

very year in downtown Charlotte, we have our annual "Christmas Tea" for the homeless ladies. The room is decorated as if some very important people are attending and a meal is served to the ladies. We think, our homeless friends deserve the best. The ladies receive a gift bag with basic personal items (toothbrush, toothpaste, combs, etc.) and on several tables we have boxes of new shoes in different sizes for the homeless ladies. The ladies can select a pair of new shoes.

A week before Christmas, my daughter and I went to Belk for her to choose her Christmas present. My daughter, Erin, choose beautiful gray boots. I purchased the boots and took them home to wrap them for our family Christmas party.

The day of the Christmas Tea I drove to the shelter. My car was full of decorations, new shoes that had been donated for the homeless ladies and some of my personal gifts for family members. When the volunteers helped me unload my car, they also took the box with my daughter's boots. I noticed the box containing my daughter's boots on the table and moved the box so nobody would select it.

At the end of the event I saw a teenager girl who came with her grandmother, and I asked her what shoes she selected? With a disappointed look, she told me she couldn't find a pair of shoes in her size. I asked her size and

then said, "I have the perfect boots that have your name all over them." She said that she really wanted boots. I grabbed the box that I had placed behind the table and gave it to her. Her face was full of joy and her eyes were sparkling; she couldn't believe that she had received the boots. She thanked me and left the party with a million dollar smile on her face. The young girl's smile and her joy were such a blessing to me.

My daughter was expecting those shoes for Christmas, but this teenage girl wasn't. This reminds me of the unexpected, undeserved gift of salvation that God has given us by his grace. It is a gift that God freely gives and all we have to do is accept His gift of salvation and eternal life.

God was saving those boots especially for this girl. When my daughter selected the boots, God already knew what He was going to do with them. He had a plan for those boots that I could never have imagined! God is always faithful and always supplies our needs—even before we know what our needs are. IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

Written by Debbie Rapp,
Director of Women's Ministries
Carolina Conference
of SDA

TELL YOUR STORY

You are part of the Carolina Conference Generous Living Team and we want to hear from you. If you have a testimony where God has been especially faithful to you or your family, please share it with us at rroberts@carolinasda.org or write to us at:

> Generous Living Team PO Box 44270 Charlotte, NC 28215-0043

Your testimony could be crucial in someone's life through our videos, posters, offertory readings or bulletin inserts.

Thank you for your continuous prayers.

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Find us on

