

The Cracked Pillar's Giving Tree

Article submitted by Dawn Kern

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Bridgewater is known by many to be a friendly town and for those of us who are residents, we can recite several reasons why it is a wonderful community in which to live. This past Christmas season illustrated another item on that list; a giving community who truly cares for others. Patti Landes, owner of the Cracked Pillar, approached me in the fall to ask if I would be interested in teaming up with them for their Christmas *Giving Tree*. I am a volunteer and board member at the Children's Clothes Closet, which is a part of Mission Central with the Shenandoah District of the United Methodist Church. The Clothes Closet provides clothing, socks and underwear, shoes, coats, diapers, baby wipes and essential baby items to families in our community at no cost. They currently serve over 800 families, so the need is apparent.

From mid-November to December 2023, the *Giving Tree* at the Cracked Pillar was covered in gift tags for children's coats, socks & underwear, diapers & wipes as well as sweat suits. The response from its patrons was simply amazing!! Patti contacted me several times requesting more gift tags as all had been taken. The kindness of our community was felt by so many children this Christmas as the following items were donated: 61 coats, 50 packs of socks and 37 packs of underwear, multiple cases of diapers and baby wipes, and over 20 sweat suit outfits in addition to some toys, pajamas and shoes. The Closet gave out over 400 coats during December.

Artie Frederick, director of the Children's Clothes Closet, said it would not have been possible without the generosity of the Cracked Pillar's patrons and the greater Bridgewater community. Thank you for your giving nature and desire to care for others. For more information on the Children's Clothes Closet, please visit <http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/childrens-clothes-closet.php>