

Class of 1962 - Joy of Giving “*Making a Difference at Christmas Time*”

Phantoms from the class of 1962 are making a difference during Christmas time by passing out baskets of food and gifts to families in need through out parishes in East Los Angeles.

For over six years, the 62 Phantoms have been bringing joy and happiness to under-privileged families who are unable to buy gifts for their children or provide a Christmas dinner. This Christmas Fund was established in 2003 when Virginia Perez wife of Federico “Mico” Perez of the class 1962 asked if a few classmates of “Mico” could assist in bringing Christmas cheer to a few families in her neighborhood of St. Anthony Parish.

“We accepted the challenge in helping to make a difference and were so humbled by the sincere reaction of the families, especially the children, that we have promised to continue our effort on a yearly basis”, stated Richard Nava ‘62.

In the first year, the *Christmas Fund* assisted five families and six years later with great joy helping over sixty families in eight different parishes which includes Our Lady of Victory and Our Lady of Guadalupe to name a few. Either the parish priest or the Social Service Administration at each particular church selects the families that receive the food baskets and the age appropriate gifts.

A highlight of the Christmas Fund is seeing the children react when the police cars light up their sirens and hearing Santa Claus from the loud speakers. The children follow the cars to the home of the family Santa is going to visit. Santa and his elves pass out candy and small gifts to all the children and a prepared dinner at each family’s home where Santa has stopped with his reindeers.

At the 2007 Return to Cathedral Gala Mike Fong representing the 1st District of Los Angeles presented to Federico & Virginia Perez, Jerry Rodriguez, Richard Nava, Manual Solorzano, and William Wolf from the class of 62 with a Certificate of Recognition for all their heartfelt efforts in bringing joy to families who are in most need during the Christmas Holiday Season.

The Christmas Fund is a non-profit organization that is funded with money, food, and toy donations by companies and individual like you. Our goal this year is to help 100 families with toys and gifts to the children of the parishes. Only with your generosity over the years are we able to help these under-privileged children.

The class of 62 is requesting all Cathedral Alumni to please open your heart and contribute to this year’s Christmas Toy Drive by making a financial donation. All donations are tax deductible under the alumni associations 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization · Federal Tax ID 95-3546675.

The easiest way to make a donation is to click on the Pay Pal button or send a check to:

JR Christmas Fund
PO BOX 32628
Los Angeles, CA 90032

Please make your contributions payable to *JR Christmas Fund CHS 62*

For additional information contact:

Richard Nava (323) 533-8748
Jerry Rodriguez (323) 333-1773