

KEY CLUB

CAROLINAS DISTRICT

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November 2017

Picture this: A man standing on a street corner holding a cardboard sign written with a black sharpie that says "HOMELESS, PLEASE HELP". You are at the same intersection in your car and you contemplate rolling down your window and handing him some of your hard earned money, or wondering if he is faking his plight. How do you know?

Today I am the guy asking for a hand out. I am going to tell you it is for children; neglected children, abandoned children, abused children. My sharpie will symbolically write on my cardboard "CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN". My plea is REAL. The NEED is real. The contemplation, and decision, now rests in your hands. Will you have faith enough to participate?

Here is the full scoop. We need to buy presents, lots of them. Enough for about 60 kids living at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina. 100% of EVERYTHING you give will go directly to helping make a child smile. No administrative costs come out of your donation. Your money, ALL of it, buys tangible, requested, sought after, once in a lifetime gifts. You make Santa real for children that dreamed such generosity existed. I know, because I get to witness the night Santa comes; I get to see the smiles, the laughter, the love. I get to see children smothered in love like many have never seen before.

The Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina is a non-profit residential center for children of broken or troubled homes. The home is located at beautiful Lake Waccamaw and is comprised of nine cottages, one of which was built by Carolinas District Kiwanis in 1964. Residents range from ages nine to eighteen and are provided shelter, food, clothing, education, support and guidance. The community at Boys and Girls Homes provides its residents with companionship through interaction with others and teaches independence with the help of a caring staff.

Boys and Girls Homes makes a special effort to give the children in their care the special love and kindness that are a part of Christmas. For many of them, the gifts they receive through the home are the only ones they will get, and for some, it is the only time they have ever received a Christmas gift. You can imagine how touching it is to see the children open their gifts at Christmas and see the joy on their faces. It is meaningful to hear a child say, "No one has ever done this for me before." I will never forget the 10 year old boy that looked up to me a few years ago when Santa walked into his cottage; he said to me "is that the REAL Santa?" He was so excited to receive presents like he had only dreamed of.

We can make Christmas more memorable for these children. If everyone receiving this letter would send just \$100.00 (even more if you have been blessed with such ability), we could buy clothes, sporting goods, toys, and requested presents for all of the residents at Boys and Girls Homes. I cannot think of a more meaningful way to share the joy of the Christmas season than knowing that I have been a part of such an effort. I can assure you that my \$100.00 check will be the first one in the stack of what will hopefully be hundreds of contributions to this effort. I have always said "if everyone will give just a little it will add up to a lot"; please help me show this to be true this Christmas season.

I also hope you would consider also making copies of this letter to distribute to friends, family and others in your community. Any tax deductible gift, from any person, will go a long way in reaching our goal to provide a bounty of gifts for each child in need.

Please send in your contributions from personal funds, clubs, foundations, or businesses to be received by December 12, 2017. Checks should be made to Boys and Girls Homes, Inc., and are tax deductible donations. Any amount is very much appreciated, but if you have been blessed with the ability to give more please consider doing so. Mail the checks to the address below, and I plan to personally go to Lake Waccamaw to present them!

Thank you for considering this direct appeal for Christmas for Children from the Carolinas District of Key Club International. Our impact will truly be felt if we can provide 100% assistance from throughout North and South Carolina.

Sincerely,



J Scott Johnson
District Administrator



Donations may be sent to:
(Checks payable to Boys and Girls Homes)
Christmas for Children
c/o J. Scott Johnson
2008 Pinecrest Drive
Greenville, NC 27858