

## **It's Christmastime - for St. Mary's employees too! Staff Appreciation Fund**

Personal/St. Mary's Board

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To: Board of Trustees

Hello everyone-

Being an employee at St. Mary's is not easy. It's a high-stress, not always risk-free environment, that demands not only finely-honed training and skills sets but also compassion, strength, dedication, and perseverance.

I'm sure there's lots of topics in the works for our Board meeting on Thursday - financials, capital campaign, development, governance, existing and new programs, transitions ... all of which would be moot if we didn't have the cadre of exceptional employees that we have at St. Mary's to deliver on our mission.

So – let's show them how much they are appreciated! Please bring whatever you can on Thursday to contribute to the Staff Appreciation Fund. As you know, the fund allows Deirdre, Alexis and the senior team the flexibility to reward the staff on occasion - as they feel appropriate - for a job well, or exceptionally well-done, and also supplement pay checks on occasion, particularly at holiday time. Many of the staff members are only a paycheck or two away from homelessness themselves; they too want to be able to celebrate Christmas and the new year with their families.

Please do whatever you can to contribute, cash, checks or gift cards:

- Make your checks payable to: St. Mary's Staff Appreciation Fund, and give them to Deirdre or Alexis.
- The gift cards that work best are the \$25 cards for Stop & Shop and Target

If you have any tickets to holiday events that you can spare or are not using – sports, concerts, theater ... they also would be wonderful and gratefully accepted!

Many, many thanks.