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November 5, 2018

Dear Friend of Circles:

It is that time of the year when we begin to plan for the upcoming holiday season. In keeping with the Mercy spirit and charism of helping the economically poor in our area, especially women and children, as well as carrying out Catherine McAuley's goal of joining those who need assistance with those individuals who can help provide it, we are requesting you to partner with Circles of Mercy and together we will plan for this year's **"Cate's Adopt-A-Family Program"**. It will take place beginning now and continue through to Christmas Eve. The goal of this program is to provide our client families and their children with clothing, toys and whatever else they may need to make this Christmas a special and cherished celebration. In the past, this program has helped nearly 50 families by providing each person in that family with at least one to two Christmas gifts from their request list. Whether we are able to help that same number of families this year or more, will depend on your generosity.

We are asking for donations of either specific gifts or cash. If your donation is monetary, it will be used to obtain gifts that are needed to be purchased for a family. A list will be received from each client family as to what their specific (but reasonable) gift needs are. We then match the family to a donor for "adoption". All the donated wrapped gifts for the adopted family need to be delivered to Circles by Monday, December 17, 2018. The families will come into Circles to pick-up their gifts beginning on Wednesday, December 19th through Friday, December 21th.

Can we count on you to please help us this year? Our clients need you and your support more than ever due to these difficult times. The goal is for all of us to work together to give them a Christmas that they will remember! Thank you for your assistance and kindness; this really means a lot, not just to us, but also for all the individuals and families who walk through our "Doors of Mercy" daily into Circles looking for dignity, hope and hospitality; longing to be empowered to reach their potential.

On behalf of Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community and the Circles of Mercy Trustees, Staff and Volunteers, we greatly appreciate your help and support this holiday season. If you would like to make a contribution or want to "Adopt-a-Family" for Christmas, **please contact Kathy Beers, Candice Brady or myself as soon as possible by calling Circles at: (518) 462-0899 or you may email us at: circlesofmercy@nycap.rr.com**

Thanks again for sharing your Spirit of Mercy, in helping us to help others...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard S. Zazycki".

Richard S. Zazycki, Executive
Director and Mercy Associate