

2025 *Angel Tree*



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much to everyone who was so kind and so caring to assist with our 2025 Angel Tree. Your kindness and generosity meant so much to the individuals we serve in the community.

2025 was a challenging year for many of the individuals we serve in the community.

Many of the individuals we serve are living on their own, or with elderly or infirmed caregivers. Some of the families lack their very basic needs and don't have many things we take for granted.

This year we had individuals who feared what would happen to them – especially during the government shutdown. Would they have enough to eat? What would happen to them if their housing subsidies were suspended?

Some have dealt with great loss and sadness. Some have been dealing with unexpected and serious medical concerns. Some are extremely low income and do not always have enough to eat.



The holidays can be a very lonely time for people when it feels like everyone else in the world is celebrating and exchanging gifts with loved ones. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we were able to share some holiday cheer and let the individuals we serve in the community know they are not alone.

Although I try each year, there really are no words to express how much your gifts means to each person.

One individual we serve who is developmentally disabled lost his mother a little over a year ago. His father has been diagnosed with cancer and has to go into New York City regularly for chemotherapy treatments. His sister has been helping but is struggling with her own grief and mental health concerns. All of their savings have been exhausted, and their benefits barely cover their monthly expenses. Your gifts ensured they were able to enjoy a Christmas meal, and had a little gift for the holidays.



Another individual who is developmentally disabled was referred to our services in November 2025 after her sister – her sole caregiver – passed away unexpectedly. This individual is unable to care for her daily needs or handle money on her own. She tried to commit suicide after her sister died, saying she can not survive without her sister. This individual is currently in the hospital and is very unhappy and feeling very alone. Your gift shows her that even though she feels alone, others in the community really do care about her.

We serve another woman who is developmentally disabled and is caring for her two nieces. The family income for the three of them is just over \$1,000 a month. They cannot afford a TV or many of the luxuries we take for granted. The family received exactly what they wanted – soap, detergent, toilet paper, undergarments, and things they can't purchase with their Food Stamps/SNAP benefits. Although they received other gifts as well, they were most excited about the bare essentials. The aunt who is diagnosed with autism and rarely smiles was absolutely beaming. She asked me to "thank you guys very much!"

Our Support Services Department appreciate the time and care you put into picking your person's name from our Angel Tree, and purchasing the holiday gifts and gift cards for each individual. We love that some of you take the time to ask questions in order to get the perfect gift. And each gift was perfect! All clothes purchased fit perfectly. The sneakers that were donated came just in time as the two individuals had blisters on their feet from using their old, worn sneakers. The sweatpants were perfect. Gift cards were used for many things – especially food, clothes, and even a coat for one individual.

Your gifts really made a difference in these individuals lives!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hennessy
Director of Support Services

On behalf of Spectrum for Living's Support Services Unit and the individuals we serve in the community, thank you for your ever constant kindness and compassion!

Wishing you, your family and loved ones a happy 2026 with all the best throughout the year.