2023 was another busy and eventful year full of change and opportunity to help critically and terminally ill kids and their families. It is still so amazing to clearly see how God continues to show us the needs and then provides the resources to meet the needs.

The past few years we helped families with lodging costs through RMDH so they could be close to their child undergoing medical treatment. This year RMDH asked if we could focus more on gift cards for help with meals and gas.

Our annual Christmas in July gift card drive surpassed last year netting 270 cards for meals and gasoline distributed to families at RMDH, Cook Children’s and Childrens Hospital Dallas. Adding another 87 gift cards given to RMDH in December brought the gift card total for 2023 to 357!!! Samsill corp once again made a generous donation for gift cards and provided journals for the big toy delivery in December.

QT gas stations once again made matching donations of Gas cards in July and December. QT’s continued support has been tremendous in helping ease the transportation costs for many families with a critically or terminally ill child.

Another wonderful organization provides toys to Dallas Children's hospital during the holidays. However, we’ve discovered a gap in the non-holiday months that we can help with. We are beginning to work with their child life and social services departments to learn their needs and how we can help. We will make another delivery to Dallas soon.

Our Santa once again visited Cook Children’s Hospital Ft Worth to visit kids in isolation & infusion on the cancer floor. For the first time since COVID Santa and Mrs. Claus were able to attend the Neurology department Christmas party with patients and their families. About 70 kids and their siblings spoke with Santa and Mrs. Claus, took lots of pictures and all received toys. It was great to see the kids and help put smiles on their faces once again.

 Cook Children’s Hospital opened a new facility in Prosper Texas in January. The week before Christmas our Santa was asked to visit kids in isolation at this new facility as well as ambulatory kids that came to the main floor for a nice visit, lots of pictures and each received a toy.

Most medical facilities will not accept stuffed animals due to the risk of germs. However, Cooks considers us a trusted supplier and is once again allowing us to provide these important comfort items. Our “Send a Bear – Get a Bear” campaign benefiting Cook Children’s had a great response. For a $25 donation we sent a Teddy Bear to a sick child, and a partner Bear was sent to the donor as a gift. Bears were delivered to Cooks with our big toy delivery the week before Christmas. 280 Bears were delivered, and more are on the way. Cooks requested the next delivery in springtime.

The Children’s Spot in Mansfield Tx once again hosted Breakfast with Santa fundraiser and toy drive. Several special “Elves” worked tirelessly to put this wonderful event together. This was the 6th year of this event that continues to grow and help bless more kids and families.

We had the opportunity to meet with a men’s group called Beers with Jesus. We had a great time meeting with them and shared about our mission. They sponsored a toy drive for us, and some made monetary donations as well. Every square inch of the SUV was taken up with toys!!! Just enough room left for Mark to drive. Three members came and helped with the big toy delivery to Cook Children’s Hospital on December 17th.

Our Santa and Mrs. Claus made appearances for the City of Joshua Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade, festival, and Tree lighting, as well as a Christmas market at La Palmilla resort in Granbury. Both made generous donations.

Wave Healthcare continued their incredible support again this year, not only matching last year’s annual donation, but also supported the Teddy Bear campaign. Wave sponsored an ad in DFW Child magazine featuring St. Nicholas Children’s Charities. One of the ads on the same page is from Visiting Nurse Association’s – Children’s Haven pediatric Hospice care. (Coincidence??) We made contact with their volunteer manager who is very excited to learn about what we do. We will meet in 2024 and discuss how we can help, and have Santa and Mrs. Claus visit some of their patients. We also had the opportunity to help the family of a Wave patient by providing formula for their child during a gap in insurance coverage.

December 17th, we made our big toy delivery to Cook Childrens’ Hospital Ft Worth. Once again Pam of Discount Feed in Forest Hill provided a U-Haul truck to deliver everything at one time. Riders from Crossroads Church of Cleburn helped load/unload and lead the way to Cooks. Total delivered this year was 1,756 toys with the 280 Teddy Bears!!!

We’re excited to begin 2024 and the opportunities to keep growing and helping the kids, families, and organizations we serve, along with the incredible help from all of our supporters.