

## Meera's 2018 Community Ministry Update

I would like to thank everyone who has supported, donated or volunteered for the various community ministries that I have been handling. I wanted to let you all know what you have been supporting and how the Lord has been working in our community and others.

### Tahoe Community Thanksgiving Celebration

This year was the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tahoe Community Thanksgiving Celebration**. As many of you hear me say, this is an outreach to the hungry, homeless and lonely cleverly disguised as a community party because no one wants to admit to being hungry, homeless or lonely. It is wonderful to see members of our community unite to accomplish this event.

I am especially grateful to the North Tahoe Public Utility District, the NTPUD Board of Supervisors, and the NTPUD Event Center Staff. They take such good care of the building and help me immeasurably with all the details. I love that kitchen. **We fed 300 people** on site at the event center and there was plenty of food and no complaints. In addition to the people who attended, we sent out **another 300 meals** with the help of community members. These outreach meals go to locals who are working and can't get away from their jobs to celebrate, to shut-ins whose neighbors take them dinners and of course desserts, and to diners who take advantage of our to-go box option. In addition, several local churches stop by to pick up meals for families in need.

Many different people support us with food, cooking, and volunteering, decorating and, more importantly, cleaning up. It's truly a community celebration.

### Toys for Tots

My territory actually covers the entirety of **Lake Tahoe and Truckee**. We break it down into three parts: Truckee, South Lake Tahoe, and Incline/North Shore/West Shore. Truckee is handled by the Truckee Soroptimist Club and they partner with Truckee Community Christmas to provide clothing and food along with toys. South Lake Tahoe is helped along by the Family Resource Center, Harrah's Casino, the South Lake Tahoe Realtors, and Krissie Wolf. The Incline/North Shore/West Shore gets help from Tahoe Family Solutions, Boys and Girls Club, North Tahoe PUD, and the NT Family Resource Center, along with over 90 other businesses that act as donation centers and collect toys for the project. My favorite volunteers are all the kids I get from North Tahoe High School. The kids get community service hours for volunteering and they enjoy doing it so much. This year's totals for **North Shore and Incline were 265 families and 550 children. Our total for all three areas is over 1400 children.**

### Winter Warmth & Wellness

The final event of the season was the winter coat and clothing giveaway we call Winter Warmth and Wellness. **This program turned 40 years old this past year.** We collect lightly used winter coats and clothing along with health and hygiene items and food. This year, **we helped 150 families (about 600 people) from our local communities.** In addition, the leftovers were shared with several other groups who will pass the items out to homeless people in San Francisco and to people who have been adversely impacted by the Paradise area Camp Fire. These two are ongoing programs, so feel free to contact me with donations at any time.

Again many thanks to everyone who chips in and helps. You are all very necessary, I'm looking forward to doing it all again in 2019!

*Meera Beser*