



To the ARC Board of Directors,

Thank you for welcoming the Angels on Earth Giving Tree Program to become a partner with ARC.

The Angels on Earth (AOE) Giving Tree Program has operated for over 25 years in River Falls. Its roots trace back to a group of women at St. Bridget Catholic Church that wanted to help provide gifts to local families in need at Christmas time. The program has grown and evolved over the years to better serve the community. Rita Mountain served as the coordinator for this program for over 17 years. Rita passed away from pancreatic cancer on January 20, 2017. Before she left us, she made me promise to keep this program going. That is how I was crowned the coordinator of this wonderful project.

This program serves families that live in River Falls or have children enrolled in the River Falls School District. This is the first year the Giving Tree Program partnered with Assistance & Resource Center, Inc.

The community is the reason this program is successful. The Giving Tree relies on donations, gifts and volunteers. There are various churches and groups that sponsor the families and every family that qualifies for this program is served.

2018 Report

This year over 146 families (347 children) were served. 34% of these families were new to the program. Other statistics include:

Children live with		Family Size	
Parents	30%	2 - 3	44%
Mother	60%	4 - 5	40%
Father	2%	6 - 7	14%
Other	8%	8 - 12	2%

This year’s Angels on Earth Giving Tree program sponsors were:

Organization	Number of Families	Organization	Number of Families
St. Bridget Catholic Church	51	American Legion	2
Sharing Families	41	Bo’s n Mine	2
Ezekiel Lutheran Church	24	Little Minds Learning Ctr	2
First Covenant Church	9	Move Well Chiropractic	2
First Congregational Church	6	River Falls State Bank	2
Individual Families	4	St. Bridget Office Staff	1

The program also received a \$2,500 grant from Allina Health for fresh produce vouchers given to each family.

St. Bridget Catholic Church, which is where the program is coordinated, had donations of over \$15,000 with one individual donation of \$5,000. There were over \$5,000 in gift cards also donated to this program.

Grocery cards (no tobacco purchases) were purchased from Dick's Fresh Market for \$5,625. Dick's Market gives 10% back to our program which totaled \$560 in free grocery cards which were given to the families. Fuel only gas cards were purchased from Kwik Trip for \$2,750.

Ezekiel Lutheran Church had \$2,500 in food cards, \$650 in fuel only cards and \$425 in miscellaneous cards.

Angels on Earth Giving Tree program is 100% volunteer driven and shares the philosophy and like-minded goals of Assistance & Resource Center, making it a great partnership. Thank you to the many volunteers for the countless hours given.

Sincerely,
Tammy Pitzen
Angels on Earth Program Coordinator