



*“We hope we will get presents now but that is not even what matters, it’s that there are all these people who love us enough to do that for us, even people who don’t know us very well.”
- Michael*

Dear Friend,

Michael, Emily and Marissa are siblings who came from the East Coast to live at Arms of Hope in 2016. Before arriving on campus, they lived with their mother and experienced abuse, instability and the death of a younger sibling around the holidays. To this day, the experience of losing their sibling makes Christmas very difficult for them.

Before living at Arms of Hope, the kids lives were in quite a bit of chaos, but Christmas still seemed to be a time they would come together as a family. The kids often reminisce about stories from past Christmases with their mother and when approaching this holiday season, Michael, Emily and Marissa were asked to reflect on what Christmas has meant to them over the years.

Emily stated, “We didn’t always have a lot of presents but we always spent time together, we played games and we laughed.”

Marissa excitedly recalled, “I remember mom making us hot chocolate!”



Michael remembers, “We were really poor so we weren’t going to get any presents and one time the cops came to our house. We thought it was going to be trouble again but they actually came to give us presents!” That year their family was selected to be recipients of Christmas gifts as part of a charity’s effort to give gifts to the less fortunate and it was a time in their life when they could associate an encounter with the police as being a happy experience for their family.

When the children were asked what they like most about the holidays at Arms of Hope, they were all eager to share. Emily stated the joy of just getting to be a kid and not having to worry about taking care of her siblings was special to her because everyone at Arms of Hope loves and takes good care of them. “I love my mom,” she stated, “but she had a lot of bad days. There were a lot of times she wouldn’t get out of bed, so I had to take care of everything since I was the oldest.”

Now that the kids are at Arms of Hope, Christmas has changed for them. Michael says, “We hope we will get presents now but that is not even what matters, it’s that there are all these people who love us enough to do that for us, even

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people who don't know us very well."

Marissa shouted out, "Christmas is Jesus' birthday so that is the best part!"

The children all shared how special they felt because last year was the first time they were able to get gifts for those they love. Emily said, "Getting baptized at Arms of Hope made me think more about giving to others and being thankful for what Jesus did, so having the chance to give now is really cool."

Arms of Hope has given these children the chance to experience childhood with joy and safety. They are able to have a Christmas that is not about waiting for the next bad day but about celebrating Jesus and being with friends and family.

So, I humbly ask you today, as you count your many blessings, to please make a tax-deductible Christmas donation to Arms of Hope so we can continue each year to change hundreds of children lives like Michael, Emily and Marissa.

I hope your Christmas is a joyful one and as you prepare to celebrate, you will agree with me that it is the experience of giving to those in need that truly expresses the real meaning of this blessed season.

You have given so much, and I sincerely thank you, but we have so many more children and families to serve, and we can only do that with the caring financial support you give. Please make a Christmas donation to Arms of Hope today. Thank you — and God bless you.

Merry Christmas,



Troy Robertson
Chief Executive Officer



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21300 State Highway 16 North ♦ Medina, Texas 78055 ♦ (830) 522-2200