



Speech for Delta Kappa Gama society

Magical Christmas for underserved children

Good morning everyone. It is a pleasure to be here with you on this beautiful morning. thank you Ms. Della Miller my dear friend for inviting me to address you today. Actually I feel blessed to call Della my friend and in some way I think of her as family. I will always remember and cherish the beautiful quilt she made for me after I was elected county commissioner.

Your organization Delta Kappa Gama is a very prestigious society that has done so much good in our nation to advance education. I commend each of you for your tireless efforts for so many years in this most worthwhile organization.

Today I want to speak about a project that began 9 years ago by my friend Evelon Dale who is a new member of your group. This project is called Magical Christmas, after becoming a County Commissioner 3 years ago I joined Evelon in this mission to help unfortunate children have a Magical Christmas.

Each year we choose at least 100 children to be the beneficiaries of this magical experience. To date over 1500 have been blessed by this program.



The children are comprised of kids of poor single parent families, the unemployed , children that have a parent in jail, children that have parents that work in jobs such as janitors, maid, etc. and children that are members of a large families where there is no extra money to buy Christmas presents.

The week before Christmas we have a huge party for them which includes gifts, fruits and candy bags, toys, pajamas, books, hygiene kits, as well as new pillows with beautiful pillow cases and different hair dressers come before the Christmas party and the children all receive a new haircut for Christmas. We always begin the party with some type of fun activity such as bowling and then we gather them all for a wonderful meal. We begin with a prayer and blessing of the children and their families. We talk about the real meaning of Christmas. Then Santa and Ms. Claus arrive and we do Christmas caroling and Santa walks among the children and hugs every child. Then we end with the gifts, the children's eyes grow big and their big smiles are unforgettable as they receive all their gifts.

All of this is made possible by volunteers who are loving caring and giving people. For example the pajamas and books come from a group in New York. The hygiene kits come from a church and the pillows and pillow cases come from Quilting Bee and AOC Company. The fruit comes from farmers and the candy comes from local merchants. The cupcakes and ice cream from Wal-Mart and Blue Bell and the toys come from groups and individuals such as you all. There is no government money or tax payers monies used. It is a group of people coming together to do good and we always feel like we were blessed abundantly to be part of this magical experience.



Today I ask you to join us this year by considering donating dolls that could be given to the girls. We will appreciate any that you would give to help make this yet another Magical Christmas for our children. Thank you again for inviting me today.