



Sample Vignettes

This story comes from the Washington Heights Choir School of Holyrood Church:

“Graciela is a sweet third-grader who moved to Washington Heights just this September. She did not speak any English when she joined our program. On top of that, Graciela suffers from the auto-immune disease alopecia. Imagine being a shy little girl in a new country, with no friends, no language skills, and a disease that made you feel even more isolated and self-conscious! She was shaking and appeared forlorn on her first day... too nervous to smile, or even look up.

Now, a month later, she has transformed into a beautiful little girl whose grin can light up a room. The other children never even asked about her hat and accepted her right away. She now has many friends, tries her English more and more, and is eager to join in. She is showing great promise in choir... and as part of something that reaches beyond our program into the streets and homes of Washington Heights.”

This story comes to us through St. Mark’s Church in Mt. Kisco:

Tragic circumstances are what prompted Mary to seek help. Two years ago, Mary’s younger son (and sole support) took a fatal fall at a construction site. This left 82-year old Mary alone to fend for herself and her older son, who is in his mid-fifties and has both a cognitive disability and heart disease. By this spring, her savings depleted and spending less on food, Mary looked for help and found it through St. Mark’s, which serves the community as part of the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry.

By the next month, Mary and her son were enrolled in the pantry’s home delivery service. It was the first time that she had ever sought emergency assistance of any kind, and it was difficult initially for her to acknowledge her position. When asked recently how she feels about receiving pantry services, Mary replied with tearful gratitude, “How do you think I feel? We’re eating again!”

Recently, St. Andrew’s in the Bronx passed along a note from eight-year-old Adrianna, a summer camper who captures the importance of such programs in simple, prosaic terms:

“Every summer since I was 5 years old I’ve gone to summer camp at St. Andrew’s Church. I am going to be 9 in May and I am looking forward to the end of school. Summertime, summertime, fun time, no school time and summer camp. That is the time to relax and enjoy trips, water fun and playing with my friends outside in the church yard. Sometimes we have to read and do math and we even write about what we did for the week. We learn about the places we are going to visit. Sometimes that is fun. I like camp.”