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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Generosity Yields Fruitful Harvest of Blessings**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Through the generosity of many Christmas season contributions this year, the Archdiocese of Dubuque and Catholic Charities were able to help 210 families from 16 different Iowa counties through the 2012 Harvest of Blessings program. A total of \$22,020.00 in financial assistance was provided to the families, including 528 children and 309 adults.

Harvest of Blessings is an annual Christmas season appeal in the Archdiocese of Dubuque to help families in need with financial assistance for the holidays. Donations from all areas in the 30 counties of the Archdiocese were accepted, combined, and distributed among the many families who apply. Applications were available at all parishes in the Archdiocese of Dubuque prior to Christmas.

Catholic Charities expresses gratitude to the donors and partnering parishes that made the program possible, and bring the true Christmas spirit to life for so many families in need.

In addition to the Harvest of Blessings program, Catholic Charities also receives many sponsors who adopt families in need at Christmas time. This year six sponsors (businesses and families) helped an additional 29 households experience a more joyful Christmas!

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was founded in 1931 as a non-profit, social service organization. The organization serves 30 counties in Northeast Iowa and is part of a national social services network through Catholic Charities USA, working to reduce poverty, strengthen families, and empower communities, responding to persons in need of all faiths. For more information or ways to get involved visit [www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org) or call 800.772.2758.

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For additional information please call or email Zoë Houlihan at 800.772.2758 or [DBQCCCOD@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:DBQCCCOD@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us).