While learning about the pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving, the Sunshine Preschool children are also taught about being thankful for all of God's blessings. They have so many things they can thank God for during their Bible time...for their family members that love and care for them, great new friends that they can play with at school, and their teachers who are devoted to preparing them academically, socially and spiritually for a fulfilling and happy life.

The men in the Resident Shelter and the ladies in our CARE Program are also encouraged to have grateful hearts! Although they may not have a lot of worldly goods, learning to be grateful for what they do have can help them get through the tough times in life. During the holiday season we often share with them this anonymous quote, "It’s not happiness that brings us gratitude. It’s gratitude that brings us happiness."

Serenity is thankful that Kayla, her Preschool teacher, can help her learn about saying, “Thank You!”

Darryl is thankful that Tim, a Resident Shelter staff member, can help him learn to read the Bible.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

I Chronicles 16:34
A Note from the Director

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is a special time at Sunshine Ministries as we give thanks to God for His many blessings as well as share the gift of His love with those we serve.

There’s an old hymn that encourages us to . . .

“Count your many blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.”

Because our outreach is to the inner city of St. Louis and we serve those who are homeless or living in impoverished conditions, it’s easy for our people to focus on what they lack. Our goal at Sunshine is to challenge them to be grateful to God for what they have! Max Lucado, one of my favorite Christian authors has said, “A grateful heart is like a magnet sweeping over the day and collecting reasons for gratitude.”

Counting our blessings isn’t just a song . . . it’s an exercise that leads to an Attitude of Gratitude that can bring healing, hope and happiness into the lives of each and every person who comes to us for help. Just waking up to a brand new day is a gift from God that they can celebrate!

As I count my blessings this holiday season, you will be on the list! I am so grateful for your support and partnership in reaching out to our neighbors in need. I hope that you will have a holiday overflowing with many blessings!

Sincerely,

A Holiday Season of…

Giving a Helping Hand

Santa and his reindeer (A.K.A. Bryan Polk, Men’s Ministry Director, with Bessie Theodorou and her friends, Eugenia Kirkou and Valerie Kopecky) are cooking up a special holiday meal for the men in the Resident Shelter.

For more than fifteen years, Bessie and her mom and friends have been treating the men to fabulous Greek Gourmet meals which always include their signature homemade dinner rolls. The annual Christmas feast is a special highlight of the season!

Bessie has had many trials in her own life, but is quick to share how God has carried her through the tough times. “I am blessed every time I serve the men at Sunshine Ministries, she says, “because this is my way of giving back and paying it forward.”

All of us at Sunshine are so very grateful for the many volunteers who take time to extend a helping hand by serving our men, women and children throughout the year.
But the best gift they give their parents is a picture of themselves in a “Made Especially For You” frame. There’s nothing more special than giving the gift of a forever memory!

Christmas is a fun time for our Sunshine kids to receive gifts, but it is also a wonderful opportunity for us to teach them the JOY of giving as well as sharing the story of the Greatest Gift of all.

They get so excited about making and giving special gifts to their parents and friends.

And the three wise men show us that we can celebrate Jesus’ birthday by giving Him gifts too. We can give Him our love. We can give Him our time. And we can give Him our heart!

At the parent Christmas Party, both kids and parents make ornaments to give to each other and proudly display on their own family Christmas tree.

But the best gift they give their parents is a picture of themselves in a “Made Especially For You” frame. There’s nothing more special than giving the gift of a forever memory!
A Holiday Season of Giving Thanks

While learning about the pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving, the Sunshine Preschool children are also taught about being thankful for all of God’s blessings. They have so many things they can thank God for during their Bible time... for their family members that love and care for them, great new friends that they can play with at school, and their teachers who are devoted to preparing them academically, socially and spiritually for a fulfilling and happy life.

The men in the Resident Shelter and the ladies in our CARE Program are also encouraged to have grateful hearts! Although they may not have a lot of worldly goods, learning to be grateful for what they do have can help them get through the tough times in life. During the holiday season we often share with them this anonymous quote, “It’s not happiness that brings us gratitude. It’s gratitude that brings us happiness.”

I would like to give a gift to help Sunshine Ministries share God’s love and inspire hope in the hearts of the men, women and children they serve this Holiday Season.

☐ I want to support Sunshine Ministries with a gift of  $15  $25  $50  $100  $  

☐ My gift by check is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my credit card ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover

Card Number ___________________________________________________ Exp. Date  ______________________________

Signature  ______________________________________________________ Date  ___________________________________

Name  _____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address  ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

City  __________________________________________________ State  ____________________  ZIP  _____________________

Email _________________________________________________ Phone ______________________________________________

Please clip and mail to Sunshine Ministries, PO Box 66880, St. Louis, MO 63166-6880

You may also make your secure donation online at sunshineministries.org.
To charge your gift by phone, call us at (314)231-8209.