

# PRIDE *for* PARENTS

focused  
**COMMUNITY**  
strategies

One day as I was working at the cash register, I noticed a woman standing in the doorway. Her mouth was open, and she looked disoriented and confused. I walked over to her to see if I could help and as I approached her she asked, "What do I do?" Now I was confused. The toy store was all set up. The toys were priced and displayed. The shopping carts were waiting, ready to be filled. We even had a complimentary coffee station for shoppers. How could she not know what to do? I gently answered, "You can look around and shop, if you'd like." Her disbelief softened into wonder as she began selecting the perfect gifts for her children.

She came up to the register filled with joy. She shared with me, "Last week my car was broken into and I spent all I had on the repairs. Just a few moments ago, I was sitting in the coffee shop next door wondering how I could possibly afford Christmas gifts. Then right on my table I saw a flier for Pride for Parents. I walked out of the coffee shop and followed the signs around the corner and into the store. I cannot believe this is here and I can actually afford to buy the toys." Now I understood why she looked so confused when she first walked in. She was in absolute shock and disbelief. In a situation that felt impossible, a way forward literally appeared right in front of her.

Her story went straight to my heart as I was reminded of God's perfect provision for us. He hears our whispered prayers in times of desperation. And He carries us through. Over and over again I saw similar stories play out in the store. "This is here for me?" was the sometimes silent and often spoken sentiment of many shoppers. Yes, yes, this is absolutely here for you. God's Kingdom is full of overwhelming abundance and it is meant for each and every one of us.

You helped make that possible. Your toy donations, financial contributions, and volunteer hours created a path for God's provision for hundreds of families this Christmas. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

With gratitude,

Pamela Stringfield  
Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator

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## 2018 Impact AT-A-GLANCE

21 toy drives  
101 volunteers  
3,831 toys  
600+ shoppers

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