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The DOWNTOWNER

Randy's Ramblings

By Randy Allman

Merry Christmas Neighbors!

It appears that every year Christmas comes a little earlier. Time flies when you're busy, and the LCNFC has certainly had a busy year. The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is truly a sight to behold. Everyone is headed in about 40 directions. We must look like insects working, moving about and trying to survive.

Don't you think the true meaning of Christmas, or for that matter, life itself has been forgotten by many of us? We humans are creatures of habit, conditioning ourselves to stay busy, failing to take time, reflect and enjoy the good things that life can offer. Once a tradition has failed to be passed on from one generation to another, it's lost forever. Sadly, my parents are no longer living and I long for just one more Christmas together. My parents taught me, as many of your parents taught you, that Christmas is about taking care of each other.

How can we focus on the needs of others when we are so busy portraying a colony of ants? The perception of many is that our society is uncaring, selfish, violent and greedy and although there are hints of truth throughout these definitions, there is still an abundance of good to be found in this world. It's up to each and every one of us to spread good will throughout our entire lives—but it is even more important during Christmas. I'm sure that each of us can think of individuals and families who might be struggling, finding themselves between the proverbial rock and hard place.

We are pleading for you to reach out to these folks. It could be the first step toward a new tradition. Just think how great that would be. It would be a new tradition...one which involves random acts of kindness. If you need practice, start with your own family. Ensure that each member of your family knows just how much they mean to you. Tell your friends how important they are. Say something nice to your co-worker. I bet, when you're done, you will feel better about yourself. We all need to feel good about ourselves before we can begin to help others. God bless each of you during this Christmas season. If you can think of additional ways the LCNFC can be of help, please call us.

Building tomorrow's neighborhoods... TODAY!

THE DOWNTOWNER is a monthly newsletter for the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. Our office is located at 1039 Sycamore St. See our enclosed calendar for the activities and programs that you or your family might be interested in or jump online at www.lcnfc.org. Please call the LCNFC at 379-1630 for additional information.