

## **A Holiday of Helping**

*Written by Kevin Fornari '13*

Every year, the Guardian Angels host our annual Thanksgiving Holiday Canned Food and Toy Drive. Proceeds from the drive go to families in need from Holy Rosary Parish, St. Mary Magdalen's Parish, St. PJ's Children's Home and two villages in Mexico. Thankfully, this year was a tremendous success.

The Guardian Angels spend many hours during the semester collecting loose change – at football games and at lunch – with some even singing or dancing to get donations. The change collected purchases canned food and children's toys for those less fortunate. We then combine other donations of canned goods and toys from student donations from advisory classes. This year, the Guardian Angels once again exceeded our goal and we donated 4,100 cans of food and 520 toys!

The day after our final exams, when most students are planning what do to over the Christmas break, the Guardian Angels are loading up buses with donations. With assistance from the JROTC cadets, we make our deliveries.

Thank you to all Central Catholic student volunteers: Cameron Cheatham '12, Dayne Felix '13, Kevin Fornari '13, Daniel Garza '13, Joey Gonzaba '13, Michael Jacobs '12, Colton Herrera '12, Eric Leos '13, Johnny Martinez '12, Cody May '15, Eloy Mitchell '13, Daniel Paez '12, Jonah Quintero '13, Jaime Ramirez '12, Shane Schwegmann '13 and Anthony Lee Witt '15. 1SG Pete Carrion and Mr. James Bendele represented the faculty.

From what I witnessed, each volunteer had a moving experience. A St. Vincent de Paul representative from Holy Rosary, Fred Lozano, gathered the Central Catholic volunteers around him. With tears in his eyes, he told them what a great job they had done, which was an emotional moment for all of us.

A very special "Thank You" to all those who donated items or money for this cause. The Guardian Angels are grateful for your support and contributions.