

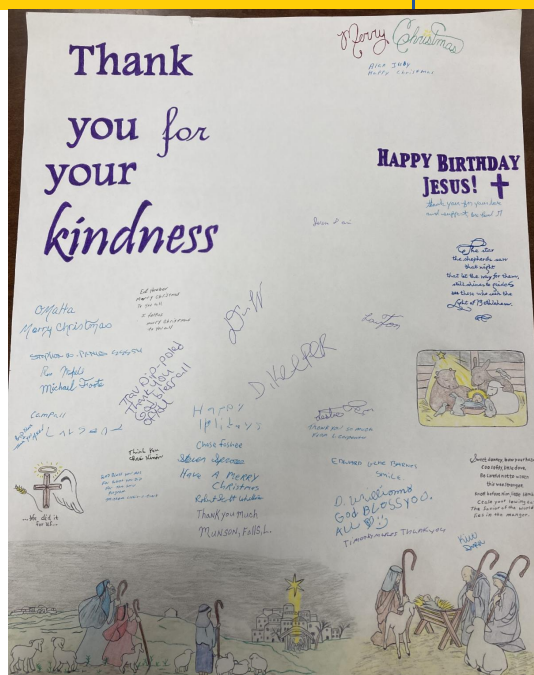


# CJM Connection

The newsletter of Criminal Justice Ministry St. Louis

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## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Early in December, volunteers responded to our request with thousands of cookies. These treats spread Christmas joy to current and formerly incarcerated people. The thank you poster (pictured to the right) from the Special Needs Unit at Potosi Correctional Center shows how much the cookies are appreciated.

On December 9, CJM clients, alumni, volunteers, and staff gathered for a wonderful meal and holiday celebration. We are grateful to the many people who contributed cookies, who brought dishes for the meal, donated gifts for our clients, or assisted with decorating, serving, and cleaning.

Far too many of the incarcerated and those returning home experience isolation. This can be harmful at any time, but especially during the holidays. It is important to provide opportunities to let them know they are remembered and that others care for them. It is even more important to create spaces where they can be in community.

Whether in making cookies or in hosting a Christmas gathering, we believe you express one of CJM's founding values, to treat all according to Jesus' inclusive message of love, forgiveness, and individual dignity.



**From everyone at Criminal Justice Ministry, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



## We Need Your Help Please Remember CJM this Holiday Season

We need help to continue to improve our communities by supporting, empowering, and recognizing the human dignity of those affected by incarceration. With your generosity we will create safe, supportive communities that benefit from the full participation of returning citizens.

You can donate online by clicking [here](#), mail checks to our office at 2342 LaSalle, St. Louis, MO 63104, or contact us at [info@cjmstlouis.org](mailto:info@cjmstlouis.org) to make contributions of stock or by direct deposit.

[Your gifts go further with tax credits and qualified charitable contributions](#)

If you have Missouri Business Income, you can get a 50% credit on your Missouri business tax by donating to CJM. We have credits available through the **Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)**. The credits are in addition to other deductions. Get more information [here](#) or by contacting [info@cjmstlouis.org](mailto:info@cjmstlouis.org).

A **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** is a donation from your retirement account and can be made after age 70½ even if you are not subject to Required Minimum Distributions. A QCN is not subject to ordinary federal income taxes – the amount is simply excluded from your taxable income. Consult a qualified tax advisor to determine if a QCD would be beneficial for you.

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