

1100 W. Ainslie
Chicago, Illinois
December 16, 1965

Dear Friend:

Christmas is again approaching, and along with it, we witness the spirit of giving as we walk down the busy streets of our city. For some 700,000 Chicagoans, especially the children, the poor, the unemployed, the welfare recipients and the aged with little or no incomes, this Christmas will not hold the promise of a happy season.

We are sure that you would not want any child in your community to wake up to find an empty stocking on Christmas morning or for the lonely and aged to have a feeling of utter forsakenness which is a far more haunting experience at Christmas time than at any other time.

Among the children, especially, the poor and aged, there are many who are either completely innocent or helpless of their conditions in which they live. Many are either too young or too old to do any kind of work. Conditions in their homes do not make for happiness, nor are their minimum needs supplied. Consequently, they grow up and live in an atmosphere of gloom and resignation because of their needs for so many of the basic material things of life.

Even though we have progressed in many areas of human existence, the incidence of poverty is still with us. If you could see some of the conditions which JOIN workers find when they visit homes, you would not hesitate for a moment to do your part to alleviate some of the hardships.

An extra dollar or two would transform some dreary prospect into a joyful experience. And you yourself will have the thrill and satisfaction of knowing that you have brought joy to others less fortunate.

So, enclose something, please, in the attached envelop and send it to us quickly. We really need your contribution before we can hope to realize our plans. And carry on with our work. We will be happy to report on results.

May we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Burt Selle
Burt Selle
Staff Chairman,
December