentine Evening for Couples: Laughter-the Language of Love, Friday, Feb. 9th, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

For information on programs and fees, call 309-283-2108, email retreats@smmsisters.org, or visit www.smmsisters.org/retreats



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