



# Christmas Fund: Impact Report

*"The holy magic that filled that lonely stable so long ago still fills the air of Christmas today."*

*- Mary Hollingsworth*

**Thank you for your 2018 Christmas donation.**

We are delighted to share some wonderful Christmas celebrations that took place at our sites.

## **An awaited celebration: Samar, Philippines**

During the 2018 Christmas season, our Samar site enjoyed the spirit of giving and shared the love, peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As an act of gratitude to God, children and families from our site became united in thanking the Lord through prayer, particularly by attending the Holy Masses (known as Simbang Gabi), and by doing charitable works like sharing spiritual and material blessings with the less fortunate.

The site's Christmas party was both enjoyable and meaningful. Activities included prayer, sharing a meal, listening to Christmas messages, exchanging gifts, and singing and dancing. These events reflected God's love through the generosity of others a world away.

The children expressed their gratitude and were inspired to share their blessings with others. "On behalf of all the sponsored children we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support and generosity," smiles Maricel, our Samar site director.



*" Christmas is the most awaited and joyous season of the year. "*

*- Maricel, Samar site director*



## ❄️ Sharing joy in Pochaiv, Ukraine

The Christmas party at our Pochaiv site in Ukraine began with a prayer of thanksgiving for all of our sponsors and donors.

Children and parents were eager to share what sponsorship means to them and the difference it makes for their families.

The children then performed biblical sketches of Jesus's birth and sang special Christmas songs to glorify Him.

These beautiful Christmas songs are called Koliadky (carols) in Ukraine. People start singing them on December 19, the day of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, until February 15, on The Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ holiday which is the symbol of the end of winter.

Orphans, sick children and children with special needs from the community were also invited to the Christmas party. Sponsored children showered their special guests with love. Everyone then enjoyed a festive lunch together. After the party, a group of children and parents visited elders at home and shared their treats!



*“Christmas donations teach children to share blessings with others.”*

*- Halyna, Pochaiv site director*

## ❄️ Happy moments: Levantate Mujer, Boliva

This Christmas party was shared with the whole community, and was filled happy moments and reflection. The celebration included games, contests, music and dance, and “Chuntunquis” (a tradition related to the adoration of baby Jesus, in which they greet him and dance for him.)



Family circles rehearsed and performed different traditional dances for their peers and for the baby Jesus.

One of the family circle groups of mothers prepared their clothing for the chuntunquis with recycled material including bags of rice and sugar and used old CDs for decorations, which they learned in a training workshop.

A Christmas party would not be complete without a delicious snack. Everyone received Christmas cookies, candies, fried potatoes, pork rinds, “Buñielo” fritters, popcorn, and chocolate with sweet Christmas bread. Throughout the whole event, happiness lighted the faces of children and their families.

