**“Bringing Moments of Joy / Leaving Happy Memories”**

2019 was another eventful year. We added “Secret Sleigh” to the list of partner organizations dealing with critically and terminally ill children. We held new fundraising events and toy drives around the community and made more new connections to help grow and provide support for more children and families.

Our largest impact once again was with Cook Children’s Hospital in Ft Worth. Santa and Mrs. Claus appeared at multiple events during the holidays. We provided gifts for each patient and their young siblings, as well as gift cards for families who are struggling financially. We visited over to 600 children at Cooks during the holidays (348 at one event). We have continued to provide support for Cook Children’s year round, making several deliveries of toys, games, stuffed animals, and gift cards.

We made three deliveries Ronald McDonald House, and covered two weeks of lodging for families through RMDH. We will continue to provide for them throughout the year. Our goal is to keep their toy closet filled year round and cover lodging as funding allows. RMDH Ft Worth has 53 rooms, and is almost always full. Area Hotels / Motels offer discounted rates when RMDH is full, which is quite often.

Our relationship with Community Hospice of Texas (CHOT) continued into our 5th year; visiting families with children in hospice care, providing gifts for the patients and siblings, as well with gift cards for meals and gasoline for the families. We visited a family through CHOT this year with 4 young children where Mom was the patient. We provided as much as we could for this special family who did not have much, but were trying their best with their situation. Mom was very happy and the children were thrilled. This family really touched our hearts, and we have offered to visit again in 2020, knowing Mom will no longer be with them.

Secret Sleigh finds volunteer Santa’s nationwide to do in home visits for sick kids. Our first visit was for an Angel family that had lost their 14 month old daughter and had 3 other children at home. We discovered they were also caring for Grandma who is blind, and Mom’s 25 year old brother with Downs Syndrome. Our visit with this special family God enabled us to witness first hand the “Moments of joy” we strive to provide.

This year we connected with Mattel Toys charity sales division and made our first purchase, receiving 50% to 80% discounts on select items. We are able order in spring time and around the holidays each year, and our purchases are tax exempt.

Fundraising events were held by The Children’s Spot of Mansfield TX and Legacy Salons of Burleson TX. Employees of Samsill corp raised funds through yearlong payroll deductions, and realtors at Social Realty donated a portion of sales commissions throughout the year. We received online donations through our web site (STNCC.org). Cash boxes were placed at two 7-11 stores and Infinite Beauty in Burleson. Donations increased over last year by about 30%, with Burnette Specialists once again our largest donor.

Toy drives through The Children’s Spot and a men’s prayer group brought in close to 200 toys for the second year in a row.

By taking advantage of 2018 Christmas clearance, 2019 Black Friday deals, Mattel charity sales and other discount opportunities, we increased the average value of purchased items while keeping our average purchase price below $10. These opportunities provided the volume of toys and games we needed to bring “Moments of Joy” to so many. In addition, we received about $1500 in gift cards from local restaurants and gas stations to help struggling families.

We are continuing to work to find funding and resources to allow ongoing expansion of our services, and impact in the community. One of the guiding principles of our mission is to be good stewards of all we are given, doing our best to make the most of every donation.

Please continue to help ***“Bring moments of joy & Leave happy memories***”

Donations can be made at **STNCC.org**, by mail to **St. Nicholas Children’s Charities P.O. Box 1226 Burleson TX 76097.**

Your continued generosity and support will help us expand and provide our services to more children and families during their most difficult time.