

# Re-gifting Stories

## Marlys Anderson



I was given \$5.00 and encouraged to regift it. I shared the letter with my family and asked if they would like to "match" the gift. All agreed. After discussion of what to do and where to "regift" we chose Lazarus House. Each of us stated, "There but by the Grace of God..." We are so fortunate that during these trying times we have remained healthy, living in warm homes with so many blessings, while others are in such difficult situations. After all the "match money" came in, we were able to purchase a Walmart

gift card for \$60.00 which was dropped off at Lazarus House with a note to pass on to someone needing a little help or for much needed supplies for Lazarus House.

What a joy it has been to see the enthusiasm this generated within my family. While we have given what we like to call "secret surprise" gifts in the past, this felt different...perhaps it was the challenge of it, perhaps it was the discussion of our blessings in contrast to the needs of others. Does it matter? As always whatever is given very often blesses the giver more profoundly than anticipated. Thank you for choosing me with this awesome opportunity!

## Pastor Sarah & Benjamin



We shared with Benjamin at dinner one night that we had received \$20 from church and could use it to bless the world somehow. When we asked him what he thought we should do with the money, he said, "Let's send it to Aunt Borgie!"

Aunt Borgie is my great-aunt. She is 90 years old and the world's greatest hostess. She is going on a year of being her husband, Vern's, primary caretaker and, while she does it with grace, it is taking a toll on her spirit. We were able to visit Borgie and Vern in Woodstock when we went to pick out our Christmas tree in late November. We visited with Borgie in the garage, and then she cracked the window open to the front den, so that we could wave to and visit with Vern for a few minutes.

We decided to use our \$20 to purchase a floral bouquet that will arrive at Borgie and Vern's home this afternoon. We hope and pray that this brings beauty into their home, and a reminder that they are loved and prayed for!

## Ingrid Nelson & Paul Hough



We were the recipients of regifting, what a surprise! We used our re-gifting money to buy bagels and scones for the wonderful health care workers!

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## Barb Ourada



My re-gifting is to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance. At the time Molly (Barb's daughter) died in July, due to grief and other issues, I

did not send a contribution until now. Thank you for the monetary gift that made me realize I had wanted to send money to this great charity!

Thank you for these blessings!

## Kathy Coyner



After receiving \$10 from Bethlehem, I bought a \$15 Target gift card for Dec. 11 St. Andrews and two \$25 Meijer gift cards

which I gave to Lazarus House.

## Judith Burgeson

Just wanted you to know that we did receive the



**Tanque Verde  
Lutheran Church**

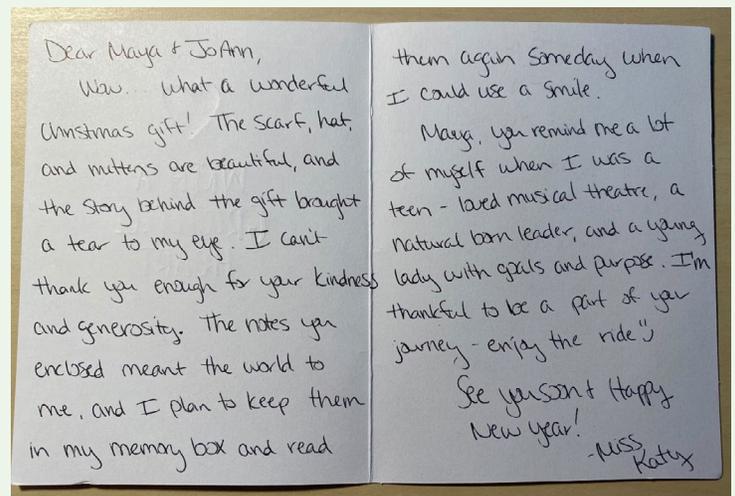
\$5.00 in the re-gifting letter. Since our mail is forwarded to us here in Tucson, it took a little longer to get here. It was such a nice surprise to receive it. We added the money to other monies that we used to help re-stock the food pantry at our church, Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, here in Tucson. They use the food and other items donated to help out needy families in our own community. It is on-going all year long. And of course, due to the Pandemic, these items are in more need than ever. Tanque Verde gave 60 families huge food baskets for Thanksgiving, and will do so for Christmas.

## JoAnn and Maya Cassell

When we received your letter with \$10, I didn't have to think long...\$10 buys about 3 skeins of yarn. As winter is approaching, and I have been trying to venture out of my comfort zone of knitting, I found a pattern for crochet mittens. Once those were done, I went back to my safe zone and made the hat. The scarf was last. I scoured Pinterest and found just the thing. By last week before Christmas break my project was done.

Now the second challenge. Who should be the recipient of these gifts? One thought was a mom down the street who is fostering two young ladies after she was so close to becoming an empty nester when her own children graduated college. She is an amazing woman certainly worth recognizing. Another was a teacher who has gone over and above to make an impact on my girl. As a family we prayed and decided that Maya's dance teacher was the rightful recipient. She has been an amazing teacher before COVID: selfless, caring, fun yet firm. Once COVID hit, like many others, she hit it out of the park, continuing to inspire her students and challenging them not just to be better dancers but to also be better versions of themselves. For Maya, she's not just a dance teacher, but a role model, inspiration and leadership mentor. As a mother, I feel blessed that she is part of my village. Maya and I, each wrote her notes of why she was chosen.

Attached is a picture of the letter that we received back.



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## Julia Gray



We have been spreading our \$10 in the community! The Grays donated dog supplies to Rescue a Pittie, donated to St

Andrews Church, the Special Olympics, Toys for Tots, and our baseball team collecting for Batavia United Way gifts!

Thanks for the cool idea this year!

## Tim Burton

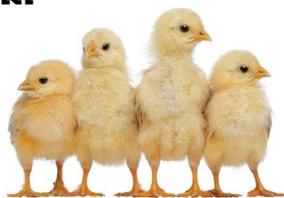


I was the recipient of \$5 in our regifting mailing. I thought and thought how to best use this \$5 to bless others. I finally thought – let's start at

home! So I sent the \$5 and added \$100 to it to go towards the BLC Pastor's Discretionary Fund and assisting those who seek out Bethlehem for help!

## Kurt & Sarah Belinski

I took the \$10 given to us by the church, added to it and multiplied it that way.



Then purchased a goat and flock of chicks for some family thru ELCA Good Gifts.

The goat will provide milk and the chicks will grow up and provide eggs for the family.

Perhaps the goat will find a friend – the ad for goats says they reproduce quickly. And if the chickens also reproduce, the gift will multiply even more.

Hopefully the original \$10 will spread with produce and reproduction of the animals!

## Dick & Lorraine Baker

We contributed the \$2 that was sent in the mail toward the Ronald McDonald House, and added to that donation!



## Sue & Jay Kellner



We want to thank Bethlehem for the re-gifting monetary gift we received in the mail. Such a wonderful gesture!

We purchased some items for St. Andrews toy campaign!

## Emily, Ryan & Violet Bicking

Our family received the re-gifted \$10. We used the money towards the purchase of items on a gift tag for a guest at Lazarus House through their Christmas gift tag program.



# Thank You FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, Bethlehem!